

Platypus — how you too can contribute

• From Page 1

What, you might ask, are we interested in hearing about? This first issue will give some clue. There is, in fact, no precise definition of what type of material is relevant. It covers such a wide field. It could be a story about a member or members with special hobbies, sporting achievements, special awards, personality pieces, poetry, cartoons and of course, letters to the editor on any topic you care to put pen to paper about. It is worth noting that not all material received could be accommodated in this issue. It will, however, be used in subsequent issues.

We would also like to hear from members with ideas for the introduction of specific sections or segments of the newspaper. Examples that come to mind (and will be followed through) include Training News, Letters to the Editor column, etc.

For our part we will also try to include occasional 'specials' that will catch the imagination. Without giving too many secrets away at this time, they could include some form of sponsorship with prizes—cash or otherwise—being offered to winners.

The new 'Platypus' is quite different in style—but not so much in content—from the old, the other main difference being the mailing of the newspaper to members' homes in all regions other than the A.C.T.

One of the main complaints about the previous 'Platypus' was that too many members in the regions never saw it. Every attempt will be made to keep the computerized distribution list up to date so that you receive your new 'Platypus' about nine times a year.

But finally it again needs to be stressed that this is YOUR newspaper. Don't, for lack of support, let it again fall flat.

Nick prefers a fast saddle

Thundering round a racetrack on a powerful motorcycle at 160 kms an hour holds more thrills than any paperwork, as Constable Nick Anticich, of Perth, found recently.

Nick became the second Australian Federal Police officer in Western Australia to undertake the State Police motorcycle handling course for four weeks during September and October this year.

Nick, who rides a motorcycle on duty, joined seven future State traffic patrolmen on the course. They included, to his surprise, former AFP Constable Mark Regal, of Sydney, with whom Nick has been on four Police courses.

The first week was on trailbikes at a former racetrack at Caversham, near Perth. Here, the cross-country work took its toll, and spills were not uncommon, Nick reports.

The second stage of the course was on 750 cc Suzuki Police machines at the Wanneroo racetrack, about 30 kms north of Perth, and it was here the high speeds were reached.

The course included examinations in braking, machine control, high speed riding, handling emergencies, manoeuvrability and motorcycle maintenance. There were also checks on riders in open traffic conditions.

Nick, who came through the course successfully, had praise for the instructors, who he said did "an excellent job".

"I feel a lot more confident on the roads now," he added.

Right: Constable Nick Anticich, of Perth, tries his skills on a trailbike over the seesaw during the motorcycle course.

Don't forget we need to hear from you on any topic you think would be of interest to AFP members.

Your contacts for each of the regions are:

Eastern Region: Senior Constable Jim Carter. Telephone: (02) 690 8823

Southern Region: Station Sergeant Paula Dellas. Telephone: (03) 654 2744

Northern Region: First Constable Ray Bedford. Telephone: (07) 227 0883

Central Region: Sergeant Ron Jeffrees. Telephone: (08) 259 6870

Western Region: Senior Constable Elizabeth Brown. Telephone: (09) 325 3611

Tasmania: Sergeant John Jennings. Telephone: (002) 44 6206

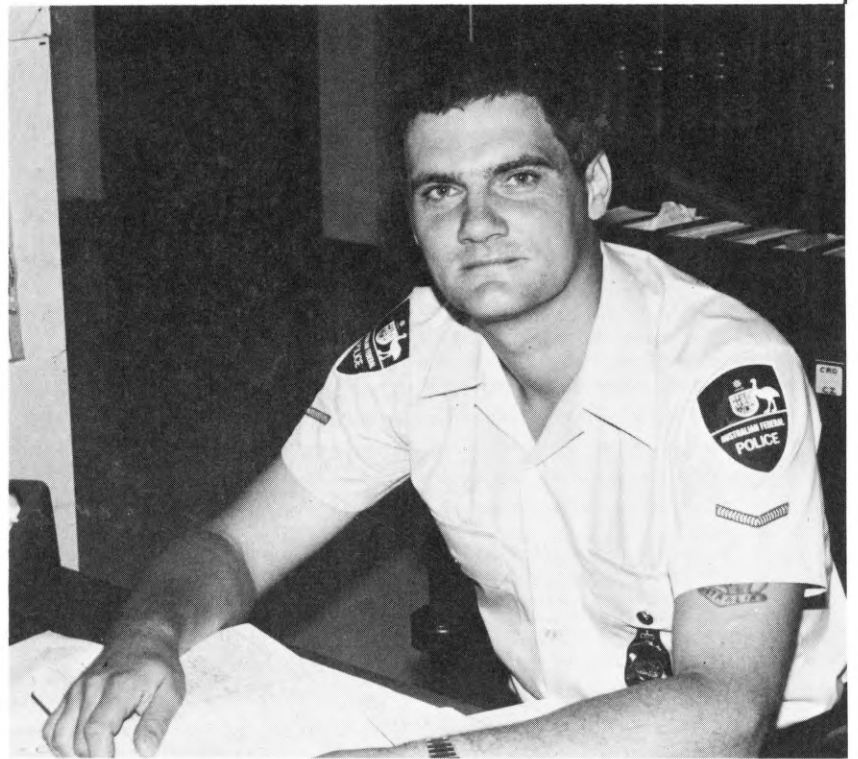
Northern Territory: Steve Coates. Telephone: 81 3370

In Canberra members can ring the Director, Information, Peter Windsor, on 45 1369 or 45 1371.

And last, but not least, for those in the regions receiving 'Platypus' at home, if the copy is going to the wrong address please let us know immediately by writing to:

**The Editor
'Platypus'
PO Box 401
CANBERRA CITY 2601**

He's contact for Northern Region



First Constable Ray Bedford is the Queensland representative for 'Platypus'.

He can be contacted at Regional Headquarters, Australia House, 145 Eagle Street, Brisbane, on (07) 227 0845, with details on any news event or item of interest.

Just contact Ray and he'll do the rest.

Ray joined the Commonwealth Police in April 1979 and worked in Canberra until April 1980, working at all stations in the ACT. He then transferred to the National Central Bureau of Interpol in Canberra, where he served for two and a half years.

He transferred to Brisbane in August 1982 and is at present working in the Legal and Training Section.

Ray was born in 1954 at the British Military Hospital in Berlin, Germany, where his father was a Sergeant in the Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps.

From 1954 until 1967, when his father

Ray Bedford, a very varied life.

was transferred to various military posts around the world, Ray lived in Germany, Libya (North Africa), Aden, Cyprus, Gibraltar and then Australia.

From Adelaide, South Australia, the family moved to NSW, where Ray completed schooling and enlisted in the Australian Regular Army. He served six years, attaining NCO rank and qualified as a paratrooper.

His outside interests include being the assistant National editor of the International Police Association Magazine and he is a member of the Australian Crime Prevention Council and the International Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association.

Ray and his wife Robyn, with their two-year-old son Christopher, have recently moved into their newly completed home at Strathpine and are looking forward to their new hobby of gardening.

