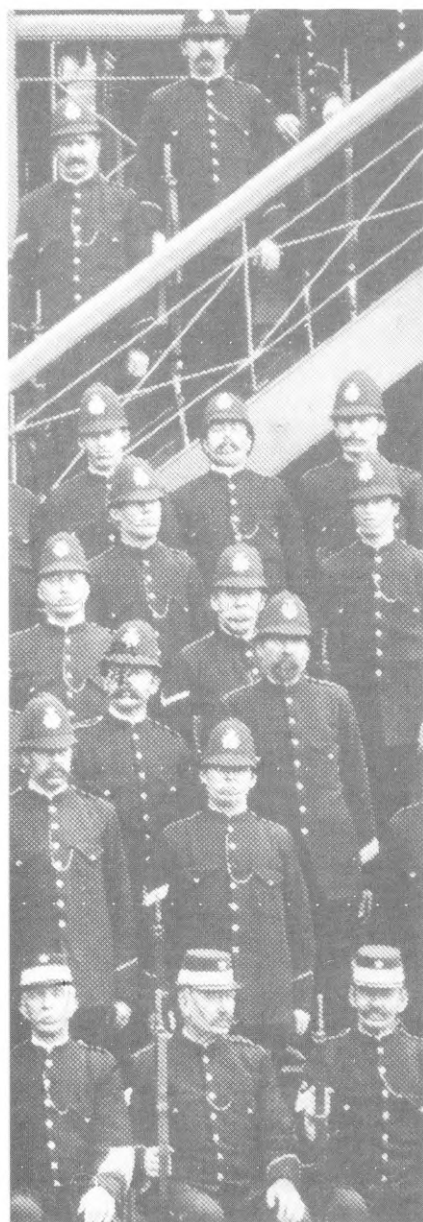


# A long and proud policing tradition in South Australia

The South Australia Police (SAPOL) is steeped in proud tradition; it was the first centrally controlled police service in Australia and is the third oldest in the world.



**S**outh Australia was founded in 1836 as Australia's only convict-free colony and its police service was formed in 1838.

Formed as a blend and adaption of Sir Robert Peel's English policing ideals, the objectives of the organisation have remained unchanged, they are the preservation of law and order and the prevention and detection of crime.

From humble and often precarious beginnings, the South Australia Police now comprises 3500 sworn officers and a further 690 unsworn members making a total department strength of 4190.

#### The state of South Australia.

With a population of 1.4 million and an area of 984,614 square kilometres, South Australia is often referred to as the driest state in the driest continent in the world. Its 3500 sworn members are responsible for policing the entire state from its capital, Adelaide, to the vast expanse of the outback desert areas.

#### SAPOL today

The South Australia Police is made up of seven commands: Commissioner's, Northern, Southern, Crime, Operations Support, Human Resources and Corporate Service. Each working together and committed to providing the best possible service to the communities of South Australia.

From the Fort Largs Academy at Taperoo where new recruits are trained, to Coober Pedy and Marla in the far north and Mount Gambier in the south east, where country officers patrol large expanses of the state, to

central headquarters in Adelaide, employees of the South Australia Police work to help create a safer community.

The state is divided into two operational sectors. Northern Command which covers the inner city area, northern suburbs and the state's far north, and Southern Command which covers all coastal suburbs and towns right down to the Victorian border.

SAPOL's communication building has the most advanced portable data network in the southern hemisphere. This has revolutionised communications, enabling the number of checks on stolen motor vehicle, firearms registrations etc, to increase from 3000 to 4000 per month.

SAPOL provides open channel radio communications to the AFP's Central Region and all AFP mobile units have been allocated call signs and are able 'to book' on when going mobile. □

Source *Creating a Safer Community* - SAPOL

