

The AFP looks forward to hosting '97 games

By AFP National Sports Federation President
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The AFP Sports Federation will host its biggest games yet when the Australia New Zealand Police Games are held at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra next year.

The federation expects more than 2500 competitors to take part in 39 sports, while seven more sports are still to be added to the events' list.

The venue will provide world class facilities for participating athletes.

AFP Commissioner Mick Palmer confirmed his commitment for the federation to host the games when attending a function at this year's ANZ Police games in Wanganui, New Zealand recently.

The commissioner was accepting a City of Wanganui coat-of-arms plaque presented by the mayor, Chas Poynter.

A parade of 1200 competitors and 2000 school children marched through the streets of Wanganui at the opening ceremony.

Commissioner Palmer was among the 11 AFP competitors, the smallest police contingent at the

games, who obtained a total of 15 gold, seven silver, and five bronze medals.

It was the first time that all members from one police service at the ANZ Games returned with at least one medal each.

Each of the participating police services took part in an 'adopt-a-school' program which involved school representatives with placards bearing the title of their 'adoptive' police service.

The ceremony also included a sky diving display, an aerial display from the Royal New Zealand Air Force Red Checkers, and a police dog display. An armed offenders squad demonstration used the New Zealand police helicopter 'Eagle' to land police dogs and officers from the squad onto the Cooks Gardens athletics field.

Organisers for next year's ANZ games are encouraging all AFP personnel to become involved and to demonstrate the organisation's sporting professionalism to other police services throughout Australia and New Zealand.

This year's AFP Games, to be held in Canberra from November 15 to 17 will be a trial run for the '97 ANZ Games, to be held from November 15 to 23.



Opposite page: AFP competitors fly the flag at the opening ceremony at Wanganui.

Top: The Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra has world-class facilities which will be made available to athletes at the 1997 ANZ Police Games.



Top right: The track and field facility, built for the 1985 World Cup Athletics competition, has been further enhanced recently by renovations including electronic timing, photo finish equipment and improved administration and spectator facilities.

Right: The swimming centre includes an Olympic standard 50m pool, with a separate 25m training pool and spectator accommodation.

