

## NEW ATTORNEY-GENERAL SWORN IN



His Excellency the Governor-General Major-General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC on 7 October 2003 swore in The Hon Philip Ruddock MP as Attorney-General of Australia.

Mr Ruddock's appointment was announced by the Prime Minister, The Hon John Howard MP, on 29 September 2003 in significant changes to the Ministry.

Mr Ruddock, formerly Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, replaces The Hon Daryl Williams QC AM MP, who was recently appointed as Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts in the revised Ministry.

## OAM TO ROB OF EMA



*Rob Cameron (right) with team member Alex Boland in EMA's Canberra Operation Centre.*

For leadership of the team that provided vital links between agencies after the Bali bombings, Rob Cameron, Acting Director Planning and Operations at Emergency Management Australia, has been awarded the Order of Australia Medal.

The honour was announced following the national remembrance ceremony in Canberra to mark a year since the 12 October 2002 devastation in Bali.

It was a particularly emotional service and it was the first time that Rob had seen families and survivors en masse. "Profound grief and loss were still very evident," Rob said. "It's very important that we continue to meet the ongoing recovery needs of these people. Responding to disasters is the start of a long ongoing, evolving process."

Rob pointed out that the initial transfer of the 66 people from Darwin to southern hospitals was a herculean effort by EMA, in particular by former staff Rod McKinnon and Mark Sullivan, with Peter Channells from the Department of Health and Ageing, who is now with the PSSC.

Rob and his team played a pivotal role in facilitating the repatriation of the remains of those who were killed. They have since coordinated a review of the multi-agency involvement to identify the positives of the operation and any gaps in consequence management arrangements.

"It wasn't just an EMA operation," said Rob. "It was a whole-of-government response and should a similar emergency occur in the future, the lessons learned will be invaluable," he added.

"I'm proud of the way the team acted with great sensitivity for the families of those who died in the bomb blasts," said Rob. "At all times we were conscious of the shock, the anguish and the hurt being experienced by relatives and friends of those who lost their lives, and the need to have their loved ones returned speedily.

"The EMA team – drawn from Mt Macedon and from the Canberra offices – were required to work in an essential support role for DFAT, and closely across several other jurisdictions, with medical specialists and with Coroners in each State and Territory."

Rob said it was one of the most intense working periods of his life.

# COLLABORATION HIGHLIGHTED IN SAFER COMMUNITIES AWARDS



DGEMA David Templeman congratulates the winners of the Research category Pre-Disaster, Dr John Rollo and his PhD student Sam Honey, of the School of Architecture and Building at Deakin University's Geelong campus. They have used wind tunnel and fluid mapping tests in tracking flying embers to help fire protection with better building design.

With the Attorney are Mr Chris Tudor, headmaster of St Philip's College, Alice Springs, and senior student Vanessa Vaughan a member of the school's newly commissioned Emergency Cadet Unit, the formation of which won them the Pre-Disaster award in the Private Sector category.

The high degree of collaboration between emergency management organisations, government agencies, private bodies and the community, has been a feature of the entries in the 2003 Australian Safer Communities Awards, promoted by Emergency Management Australia (EMA).

"The most evident element across the range of entries was how services talked to each other and cooperated with planning and execution of emergency service programs," said the judges.

The Attorney-General, Philip Ruddock, presented the 12 final recipients with their awards at a special ceremony in Parliament House, Canberra on the 6 November.

This year's Safer Communities awards, promoted by EMA to foster excellence in emergency management, saw 33 entries from around Australia adjudicated in the six different categories. This is the fourth year that EMA has run the awards.

The Attorney-General said Australians can feel secure in the knowledge of the collaborative and innovative work taking place across all levels of government, the private sector and most importantly, the community to help better manage emergencies.

"In a year in which Australians have been called upon to cope with great adversity as a result of devastating disasters,

it is more relevant than ever to highlight achievements in emergency management," Mr Ruddock said.

The Attorney-General paid particular tribute to volunteers in the emergency arena, as well as to the professionals who manage emergencies.

"Many people probably have the mistaken idea that emergency services only spring into action when disaster hits," said Mr Ruddock. "But the bulk of work in emergency management is done well out of the public gaze every day of the year.

"Without these willing and dedicated people, the emergencies – especially those that are of natural causes – might result in much worse damage, loss of life and economic hardship," he said.

The Director General of Emergency Management Australia, David Templeman, said that sadly disasters often drive the work of so many people in the emergency management sector world-wide.

"Though challenges just keep coming, we in Australia are becoming better prepared, our emergency services are more aligned, and our communities are being protected to a greater degree," said Mr Templeman.

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## SAFER COMMUNITIES AWARDS – continued

Commenting on the Awards the Director General said that each year the standard of entries continues to rise. "They present strong cases for recognition, with some projects being very complex, but all – small and large – are helping to make our communities safer."

At the presentation of awards Mr Chris Tudor, the Headmaster of St Philip's College in Alice Springs—which won the national Private Sector Pre-Disaster award for establishing an Emergency Services Cadet Unit, responded on behalf of all the award recipients. He expressed his firm belief in communities being prepared.

"There will be times when we need a powerful helping hand," said Mr Tudor. "These people are there ready to fight the chaos caused by the unexpected, the emergency, the disaster. They have built the sinews and muscles of their helping hands to ensure that our communities remain safe, protected and have a fighting chance against whatever comes."

Among other national award winners were the Royal Darwin Hospital for Post-Disaster work following the Bali bombings; the ABC studios in Canberra for the efforts of staff to keep Canberrans informed during last January's bushfires; a local government council in WA for developing home safety audits for people with disabilities; another council – in NSW – for supporting a resident-filmed video highlighting the fear that families experience in a firestorm; a research project into wind-blown burning embers; and the Ambulance Service in South Australia for a Community Responder first-aid-style training course for remote Indigenous communities.

EMA says planning for the 2004 Safer Communities Awards has already begun. Information for coordinators in the States and Territories will be available in December.

### Volunteer Organisation

**Winner – Pre-Disaster category:** SA Ambulance Service – the Murra Murra Community Responder Course for Point Pearce

**Highly Commended – Post-Disaster category:** Chapman Residents' Action Group, Canberra, ACT – Community assistance and support coordination

### Private Sector

**Winner – Pre-Disaster category:** St Philip's College, Alice Springs, NT – Emergency Service Cadet Unit establishment

**Winner – Post-Disaster category:** NRMA Insurance, ACT office – Help Expo aids Canberra bushfire recovery

### Research

**Winner – Pre-Disaster category:** Deakin University, School of Architecture & Building, Geelong, VIC – Wind tunnel research into ember attacks

### Local Government Stream

**Winner – Pre-Disaster category:** Blue Mountains City Council, NSW – Bushfire awareness training video 'Our Christmas'

### Combination Stream

**Winner – Pre-Disaster category:** Emergency Service Bureau, ACT, the GeoInsight Committee and the Technik Group – the GeoInsight spatial data project

**High Commended – Pre-Disaster category:** City of Gosnells Council, WA Police Service, Fire and Emergency Services Authority – Home safety/security audits project

**Winner – Post-Disaster category:** Towong Shire Council, the Victorian Department of Primary Industries and other partners, VIC – Towong cooperative drought response project

### Federal/State Government

**Winner – Pre-Disaster category:** Fire and Emergency Services Authority WA – the AWARE (All West Australians Reducing Emergencies) partnership program

**Winner – Post-Disaster category:** Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Canberra, ACT – Emergency broadcast response and recovery January 2003 bushfires.

- **High Commended – Post-Disaster category:** Royal Darwin Hospital, NT – '36 defining hours' – triage and stabilising of injured victims after the Bali bombings.



# Queensland Police Service Library Service

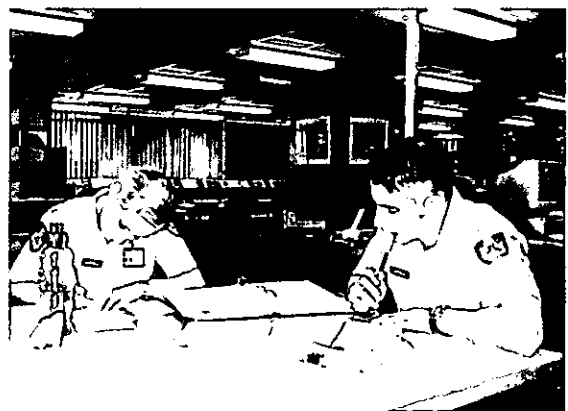
The Queensland Police Service (QPS) employs approximately 12,000 personnel (8500 police officers; 3500 public servants) dispersed across 8 police regions, 25 districts and 332 police stations (figure includes police beats and police beat shopfronts). The Service operates across a diversity of multi-disciplinary squads and sections that specialise in various fields such as:

- Academy
- Legal Services Branch
- Forensic Services Branch
- Accident Investigation Squad
- Dog Squad
- Public Safety Response Team and

Corporate funding injected into the QPS libraries in 1997 enabled the acquisition of a state-of-the-art library information management system. This system has underpinned our long-term strategy for the on-line delivery of library services. Structured within



Mrs. Janet Hodge assisting Inspector Greg Denning and Inspector Gary Hickey in the HQ Library



Police Recruits studying in the Oxley Academy Library

the Information Resource Centre, the Library has 4 primary functions:

1. support compulsory education and training of police officers (compulsory) and public servants (non-compulsory) as well as continuous professional development requirements
2. support the operations and services of the QPS
3. support and provide research services with an emphasis on pro-active policing activities
4. rationalise corporate expenditure on information resources

These functions are provided by 13.5 equivalent full-time library personnel designated across 3 different branches including:

- Headquarters Library (Brisbane): key collection strengths—corporate, law, scientific, information technology
- Oxley Academy Library: key collection strengths—policing, criminology, management, sociology, psychology, health and fitness

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Emergency Management Australia - Home

http://www.ema.gov.au/

Internet | Extranet | Schools | Conference Centre | Disasters Database

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EMA Logo

DISASTERS Community Information

Recovery Resources

Disaster Conference

Lessons Learnt

Safe Sustainable Communities Awards

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- Townsville Academy Library: key collection—a mini-hybrid of HQ and Oxley Academy Library resources.

One of the biggest challenges facing the QPS Library Service is in the provision of equitable and timely information resources to all personnel within a cost effective manner. The primary vehicle deployed to meet this challenge is the Virtual Library database, accessible from any networked QPS computer.

The Virtual Library provides access to over 40,000 records spanning across a diversity of subjects and formats including videos, journals, books and legal judgements. Internet access via the secure gateway also entitles personnel access to over 15 (Internet) databases including:

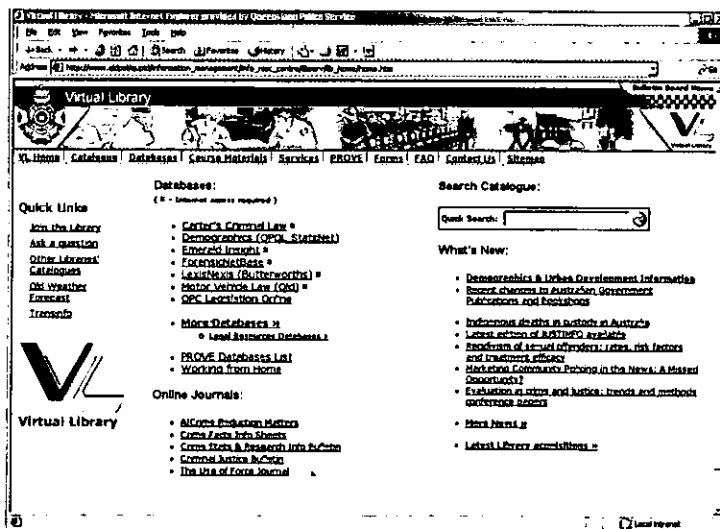
- LexisNexis (law)
- Emerald (management)
- Forensic NetBase (forensics)

A number of new Virtual Library initiatives currently being progressed include:

- Single point of access to QPS training programs including full-text course materials and readings
- Case law databases to meet police prosecutor operational requirements
- Copyright registration database
- Regional acquisition, evaluation and recording of information resources located throughout the Service with an emphasis on specialist collections including:
  - Drug and Alcohol
  - Forensics
  - Information Technology

The advent of the state-wide Virtual Library enables clients to independently undertake research irrespective of geographical location or time. This is a particular advantage when officers are rostered to work shifts outside of library operating hours.

In 2003, the QPS welcomed the invitation to join ALIES (Australian Libraries in Emergency Services) and have benefited from the cooperative spirit and camaraderie. The ability to share resources and network initiatives and challenges is instrumental in the provision of best practices in emergency and policing agency libraries.



The Queensland Police Service Virtual Library Database