A vexed question –
to pursue or
not to pursue

- ASSOCIATION WELCOMES ORGANISED CRIME AGENCY
- ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR TASER ROLLOUT NATIONWIDE
- MICHELLE NETS POLICE SPORTSPERSON OF YEAR AWARD
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Editor: Steve Plowman

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Lady Liz III due to follow in Deodar’s wake and be replaced too - page 196
Every so often, you get the impression someone is listening.

As far back as the mid-1990’s, the Police Association began warning of the rise of methamphetamine and organised crime. The then Police hierarchy ignored that warning.

All our strategies resulted in us decentralising our capability at a time when the criminal world was centralising, going national and international. Performance criteria for managers discouraged them from investing resource into organised crime and drug policing and forced them to direct it into areas where short-term results were paramount.

Inevitably, we reached the situation where the ability to stem the flow of the growth and impact of organised crime was limited by the piece-meal approach the districts were forced to take, with varying levels of commitment.

Last month’s announcement of the establishment of a national Organised Crime Agency led by Police, is proof that the Government is listening. An added bonus is the fact that the Serious Fraud Office will be incorporated into the new agency.

But the real bonus is that despite the rough time Police have had in the media, there is sufficient confidence to entrust us with control of the new body.

An obvious question is: If we didn’t take organised crime policing seriously before, why will we do it now?

The key is that it is now Government policy. The Association will monitor and report progress. There will also be some oversight from within Government.

So how will that affect everyday policing? It will only work if ultimately, the local Mongrel Mob or street gang is weakened as much as the big boys, otherwise we will be creating opportunities for the little guys to become the big guys. Culling, in other words.

A real positive is a return for the first time in many years to a national investigation capability, where districts won’t be competing with each other for resource to do the same job. Of course, the problem will arise if the districts just have to provide all that resource in the first place.

Again, it will be the Association’s job to keep a close eye on where the resourcing for the new outfit comes from.

It’s a move in the right direction anyway. Other countries have done similar things but kept Police out of the new organisation. It leads to lemons like the National Crime Authority (NCA) in Australia, dubbed the Never Catch Anyone agency by local Police forces.

Watch this space. We will be.

P.S. Many of you will be aware that I recently underwent major surgery. The support I received from the Commissioner down was humbling. I am pleased to report the prognosis is good and I am rapidly returning to full health.

Tougher measures proposed for fine defaulters over the next three years

Courts Minister Rick Barker recently announced proposed changes to the infringement/fine system.

The changes are designed at making it tougher for fines defaulters and easier for those who do pay up.

“An extensive review of the current system has been carried out and the Government has now decided on a range of measures which need further investigation. These measures will achieve three objectives: they will toughen up the current regime, at the same time they will streamline it to make it easier to comply, and paying fines will be made easier.” Mr Barker said.

Three-year introduction period

The changes will be introduced over three years. The main changes proposed are:

- Using driver licence suspensions as a sanction against people who don’t pay transport related fines (it is yet to be decided whether this will include parking fines);
- Credit information being provided to credit agencies on outstanding fines;
- Making interventions earlier, particularly for young offenders;
- Vehicles of low or no financial or resale value being able to be seized;
- A broader range of payment options from a wider range of agencies;
- Lower/different penalties will be considered for the Graduated Driver Licence System (GDLS) for people under 25 years, including alternative sanctions such as increasing the use of demerits points; and
- The investigation of an earlier referral to court and the implementation of evaluation referral programmes.

If you wish to read more of the detail surrounding the proposed changes this is available at: http://www.beehive.govt.nz/ Documents/Files/Infringement_reform_update.pdf

Exclusive member discounts program set to take-off

Very shortly members will receive their ticket to a number of cost-saving discounts from a range of retailers, nationwide.

The Police Association has been working hard to launch a new program where members can take advantage of a range of special discounts from retailers, which we have been able to negotiate as a result of our bulk purchasing power of over 10,000 members. The discounts are only available to our members. They are a Police Association discount not a Police discount and you cannot access them by producing your Police ID or wearing your Police uniform.

Shortly, Police Association and Welfare Fund members will receive a letter detailing how you can access the new online discount program. The letter will include your new Membership card. Some retailers will use this as verification that you are entitled to the special Police Association discounts. The card will be valid for a year and a new card will be issued annually.

Members will sign on to our “Members only” section on the website and go to the new members’ discount section and from there you will be able to view all the discounts available or search for a specific one. Once you’ve found the discount that you want it’s a simple click on the retailer’s logo and you will have the information on how you can redeem it.

New discounts and special offers

We will continue to expand the range of retailers and discounts available and members will be encouraged to check the member discount section regularly for the latest offers. We will also be letting members know when a retailer is offering a special discount for a limited time.

Check out the back page of Police News for the list of retailers already lined up to offer our members these special discounts.
Maritime career structure agreed in time for new police launches

By Bex Shannon, Association Communications Assistant

Maritime Unit members have voted to accept a new career structure that recognises the increased responsibility associated with their role.

On the eve of the delivery of a replacement vessel for the ageing Deodar II, Maritime Unit members will now have an incentive to acquire the advanced Police Coastal Master qualifications required to pilot the new $2.8 million vessel offshore.

Q-West Boat Builders Ltd in Wanganui is building the Deodar 111. Due to be commissioned on the 30 November this year, it is a foil supported, aluminium twin-hull vessel, 18.4 metres long with a continuous service speed of 25 knots.

High performance

“When you see this boat it looks like it means business. Its aesthetic look is military and patrol-like and its performance will be very, very good too,” said Q-West General Manager, Colin Mitchell.

“The boat’s unique features are that it’s built out of high-strength aluminium, and we’re using HamiltonJet units for the propulsion system, which are made in New Zealand and have a unique electronic control system called Blue Arrow. This provides the boat with much better maneuverability than a conventional vessel,” Mr Mitchell said.

The replacement vessel will provide increased capability to carry out all tasks currently performed by the Deodar II and will also be used in joint border-protection operations with Customs and other Government agencies in a whole of Government approach to border security.

One of four vessels

The boat is one of four proposed vessels Q-West has been tendered to build. Subject to funding and vessel performance, it will be the prototype for the replacement of Wellington’s Lady Elizabeth III and the New Zealand Customs’ launch, and eventually the model for the first combined New Zealand Police/Customs vessel.

“The driver behind this particular boat and its design was an attempt to get a better result for the whole of Government approach to border protection. We have a very close and continually improving relationship with organisations such as Customs, Fisheries, and Immigration.
Ultimately, the aim is to have both Police and Customs boats as identical boats,” said Senior Sergeant Martin Paget, of the Police Maritime Unit in Auckland.

Mr Paget is obviously looking forward to taking delivery of the vessel, having beaten a regular path to Wanganui over the past year in overseeing the vessel’s construction. “I’m really proud of the fact that this is designed and built by New Zealanders with New Zealand electronic and propulsion systems – it’s a bit of a buzz.”

**Callouts**

Every year the Deodar II responds to nearly 3,500 incidents, varying from stolen boat call-outs to search and rescue missions. Mr Paget said the new boat, including its design and technology, would address the “shortcomings” of the Deodar II, which has been in service for 15 years and is simply “worn-out”.

“The new boat will ensure that we can respond to and deal with emergencies quickly and efficiently, and will give us the capability to give better support to other operations like Customs. We can get people onto and off other boats safely, and carry more people at one time. Then there’s a whole range of thermal and ocean floor-mapping technology, among other things, that we use day to day,” he said.

**Lady Elizabeth III due for replacement**

*By Steve Plowman, Editor, Police News*

The Police launch, the Lady Elizabeth III, which has served Wellington so well since the sinking of her predecessor in 1986, is due for replacement.

Police News understands that Police are looking at replacing the Lady Elizabeth III and the tender process is well under way. The Deodar II is due to be taken out of commission later this year and replaced by a state-of-the-art $2.8 million vessel.

The original Lady Elizabeth was requisitioned off its owner during World War II and was returned to him after the war. The vessel was not named after Queen Elizabeth, as many people assume. She was named after original owner Fred Musgrove’s grandmother, Betty Musgrove.

**A faithful servant**

The ill-fated Lady Elizabeth II was described by longtime launch master Wayne Wilkie, as a “reliable and faithful servant to Wellington”, as was her predecessor. The Lady Elizabeth II sunk in heavy seas in Wellington while he was helping Police search for an escaped prisoner, only a few days after receiving his award.

The replacement of the present Police launch is being mooted as part of a joint Customs-Police Operation called Project Sentinel, which will focus on keeping contraband and drug shipments out of New Zealand. Police have been involved in this initiative for some time but the provision of four boats – two for each department – will give the operations even more capability.

**Wear and tear**

The Lady Elizabeth III recently underwent her annual maintenance schedule for five days on the Wellington waterfront. Crew repainted the hull with anti-foul marine paint and the shaft, rudder, skin fittings, safety equipment and water intakes were all surveyed. The shaft was showing signs of wear and tear and will need repair. “She had a mechanical refit in 2001 but is overdue for her electrical refit,” launchmaster Constable Dave Martin said.

Last year the Wellington-based launch responded to 138 incidents. Incidents are categorised as class 1, 2 or 3. Class 1 incidents are where a person or persons would die without assistance. Class 2 incidents mean there is danger present and assistance is required urgently while class 3 incidents are where someone needs more general assistance, which may not be life-threatening (e.g. a tow to shore after an engine failure).

**Have you moved recently?**

If you have moved or perhaps are about to, please let us know so we can update your records.

You can do this by:
- writing to us at PO Box 12344;
- calling us on free phone 0800 500 122;
- faxing us on (04) 496 6819; or
- Emailing us at membership@policeassn.org.nz

You need to let us know your membership number, new address and if you’re a serving member - your new station.

October 2007
IPCA Bill passes third reading

The Independent Police Conduct Amendment Bill passed into law in Parliament last month.

The new legislation implements recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into Police Conduct, which was headed by Dame Margaret Bazley. The Commission released its report earlier this year.

“This is a significant event in the history of civilian oversight of policing in New Zealand. Public confidence in the new Authority and in the Police will be enhanced,” Minister of Justice Mark Burton said recently.

Implementation

The passage of the Independent Police Conduct Authority Amendment Bill was deferred awaiting the outcome of the Commission of Inquiry so that recommendations could be implemented quickly. Mr Burton said all 12 recommendations from the Commission of Inquiry relating to the Police Complaints Authority would be implemented.

The legislation also implements recommendations from Sir Rodney Gallen’s review of the Police Complaints Authority. Sir Rodney’s review took place in 2000.

The main provisions in the legislation are:

• A name change: from the Police Complaints Authority to the Independent Police Conduct Authority, to emphasise its enhanced independence and its role, which is broader than the investigation of complaints;

• Clarifying that the Authority has the ability to investigate historic complaints;

• Requiring Police to notify the Authority within five days of receiving a complaint;

• Enabling the Authority to refer minor matters back to the Police for investigation where it is appropriate to do so, thereby allowing the Authority to concentrate on investigating serious matters. The Authority will maintain overall supervision of Police handling of complaints;

• Requiring the Authority to provide a copy of its opinion and recommendations to the Minister of Police and the Attorney-General if dissatisfied with Police’s response to a recommendation; and

• Allowing the Authority to have up to five members. This expansion will allow wider representation and strengthen confidence in its independence.
Police Remembrance Day enables police to honour their fallen colleagues

By Tracy Hall, Communications Manager/Marketing

With passing years, larger crowds - now numbering several hundred - have been attending the official New Zealand Police Remembrance Day commemoration service.

Held at The Royal New Zealand Police College in Porirua, the service honours the New Zealand, Australian and South Pacific police officers, who have been slain on duty. The service also remembers New Zealand Police staff - serving and retired, sworn and non-sworn - who have died in the past year.

Unaware of ceremony

Yet, unless police members have had the occasion to attend this service, many remain unaware that Police Remembrance Day falls on September 29, the feast day of the Archangel Michael - the patron saint of Police.

Some have no idea that there is an official remembrance day at all.

Russell Gibson, Superintendent of Training and Professional Development, said The Police College and Police Association have been working together on a way to raise the profile of Police Remembrance Day and embed the occasion in the hearts and minds of police members, and in time, the general public.

A Police-chevron embedded Huia feather pin, developed by the joint working party, as a way by which members of police across New Zealand can engage in and feel part of the day.

Raising awareness

The pin will raise awareness of Police Remembrance Day, and provides a mechanism by which Police members throughout the districts can honour the memory of their fallen colleagues. The pin will be attached to a card carrying the Maori words:

Huia e! tangata kotahi. He totara kua hinga.

This translates to: The feather of the Huia, for someone special. One dearly departed.

Police Association President Greg O'Connor said: “The pin commemorates those police officers who have been slain while carrying out their duty. They paid the ultimate sacrifice. It also serves as an important reminder of the unique nature of policing - where the nature of the job itself brings with it the risk of death.”

Chaplain the driving force

Over the past few years, Padre David Dell, Chaplain to the Police College and the Hutt Valley District, has been the driving force behind the College remembrance service.

He has worked to build it into the poignant, heartfelt commemoration ceremony it is today. He said he is excited to be part of the project and views it as a great way to give every police member the opportunity to be involved in the day.

After introducing the pin at this year’s Police Remembrance Day service, plans are already underway to make the pin available to all police members next year, in exchange for a gold coin donation.

Donations will be put into the Police Families Charitable Trust - a trust set up for the families of New Zealand Police who have been slain while carrying out their police duties - and will be applied in accordance with the rules of the trust.

We remember... Who passed away...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MURRAY Kenneth Allan</td>
<td>11-Nov-06</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Christchurch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDWARDS Ashley Brown (QSM)</td>
<td>16-Aug-07</td>
<td>Retired member</td>
<td>Auckland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PETROWSKI Freda Bertha</td>
<td>27-Aug-07</td>
<td>Widow of member</td>
<td>Hastings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KELLY Bernie</td>
<td>28-Aug-07</td>
<td>Retired member</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORNELL Heather Jane</td>
<td>30-Aug-07</td>
<td>Wife of membe</td>
<td>Mt Albert, Akld</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EATHORNE Maurice</td>
<td>2-Sep-07</td>
<td>Life Member</td>
<td>Timaru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEVENSON Brian</td>
<td>5-Sep-07</td>
<td>Retired member</td>
<td>Masterton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Obituary:
Maurice Christopher Eathorne, QSM, Life Member NZ Police Association, Papal Medal

Maurice Christopher Eathorne was born in Waimate in 1930.

He attended St Patrick's Primary School in Waimate and St Bede's College in Christchurch. At the conclusion of his schooling, Maurice returned to Waimate where he started work with the New Zealand Post Office in the Telegram Department.

Maurice was an enthusiastic and talented rugby player. He was in the St Bede's 1st XV and played for the Waimate Old Boys' Club. At age 20, he represented South Canterbury. He was a member of the team, which won the Ranfurly Shield against Wairarapa-Bush in Masterton. It was the first time South Canterbury had won the Ranfurly Shield.

Maurice's passion for rugby continued through his roles as a coach and administrator and for a time he chaired the South Canterbury Rugby Union. His last match as a player was in 1986 when he played in the annual South Canterbury Police vs Jockeys charity game.

Police career beckoned
In 1950, Maurice became disillusioned with his telegram job and decided to apply to become a police officer. He commenced his training in August of that year at the Police Training School, Trentham. His first posting was to Timaru where he commenced duty on 20 December 1950. Life Member, Trevor Tozer, recalls his father getting to know Maurie and his colleagues when they were walking the beat in Timaru. Mr Tozer (Snr) was the night watchman at the Farmers store in Timaru, which became a regular coffee stop for the constables. If the Sergeant couldn't find his beatmen, he rang the night watchman's bell and they would turn out.

By this time, Maurice had met his future wife Mary. They married in 1951. In 1958, with their two children Kate and Paul, Maurice transferred to Blackball on the West Coast. Though a remote location, they stayed there for four years before transferring to Kurow.

The Kurow years
They found Kurow a desirable place to live and stayed for 14 years. Kurow was a busy area in those years with the construction of Benmore and Aviemore Dams bringing an increase in population to the Waitaki Valley. There was also a two-man station at Otematata.

In 1975, Maurice and Mary transferred back to Timaru where he served until his retirement in 1989.

During his career, Maurice was an active member of district committees of the NZ Police Association. As a young constable in Timaru in the 1950's and when he transferred to Kurow, he was on the local committee.

Life Member
He was awarded a Life Membership to the NZ Police Association in 1989. In the letter recommending his Life Membership it said: "Less easy to quantify is the work he has done as chairman behind the scenes. His availability to members, his concern for their welfare, his ability to listen and give sound advice, and his determination in seeing wrongs were put right are legend within the district."

As Inspector Dave Gaskin said in his eulogy: "Maurice in full flight outlining the faults in a decision made by a member of the local administration was a sight to behold."

Maurice was a dedicated family man, a committed police officer, keen rugby player and administrator, and devout Catholic.

The Association extends its deepest sympathies to Maurice's wife Mary, their two children Kate and Paul and partners, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Sources: Dave Gaskin, Area Commander, Mid-South Canterbury, Geoff Smith and Trevor Tozer.
GRIM
Hold all the front pages,
Grim’s about to retire.
The Police PR boffins are ecstatic,
They can now fifteen staff fire.

They’ll no longer open The Herald in fear,
Their ulcers will no longer ravage.
Crims will be described in a corporate manner,
It’s the end of the “filthy savage”.

Who’d have ever thought,
That this rough and ready lad.
Would become a respected detective,
Some good odds on that could have been had.

He’d fronted his detective course,
Mullet and nightclub suit his feature.
Try knocking the rough edges off that,
A nightmare for any teacher.

But knuckle down he did,
Competing with those aspiring to wear pips.
He showed considerable intellectual grunt,
Even reading without moving his lips.

And when the training was over,
And they’d been tested at a great pace.
A greater shock than the virgin birth,
Grim won the bloody briefcase.

He proved it was no fluke,
He went on to end many a criminal’s good day.
Although even his Mum would never say he did it,
In a quiet unassuming way.

No, if there was camera within cooee,
The lens would somehow swing his way.
The happiest man would be the news editor,
Knowing he’d get the quote of the day.

Whether talking about boils on backsides,
Or animal behaviour of the lowest type,
Middle New Zealand was soon educated by Grim,
That criminals are the lowest form of life.

He took his colour descriptions to the edge,
As he solved case after case.
But he was to find the margin of acceptability,
Can be as thin as a shoelace.

MAN HUG DEMONSTRATION?: In his speech at Neil Grimstone’s farewell recently, President and poet, Greg O’Connor, stated that he had seen “more man hugs at this farewell than you’d ever see in Vivian Street in Wellington on a Friday night.” He then proceeded to give Neil a farewell hug in a ‘Starsky and Hutch’ moment.

- Photo courtesy of Tracey Gibbs, Auckland Forensic Imaging Section.

But as one door closes,
There’s opportunities for those who see,
Though one for Grim will take some opening,
That’s a career in diplomacy.

He made a helluva difference,
Cleared many a difficult file.
And with those ties and Great South Road suits,
Strode these mean streets with style.

Grim’s now off the Police payroll,
He’ll move on with those ankle length coats.
But there’ll always be that lasting legacy,
Of those filthy mongrel quotes.

By Greg O’Connor. (An ode to recently retired Detective Neil Grimstone).

New cheaper premiums make life insurance even more attractive
Supplementary Life Insurance premiums are about to get cheaper.
From October 17, premiums will be calculated using a new gender-specific rating system.

The new system will ensure that Welfare Fund members receive the most competitive premiums, while maintaining the same great cover offered by insurance provider, AIA.

Savings
New and existing Welfare Fund members will be eligible for premium discounts of up to 7%.

Sample of new Supplementary Life annual premiums for $200,000 cover

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>NON-SMOKER RATES</th>
<th>SMOKER RATES</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Male</td>
<td>New Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>$172</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>$156</td>
<td>$152</td>
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<td>44</td>
<td>$280</td>
<td>$272</td>
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<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>$818</td>
<td>$794</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

So, for less than the price of a cup of coffee per week you can increase your cover to ensure that you and your family are protected if an unforeseen death occurs.

What better time to sign up for Supplementary Life Insurance, or review your existing cover.

The Police Association Welfare Fund seeks to continually improve the benefits provided to its members, and has been able to negotiate these favourable new prices due to strong collective bargaining power.

Members will receive notification of the changes early October, including a new life insurance certificate detailing the new rates.

For enquiries, please contact our Member Services Centre on 0800 500 122 - 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday - or visit our website www.policeassn.org.nz
Police Association welcomes new Organised Crime Agency

By Bex Shannon, Association Communications Assistant

The Government’s decision to scrap the Serious Fraud Office and establish an all-inclusive Organised Crime Agency has been welcomed by the Police Association.

Police will lead the new agency, which has been created to investigate increasingly sophisticated crimes such as money laundering, cyber crime, pedophilia networks and drug trafficking, in New Zealand and throughout the South Pacific region.

The OCA will absorb the resources and legal powers of the Serious Fraud Office, and draw on expertise from other organisations, including the Security Intelligence Service (SIS), the Officials Committee on Domestic and External Security Coordination (ODESC), and the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB), to name a few.

Increased capability

Police Association President Greg O’Connor said the new agency would provide Police with the capability necessary to battle increasing levels of organised crime.

“The Police Association has been calling for Police to deliver strategic nationwide leadership on organised crime for several years now. It’s really heartening to find that after all our lobbying over a lengthy period of time that someone has been listening and it is very pleasing to see that Cabinet has now made the same call,” Mr O’Connor said.

“We are playing catch-up with the gangs, but an Organised Crime Agency working within Police has the potential to start to turn that around,” he said.

Commenting on the decision to bring the work of the Serious Fraud Office back under the Police umbrella, Mr O’Connor said the move was “a natural evolution”.

“Serious fraud is now seen in a much broader context... there is now recognition worldwide that fragmenting crime-fighting efforts and spreading resources across separate agencies does not make sense, whether you are policing organised crime or fraud,” he said.

A step forward

Mr O’Connor said that while the decision is a step forward for Police, a number of specifics would need to be ironed out to ensure the success of the OCA.

“Success will be measured not only by us knocking the top off the pyramid at a national level, but also being able to get in and shut down local gang chapters,” Mr O’Connor said.

“For organised crime policing to work best, it needs both strategic national leadership, and also integration into everyday frontline policing. It is also critically important that the new commitment to strategic focus be matched with sufficient resources to deliver results,” he added.

“Failure to resource Police properly to do the job would just lead to public, political and Police frustration, as we are forced to sit on the sidelines watching the gangs continue to get stronger and stronger,” he said.

The agency is expected to be up and running in a year, with more details such as staffing, location and funding due out this month.

Minister of Police Annette King said the OCA was established within the NZ Police, because Police are already the lead agency in most responses to organised crime.

Specialised agency

Ms King said that due to the increased availability of technology, crime has become more widespread and sophisticated than ever - creating the need for a specialised agency to tackle the problem head-on.

“Organised crime has no boundaries and exploits national and international points of weakness. Trans-national networks link gangs, business people, families, political and religious movements and terrorist activity.

“Quite clearly, we need to increase our response to be forearmed to meet all possible contingencies. The proposed OCA will focus on preventing, investigating and disrupting serious organised crime rather than on street level offending,” she said.

Ms King said that the OCA would incorporate important functions previously performed by the SFO, including specialist skills and abilities in areas such as computer forensics.

“The Independent Police Conduct Authority (formerly the Police Complaints Authority) will also have oversight of the OCA in the same way it has oversight of NZ Police. The recently-completed Law Commission report on search and surveillance powers will provide the framework for assigning any such powers to the OCA,” she said.

Whole of Government approach

Police Deputy Commissioner, Rob Pope, said he fully supported the creation of the OCA, as a “whole of Government” approach to combating organised crime. He said he looked forward to working with other members of the new agency in setting up the OCA and assisting with one of its first tasks - an organised crime strategy to provide a co-ordinated response to organised crime and the activities of criminal gangs.

“Police use a range of strategies to actively target gangs and other avenues of organised crime. These will continue, but the development of the OCA will see a more strategic approach - one we must take if we are to match the evolution of organised crime in the 21st century,” he said.

“Quotes of the month”

I am only one,
But still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
But still I can do something.
And because I cannot do everything
I will not refuse to do
The something that I can do.
- Edward Everett Hale
(1822-1909, author and clergyman).

“All virtue is summed up in dealing justly.”
- Aristotle
(384 BC – 322 BC, Greek philosopher).

“Expecting the world to treat you fairly because you are a good person is a little like expecting the bull not to attack you because you are a vegetarian.”
- Dennis Wholey
(US television host and producer).
Police Association calls for Taser rollout to frontline staff

By Bex Shannon, Association Communications Assistant

Following a year long trial of the Taser, the Police Association is calling for a nationwide roll out of the device to frontline staff.

Police Association President Greg O’Connor said the trial had been an “outstanding success”.

The Taser was trialled in four police districts (Waitemata, Counties-Manukau, Auckland City and Wellington), with all 32 units withdrawn at the trial’s end on August 31. Tasers were fired 19 times in 111 incidents, 80 of which involved offenders pulling weapons including machetes, axes, pistols, and a weed-eater.

Positive outcome

Mr O’Connor said the outcome of the trial had been positive, good for Police, victims of crime and even offenders. He said the Taser is a viable non-lethal option that is effective when other techniques, including open-hand combat and pepper spray, may not be.

“The Taser trial has been an outstanding success. On several occasions it has prevented likely serious injury and possibly death to offenders as well as police officers and those the officers were protecting. Despite intense scrutiny by those opposed to the Taser, there has been absolutely no evidence of inappropriate use,” Mr O’Connor said.

A final evaluation of the trial is to be completed by November 30, after which the Police Commissioner will decide whether to make Tasers a permanent addition to the utility belts of frontline police.

Confidence

“We are absolutely confident that any objective evaluation will come to the same conclusion and any political pressure exerted by safe liberals should be disregarded,” Mr O’Connor added.

The Police Association opposed the complete withdrawal of Tasers at the trial’s end, believing they should have remained where first issued. Mr O’Connor said they had proven their value in an increasingly violent society. Assaults on police officers rose 13.6% between the 2004-05 and 2005-06 Police reporting years (up from 1,869 to 2,123), and violent crimes went up 9.5% between 2005-06.

Mr O’Connor said that along with SRBA, pepper spray and other traditional techniques, Tasers would provide police officers and the public they serve with added protection when confronted with “violent and aggressive offenders”, without having to deploy lethal force.

A recent incident in which unarmed police were reportedly forced to throw stones at a...
dangerous fugitive, Richard Alan Duthie, after he had fired shots at them, was the perfect example of how ludicrous it was for officers to be confronting armed and dangerous criminals every day without an effective means of defence.

"While conceding that the Taser would not have been any use in the Duthie case, there are plenty of situations where an offender is armed with a knife and that’s where a Taser can make all the difference for an officer in protecting him or herself or members of the public," Mr O’Connor said.

Superintendent Tony McLeod, Police National Headquarters (PNHQ) Operations Manager, told Police News that allowing Tasers to remain in use after the trial-period would have defeated the purpose of the trial altogether.

"The Taser trial has been an outstanding success. On several occasions it has prevented likely serious injury and possibly death to offenders as well as police officers and those the officers were protecting. Despite intense scrutiny by those opposed to the Taser, there has been absolutely no evidence of inappropriate use."

- Greg O’Connor, Police Association President

**Rigorous evaluation**

"To ensure that any evaluation is rigorously and empirically conducted the trial period must cease. Otherwise, incidents that occur after the trial but during the evaluation may affect the evaluation’s outcome," he said.

While a decision about the fate of Tasers would not be made until well after the evaluation was complete, Mr McLeod said that feedback from police officers had been mostly positive, with few concerns having been raised during the trial.

"Certain anecdotal evidence from staff shows that despite there being the odd glitch, the Taser has been pretty successful in reducing levels of violence at incidents," he said.

**Strict protocol**

Taser use is governed by a strict protocol that recommends the device only be deployed in a high-risk situation at close assault range, to allow the opportunity for police officers to subdue an offender.

Mr McLeod said that laser painting or arcing the Taser was often enough to deter the offender from taking further action. "There have been a large number of incidents where offenders haven't continued to behave aggressively once they have been confronted with a Taser, and that’s really positive because it shows that we don't actually have to discharge the Taser for it to have an effect," he said.

"There’s the opportunity to give a fairly strong warning that if they don’t stop what they’re doing, they’re going to be subjected to 50,000 volts of Taser, and that’s been very effective on a large number of occasions," he said.

Mr McLeod said a decision about the fate of Tasers would come “more likely weeks and months, rather than days” after the evaluation was complete. “As part of the whole evaluation process we’ll be looking at all the incidents that have occurred and based on all those incidents we will be providing the Commissioner with some options and he will then make a decision. If the Commissioner makes the decision to introduce the Taser, then there’s a whole lot more work to be done in relation to how it would be deployed, but we’re well short of that at this stage.”
Taser credited with drop in lethal force incidents in the United States

Many law enforcement agencies in the United States are crediting the use of Tasers with helping reduce the number of fatal shootings by police officers.

But some citizens’ groups and human rights activists have called for a moratorium on the use of Tasers until more is known about alleged link to deaths of people who have been shocked with the device, according to a report in USA Today.

Taser International, the manufacturer of the device, says the Taser is used by about 16,000 law enforcement agencies in the USA. The list is growing: the Massachusetts Legislature recently gave final approval to a bill that would allow police in that state to carry Tasers. The legislation would require officers to record the time and reason a Taser was used, as well as the race and gender of the suspect.

No fatal shootings

Last year Seattle Police reported that they didn’t have a single fatal shooting involving an officer. It was the first time in 15 years that was the case.

Seattle began using Tasers six years ago after a controversial police shooting. Since then, officers have used Tasers about 500 times. By the end of this year, more than 400 of the department’s 600 patrol officers will be equipped with Tasers, which cost $400 to $800 each.

In Portland, Oregon, police fired Tasers 595 times between July 2002 and July 2006. Officials found that 25% to 30% of those situations met the criteria for officers to have used deadly force instead.

In Phoenix, Arizona the number of officer-involved shootings dropped 54% - from 28 to 13 - after Tasers were introduced four years ago. The number of fatal police shootings the year they were introduced dropped from 13 to nine.

Risks still there

“We’re still being assaulted with knives, swords, tyre irons, but we have a much better way to deal with those,” says Detective Tony Morales, a Phoenix Police spokesman. Mr Morales said that previously someone attacking a police officer with something like a baseball bat would almost certainly have been shot.

National statistics on police shootings were not available.

Even as law enforcement officials praise Tasers as a way to subdue suspects while reducing the risk of injury or death, there has been renewed concern that at least five people died last year after being shot with Tasers.

“We believe there should be systematic medical tests conducted to ascertain the reason for the deaths, to determine definitively if they’re connected with the Taser,” said William Schulz, Executive Director of Amnesty International USA.

Rebuttal

But Steve Tuttle, spokesman for the manufacturer, Taser International, said: “No-one in the history of Taser usage has ever died during an actual application, and to date no medical examiners have ruled Tasers as a cause of death.”

In Gwinnett County, Georgia (near Atlanta), two men died after being shocked with Tasers by sheriff’s deputies. The County Medical Examiner determined that Ray Austin, 25, died from a heart attack that was not linked to the Taser’s use.

In the death of Frederick Williams, 31, who died two days after he was shocked at least twice while being taken into the Gwinnett County Detention Center, it was ruled there was insufficient evidence for a case to proceed.

Others worry that because the weapons leave only a small mark resembling a bee sting, the guns could be abused.

Abuse alleged

“From anecdotal stories, we believe police (officers) are using it in situations where they’re just trying to get compliance from people,” says Dan Handelman of Portland Copwatch, a watchdog group in Portland.

Every Taser is equipped with a microchip that records the dates and times when the weapon is used. The newest version even records the duration of the trigger pull.

Several US Police departments stress that all Taser use is examined.

In Portland, officers are required to write a report detailing when and why the gun was fired.

New Zealand Police have been careful to model their Taser protocols on those of UK Police departments. In the UK, specially trained Taser units respond to potentially violent incidents. The Taser is not available to all frontline police in the UK.

Successful trials

Tasers were introduced into the United Kingdom after being successfully trialled over five constabularies. Policy was comprehensively developed including medical protocols for the after-care of offenders shot with a Taser.

The New Zealand trial, which ran for 12 months, recently concluded. All Tasers were withdrawn while further evaluation is undertaken. A decision on the possibility of wider use is still pending. The trial involved use of the X26 model with 5 watts of power compared with the older M26 model used mainly in the United States. The M26 model operates with 26 watts of power.

The Taser has proved its worth when dealing with unarmed (or lightly armed) but highly aggressive people and persons under the influence of mind-altering substances, solvents or alcohol.

If it had hit him it could almost have wrecked him

Police officers in a small New Zealand town recently arrested a middle-aged woman for intentional damage.

She was asked to write a letter of apology as a result of her actions.

This is what she wrote:

Dear (name withheld),

I can’t tell you how sorry I am that the crap that you told me, and the fact that I caught you shagging someone else made me so angry that I felt the need to return your half bottle of vodka and your undies via your lounge room window. My preferred option was to insert them up your rectum. However, I was not in a position to do that. I can assure you it will not happen again. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for having me arrested and locked in a cell. I feel so fortunate to have had the experience.

Yours Sincerely,

(name withheld)
Pursuits: Putting the blame where it rightly lies - with speeding drivers

By Steve Plowman, Editor, Police News

The Police Association is giving its full support to the maintenance of a police officer’s ability to pursue drivers who ignore requests to stop and speed off, endangering not only their own lives but those of their passengers and/or members of the public and police officers.

Police have come in for criticism recently after several accidents, some fatal, after drivers elected to drive at excessive speed when police have tried to stop their vehicle.

The Police Complaints Authority is currently reviewing all pursuits resulting in serious injuries or fatalities since 2004. The PCA has been notified of around 81 cases involving serious injury and 15 involving fatalities in that timeframe. The Commissioner is required to notify the PCA of all instances where Police action causes or appears to cause death or serious injury.

The report’s primary focus will be to assist Police by making constructive recommendations that appear to be called for in the public interest. Police have just completed their own review. The results were not available by the time this issue went to press.

The PCA is interested in looking at various aspects of pursuits, including what guidance there is for officers regarding when and whether to commence a pursuit. Authority Justice Lowell Goddard told Police News: “This includes criteria on which the competing risks are to be balanced, bearing in mind they will be split second decisions in most cases.” The review will consider expert guidance and comparative experiences from overseas.

Hastings teenager Luke Wooster was killed after his car hit a bridge abutment about 10km southwest of Hastings in August. Mr Wooster’s car was estimated to be travelling at about 180 kph at the time of impact.

Hastings Area Commander, Inspector Dean Clifford, said a police patrol car was in the area at the time because of reports of boy racers. The patrol car officer stopped a car and as the occupants were being spoken to, two cars sped past. Mr Wooster’s Honda was one of them.

According to a witness, the police officer turned his car around but kept his distance and had slowed down before the fatal crash. The witness said that, in his opinion, Mr Wooster’s actions justified a police pursuit response.

The officer had barely turned his vehicle around in an effort to stop the speeding vehicle when Mr Wooster’s vehicle ploughed into the bridge. He died at the scene of the crash. His passenger suffered serious injuries.

Mr Wooster’s grief-stricken father blamed police but countered this with a plea to young drivers not to speed off when police asked them to stop. One of the natural reactions to grief is to attach blame.

Pursuit deaths

Last month high-speed crashes in Auckland and Hamilton resulted in four people being injured after the drivers had elected to flee from police. In the Auckland incident, a woman in a vehicle, which was hit by the fleeing vehicle, suffered leg and chest injuries. Two of the passengers in the fleeing car were also injured.
A year ago this month, the 16-year-old driver of a stolen Mercedes killed two of his mates when the vehicle was involved in a head-on crash near Warkworth, Auckland. A 14-year-old passenger in the Mercedes and the 39-year-old driver of a RAV 4, which was hit by the Mercedes as it tried to overtake another vehicle, received serious injuries. The woman in the RAV 4 suffered multiple fractures of her collarbone, her thigh bones, to her hands and wrists, as well as deep cuts and extensive bruising. She is still recovering.

**No pursuit**

A police patrol car travelling in the opposite direction had spotted the southbound Mercedes on State Highway One, near the Dome Valley. The police patrol was approximately two kilometres behind the Mercedes and not in a pursuit at the time of the crash.

Police Association President, Greg O’Connor said it was “nonsensical” to blame police officers for the negligence of drivers, some in stolen vehicles, intent on avoiding apprehension.

“It is drivers who refuse to stop for police, not police officers, who are to blame for members of the public becoming innocent victims of those offenders’ selfish and irresponsible actions,” Mr O’Connor said.

“Drunk and dangerous drivers, boy racers or serious offenders who are fleeing from the scene of a crime and refuse to stop choose to put themselves ahead of public safety,” Mr O’Connor added.

“There is an old saying that: ‘if your opponent thinks you won’t use force you will end up having to use it’. If Police send the message to these drivers that we won’t pursue them then it basically gives them a licence to do as they like,” Mr O’Connor said.

Police officers have told Police News that upon eventually apprehending runaway drivers they have been told: “You are not supposed to be chasing me, as I was going too fast”.

“There seems to be a prevailing attitude by some drivers that if they can go fast enough then police won’t chase them. As this attitude becomes more prevalent and accepted, then more and more drivers will deliberately go fast, so as we can’t or won’t pursue them,” a Road Policing officer said. He added that this attitude “must be discouraged and changed by all parties who have a stake in road safety, including those who have the power to make policy and law.”

In April 2004, Police reviewed their existing guidelines regarding pursuits after a number of fatal accidents involving offenders who had driven off at speed. That policy replaced the ‘Police Driving Standards: Urgent Duty Driving – Interim Policy’.

The changes followed a six-month review of pursuits. The review found that most pursuits are short, end safely, and in most cases conclude with the apprehension of the offender. It also found that most pursuit offenders have significant criminal histories.

The review also identified a number of areas where police practice and procedures could be improved, and the new policy addressed those issues.

The new policy emphasised:

- Public and staff safety;
- Risk assessment to guide the commencement, continuation and abandonment of pursuits;
- Clarified roles and responsibilities during a pursuit;
- Supervision by Communications Centres; and
- Revised abandonment procedures.

**Challenging**

Mr O’Connor said that pursuits were particularly challenging for all police staff involved. “They are undertaking to stop offenders but that must be carefully balanced by the risk to public safety, the pursuing officers and compliance with the law,” he said.

Some of the criticism leveled at Police over the issue has said that police officers could have backed off and then apprehended the offender later at their home. This naivety belies the fact that often offenders will continue at high speed endangering innocent citizens, regardless of whether they are being pursued or not. Police are honour-bound to try and stop offenders who put themselves, their passengers or innocent members of the public at risk.

**Existing policies “appropriate”**

“We believe existing policies are appropriate. Police do not enter into pursuits lightly. But if the PCA’s review serves to improve public confidence in those policies, it may be useful in that regard,” Mr O’Connor said.

“It’s a fact that the biggest deterrent to any sort of offending is not the penalty, but the certain knowledge that you will be caught. We must be very careful not to shift the blame off the offenders, or give offenders comfort that by fleeing, police will not pursue and they will evade responsibility for their actions. That would just encourage irresponsible driving and lead to further tragedies. That must not be the outcome of this review,” Mr O’Connor said.
To pursue or not to pursue? Police look to future technology to minimise risks

By Steve Plowman, Editor, Police News

To pursue or not to pursue – it is a question that has haunted police in the post-mortem of every crash where injury or death has resulted after a police pursuit has ensued.

Police are involved in approximately 160 pursuits per month nationwide and most pursuits come to the attention of officers because of dangerous driving. For every 3,500 traffic stops, only one results in a driver ‘doing a runner’. The vast majority of pursuits last less than two minutes and end with the safe apprehension of the offender.

Here’s how difficult the job can be. If a vehicle travelling at 130 kph passes a police vehicle going in the opposite direction and the police vehicle has to do a U turn (dangerous in itself, especially if the road is busy) - in order to catch up to the offender’s vehicle the officer will have to travel at 160+ kph for four kilometers before he or she will be close enough to signal the driver to stop. If the offender’s vehicle is travelling at 160 kph then the officer must travel at 180+ kph for 8 kilometres. The danger to all concerned is palpable.

As the advert says: “The faster you go the bigger the mess.”

Amid the rhetoric, grief and obvious anger that arise from pursuit crashes there are, inevitably, things which get forgotten.

Oath

Firstly, the police officer is doing his or her job in trying to protect the public, in keeping with his/her sworn oath to “protect and serve”. Secondly, the offender makes a conscious decision to break the law and ‘to Hell’ with the consequences. Unfortunately, this arrogant disregard for the safety of others (and themselves) sometimes ends in tragedy. Thirdly, the police officer can be putting his or her own life at risk in a pursuit situation - something often overlooked the baying for blood that follows such tragedies. No officer willingly does that unless there is very good reason for doing so. They have families who want to see them come home at night too.

Few effective options have existed for Police to stop vehicles safely. Stinger spikes have been introduced and in some cases have been successful but they cannot always be deployed in time, given the high speeds involved. The most common way of affecting an arrest has been to pursue.

New technology

In some American jurisdictions, police have begun using Auto Arrestor Systems, a technology, which employs a short pulse of electric current to burn out or disrupt critical electronic components in the ignition systems of modern vehicles. Similar systems are used by combat troops in Iraq.

But, while New Zealand Police have looked at such options they have reservations about their use here, for obvious reasons, as National Road Policing Manager, Superintendent Dave Cliff, explained to Police News: “The trouble with the electric pulse technology, which the Army have, is that once it fires out the electric pulse it fries all electronics within about a 100 metre radius. That means that it doesn’t just do the offender’s vehicle it does all the houses and their electronics too, like videos etc. If it was more localised, clearly it may have uses for pursuits.”

Engine immobilisers

Superintendent Cliff said that Police were looking at recent developments and future technologies to minimise their need to pursue. “Some of the European car manufacturers have now got built in immobilisers in their vehicles so that it links to the registration register so that if a cop is following a modern vehicle he or she can effectively key in the registration and immobilise the vehicle remotely,” he said.

The jury is still out with regard to many of the American technologies. Many manufacturers, no doubt with an eye to the lucrative worldwide law enforcement networks, promise much in their advertising but fail to deliver in reality.

“We are keeping an eye on these things. If it is one jurisdiction making an announcement then you tend to treat it with some scepticism until you see the results of the evaluation,” Superintendent Cliff said.

“We think that ultimately as new technology comes on stream the ability to switch vehicles off remotely will occur. But at the moment we don’t have that as an option,” he added.

And what a happy day that will be for Police when they do.

Research

Just over a decade ago, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) in the USA began examining alternative approaches to police pursuits.

The NIJ researchers said that while there was “no simple solution to a complex problem” there was an increasing awareness both by police officers and the public that the management of pursuits needed to be addressed. In 2004, NZ Police did just that by issuing new policy guidelines.

The NIJ found that a high percentage of pursuits (77%) were found to end with the suspects being apprehended and 70% ended without an accident. Five comprehensive studies conducted in the USA between 1983 and 1994 found:

• A collision of some type can be expected to occur in 32% of all pursuits;

• When the severity of these collisions is analysed, 20% will result in property damage and 13% will result in personal injury;

• A fatality will occur in 1.2% of all pursuits;

• Approximately 70% of all pursuit-related injuries and fatalities will involve the occupants of the pursued vehicle, while 14% will involve police officers and 15% innocent motorists or pedestrians;

• Police were successful in apprehending the suspects in more than 72.2% of pursuits; and

• Suspects were able to outrun a pursuing police vehicle in 12% of cases.

Custodial arrest policy

In its model policy, adopted 12 years ago, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) restricted pursuits to incidents in which an officer would make a custodial arrest. Subsequently, within states, that adopted the more restrictive policies, researchers found there was a marked decrease in pursuits.

In the meantime, NZ Police is grappling with the issue just as Police agencies in the USA, Europe, Canada, Australia and the UK have over recent years.

More recently NZ Police have begun ordering large consignments of road stingers, spikes
that can be easily deployed across a road to deflate the tyres of vehicles involved in pursuits.

“Once we get the final shipment, our ability to have easily deployed spikes in every police vehicle will essentially become a reality,” Superintendent Cliff told Police News.

**Dangerous driving**

Cliff says most pursuits occur because police see vehicles being driven dangerously. “If police get into a situation where we don’t try and stop people who are driving dangerously because we will make them drive more dangerously, then what’s the potential for anarchy on our roads and how many more deaths will we get then? That’s really the $64,000 question,” Cliff said.

“Our oath as sworn police officers is to protect life and property and if it had a rider in it which says ‘if they are committing serious offences on the road, well, we just let them go’ then plainly that is ridiculous.” he added.

Police are often criticised for not backing off when they know the identity of the driver. Critics say police could then catch up with the offender later. But such naivety belies the facts. Ninety percent (90%) of pursuits happen at night and in most cases police do not know who’s driving. If it is a stolen vehicle or the driver is drunk then the risks go up exponentially.

It’s human nature to simplify things, especially with the added value of hindsight. In the racing industry such voices are called “the jockeys in the stand”. And there are plenty of them ready to be raised every time a police pursuit ends in a crash. The cacophony of criticism will of course be even louder the day police do not pursue and some young lunatic ploughs into a family enjoying their Sunday drive – and kills them all.

In the complex world of pursuits, the truth is that Police, at this juncture, are damned if they do and damned if they don’t.

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**US Supreme Court makes landmark pursuits ruling**

The US Supreme Court recently ruled that a police officer cannot be held liable for ramming a fleeing car during a high-speed chase, forcing the vehicle off the road and resulting in severe injury or even death for the driver.

By an 8-1 vote, the Supreme Court in Washington ruled the officer’s conduct reasonable because the car chase initiated by the suspect posed a substantial and immediate risk of serious physical injury to others.

Justice Antonio Scalia said for the majority that an officer’s attempt to end a dangerous high-speed car chase that threatened the lives of innocent bystanders did not violate the Constitution, even if it placed the fleeing motorist at risk of serious injury or death.

He said a police video of the incident “resembles a Hollywood-style car chase of the most frightening sort.”

**Unusual step**

The Supreme Court took the unusual step of putting the video on its website, along with the ruling in the case involving a sheriff’s deputy from Coweta County in Georgia.

Justice Scalia said the video contradicted the suspect’s version of events that pedestrians or other motorists faced little or no threat during the chase.

The video showed the car “racing down narrow, two-lane roads in the dead of night at speeds that are shockingly fast,” Justice Scalia said. “We are happy to allow the videotape to speak for itself.”

The ruling occurred at a time of increased national debate about high-speed police pursuits, which have resulted in more than 350 deaths annually in recent years, according to a Reuters report.

**Lengthy case**

The case has taken six years to resolve. It relates to an incident late on the night of 29 March, 2001, when a sheriff’s deputy clocked Victor Harris driving at 117kph in a 88kph zone.

When the officer gave chase, Harris sped up, going at least 144kph at times, running two red lights and passing other cars while weaving through traffic on the two-lane road.

A second officer, Timothy Scott, rammed the rear of the speeding Cadillac, causing Harris to lose control of the car and go down an embankment. Harris, who was 19 at the time, was paralyzed by injuries he suffered in the crash.

Harris sued Scott for violating his constitutional rights by using excessive force during the pursuit. A Federal judge and a US Appeals Court ruled that Scott could be held liable.

The higher court overturned those decisions. Scalia said Harris intentionally placed himself and the public in danger by unlawfully engaging in reckless, high-speed driving.

He rejected the argument by lawyers for Harris that safety could have been assured if the Police had simply ceased their pursuit.

Of the nine Supreme Court members, only Justice John Paul Stevens dissented. He said less drastic measures, like using a device to flatten Harris’ tires slowly, could have avoided “such a tragic result”.

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**Was it a bird or was it a plane?**

Two members of the Lothian and Borders Traffic Police were out on the Berwickshire moors with a radar gun recently, happily engaged in apprehending speeding motorists, when their equipment suddenly locked-up completely with an unexpected reading of well over 300 mph.

The mystery was explained seconds later as a low flying Harrier hurtled over their heads. The boys in blue, upset at the damage to their radar gun, put in a complaint to the Royal Air Force (RAF), but were somewhat chastened when the RAF pointed out that the damage might well have been more severe according to a report on Lifeonthebeat.com.

The Harrier’s target-seeker had locked on to the ‘enemy’ radar and triggered an automatic retaliatory air-to-surface missile attack. Luckily, the Harrier was unarmored at the time.
International Police Association fosters friendship amongst officers worldwide

By Stan Keith, Secretary General of the IPA

“Servo per Amikeco - Service through Friendship.” That is the motto of the International Police Association, the largest police organisation in the world. It is as apt today as when the organisation was founded 41 years ago.

Formed on 1 January 1950, the IPA was the brainchild of Sergeant Arthur Troop of Lincolnshire, England, whose aim was to establish a channel to facilitate friendship and international co-operation between police officers worldwide.

Since then, IPA has grown to include 360,000 members from about 60 different countries.

Developing connections

The organisation provides the opportunity for creating social, cultural, and professional connections, in an environment free from discrimination of rank, sex, race, colour, language or religion.

The IPA is a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) that has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and the Council of Europe.

Gimborn Castle, situated 50kms East of Cologne, Germany, is the organisation’s international conference centre. It plays hosts to regular multi-lingual seminars, conferences, and meetings, concerning police-related topics.

Membership

In New Zealand, membership to the IPA is voluntary - unlike many countries such as Germany where it is compulsory upon joining the Police.

There are many advantages to becoming a member of the IPA, with opportunities available to both the young and old, as well as their families.

For a one-off joining fee of $13.50, plus an annual subscription fee of $39.00 ($1.50 per fortnight) police can reap the benefits of becoming an IPA member.

Activities/Benefits include:

- Regional social gatherings, luncheons and dinners involving the whole family;
- Meeting overseas police officers and establishing contacts;
- Attending local and international sports events;
- Assistance with travel and accommodation overseas;
- Attending overseas friendship weeks;
- Swapping or exchanging hobbies i.e. badges, shoulder patches;
- Access to international scholarships; and
- Youth gatherings for members’ children or grandchildren aged 15-17, which are hosted annually by a designated international section.

Flexible Employment Options explained

Recent letters to Police News have expressed a variety of views and experiences with Flexible Employment Options (FEO) across the regions. Police Association Industrial Officer Karen Taylor spoke to Carol Train, Manager of the National Equity and Diversity Office to get some clarification about the intent and application of FEO. Here’s what Karen found out...

FEO applies nationwide. There is no discretion to vary the national FEO policy within regions and FEO is open to all full-time Police Staff who wish to reduce their hours of work for a period of time.

You have to make a written application to your HR Manager for FEO. Under FEO policy, HR Managers are expected to work with employees and their supervisors to explore practical ways of accommodating an application. The policy states: “Staff commencing FEO will be expected to remain in their current role, but if that is not possible, a change should neither advantage or disadvantage them, their work colleagues, or managers.”

Be fully informed

Before you apply, make sure you are fully informed of what is involved. You can get advice about the FEO policy and practice through your District Equity and Diversity network.

Your Police Association representative or Field Officer can assist with the application process and may be available to attend meetings with you if you are experiencing any difficulties. The National Equity and Diversity Office can also provide advice and support.

The NEDO is currently working on identifying areas where Police can improve in relation to FEO. When this process is complete, the FEO policy will be rewritten to ensure it reflects the changing needs of Police employees while retaining some consideration for operational capacity.

If you require any further information please contact the Equity and Diversity Manager, Carol Train, on 44416 or 04 470 7116, Email carol.train@police.govt.nz
Association keen to see safety footwear issue progressed

By Karen Taylor, Association Industrial Officer and Doug Peach, Association Health and Safety rep for North-Shore-Waitakere

The Police Safety Consultation Group met recently to work on policy development for the provision of safety footwear.

The group comprises Police staff wellness advisors, frontline staff and Police Association representatives.

As part of policy development, the group considered Police and Association surveys, as well as legislative requirements and New Zealand specifications for safety footwear.

What are the issues?

It is important to remember that the footwear issue only recently gained a ‘toehold’ by using a Health and Safety approach, rather than uniform provisions. This means that the specifications being looked at for safety footwear are essential and must be met.

Specifications for safety footwear include criteria about what type of material is suitable for the sole and what type of toe and sole protection is effective. For example, considerations have to be made as to whether a sole would melt in a roadside or lab chemical spill, or be punctured by a nail. Other safety considerations take into account toe protection from such things as heavy weights. Because one size does not fit all, recognition of variations in foot shape and size related to gender and ethnic diversity need to be taken into account.

This means that a substantial range of specification-compliant footwear will be required to cater to individual needs.

Who’ll get it?

Under Health and Safety legislation, the employer has an obligation to minimise the risk for all employees exposed to any hazards, which cannot be removed or otherwise managed.

This means that the members issued with safety footwear will be those whose roles most often take them into ‘at risk’ situations.

There will be no distinction between sworn and non-sworn.

While most ‘at risk’ groups are easily identified, further consideration needs to be given to a small number of groups. Staff in these groups will be consulted about the issues involved.

What happens next?

1. Research to provide further:
   a) Definition of specifications; and
   b) Clarity about eligibility.
2. Finalise policy, taking into account all of the above information.
3. A briefing paper will go to the Police Executive Management Committee (PEMC), and may also go to Police Executive Committee (PEC).
4. Approval of the paper will be sought.
5. There would be a tender process (assuming approval under the requirements of Health and Safety legislation). Tenders can take between 6-16 weeks.
6. Two trials of one month each in two large community stations where staff undertake a wide variety of work, to test safety footwear is:
   a) Fit for use; and
   b) Comfortable.
7. A final rollout.

What’s the timeframe?

The consultation group is committed to completing steps 1, 2 and 3 in as timely a manner as possible. The briefing paper is scheduled to go to PEMC by the end of November.

While the timeframe for the approval process will be out of the consultation group’s hands, members can be assured that the Association will be advancing this issue and regular updates will be provided.

Truckers help put brakes on chase

In Oregon, USA, three commercial truck drivers put on the brakes to help police stop a man who led a high-speed chase for more than 50 miles (80 kilometres) recently.

The truckers pulled alongside each other and slowed to about 5 mph (8 kph), forming a rolling roadblock. The fleeing driver stopped and fled on foot but was quickly captured, authorities said.

Trucker Edwin Beach said he had overheard police radio traffic detailing the chase. Using radio equipment, Mr Beach co-ordinated with two other drivers and placed his truck in the middle of Interstate 84.

“We were all kind of laughing because he was running down the freeway,” said Mr Beach.

The chase began Saturday near Boardman and ended near the John Day Dam on the Columbia River about 100 miles (160 kilometres) east of Portland, police said. Speeds during the chase exceeded 100 mph (160 kph).

The fleeing car had been reported to be involved in a hit-and-run.

So where did you put the key then dear?

Yes, it was red faces all round for a hapless Auckland couple recently when they had to ring 111 to ask Police to remove a pair of handcuffs they had bought from a sex shop earlier in the day.

The couple had got them home, tried them on and then couldn’t get them off.

When a police officer attended the callout he found that there was a problem with the locking mechanism. A key was not required to free the couple from their predicament. A police spokesman pointed out that the couple was fully clothed when police arrived, adding that it was a “light-hearted moment” in the officer’s day.

A timely reminder...

A member recently came across an American Police publication, which reminded officers that when they come across people who called them “pig”, it’s real meaning is:

- P patience
- I integrity
- G guts

So next time some non-entity calls you a pig, smile and remember, he/she is really complimenting you for the virtues he/she can never hope to attain.

Don’t forget to thank them!
Private investigator posed as a corpse to catch vandals

A private investigator in England hid inside a body bag to catch the man who waged a three-year, £100,000 (NZ $279,642.06) campaign of vandalism against a funeral parlour. The bag was put in the back of a hearse, one of a number that had been repeatedly attacked over the years, and for days the detective lay in wait, according to a Daily Mail report.

His perseverance paid off when he caught the vandal, Richard Bullen, stabbing the wheels of the vehicle.

Costly crime
Surveillance experts launched the £4,000 (NZ $11,185) operation while investigating the hate campaign against the Co-operative Funeral Directors in Portsmouth.

The cost of the vandalism came to more than £100,000 (NZ $279,642), with up to five of the parlour’s vehicles being damaged every day. However, there were no clues leading to the identity of the perpetrator.

Deathly disguise
The funeral directors contacted the Portsmouth Business Crime Reduction Partnership, which then hired a team of private investigators. They spent five days posing as members of the public and using cameras to stake out the firm, but cars continued to be damaged right under their noses.

It was at this point, that security firm Storewatch decided that one of their staff should hide inside a body bag. From inside the body bag the PI could watch a computer displaying live images broadcast from cameras inside and outside the vehicle.

“Our guy would do three or four hours in the bag and would then have to take what the Americans call a comfort break,” said Storewatch director, Mark Ferns.

“It was all so covert that we didn’t even tell the funeral firm what we were doing,” he said.

Caught in the act
On the fifth day, the detective witnessed Bullen stab the wheels of the vehicle with a carpentry tool. Bullen, 40, was followed and placed under citizens’ arrest until police officers arrived.

Police said his motive was unclear, but it was believed that Bullen became angered after funeral parlour staff repeatedly parked in a public car park near his home.

Bullen, of Portsmouth, appeared before local magistrates and was fined £50 (NZ $139.82) after admitting one charge of criminal damage for the act caught on camera.

At a separate hearing, he was handed an anti-social behaviour order after magistrates heard he was believed to be the man behind all the vandalism.

He was banned from going near the funeral parlour, from going near the homes of staff and from carrying a bradawl - the tool he used - anywhere in Hampshire.

The Voice of Police

Wine of the Month - Mount Riley Sauvignon Blanc 2007 RRP $17

Many of New Zealand’s Sauvignon Blanc producers have or are about to release their 2007 wines on to the market. I’ve tried a few that are out there already and have taken a fancy to this year’s Mount Riley. This label has won a number of awards in recent years and I suspect their 2007 vintage will also do very well.

The bouquet is more about tropical fruits and capsicum rather than gooseberry and cut grass. Tropical fruit flavours come through on the palate as well. It has finesse, rather than being a big bold wine, and has lovely texture and balance. Try this alongside any shellfish dish, or new season West Coast whitebait.

To register for the Games, go online to www.nzmg.com and just click on “Register Online”. If you require additional entry forms or would prefer to speak to someone you can contact the Games Office by phoning 0800 303 500. If you want to find out more about Wine Options try Googling “Wine Options”. One of the first hits you will come across is listed as “Wine of the Week – Guide to Wine Options in NZ.” This article will give you a rough idea of how the game is run.

Wine of the Month – Mount Riley Sauvignon Blanc 2007  RRP $17

Let the Games begin

For those of you who enjoy your wine but feel a little guilty about your lack of sporting activity, here is some good news. Wine tasting is now officially a sport. Wine Options, a game where teams of four compete to unravel the identity of eight wines served to them blind, has been officially accepted as a new Masters Games sport.

The New Zealand Masters Games are held each year in February, and alternate between Dunedin and Wanganui. The introduction of Wine Options as a new sport is a Dunedin initiative and at this stage will only feature when the Games are held in the Southern city. Next year’s Masters Games are on in Dunedin between the 1st and 10th of February, and two wine options events have been scheduled. The first will be on Sunday the 3rd, with the later event listed as serious. In reality, both will be run along similar lines, with an emphasis on making the event enjoyable for both social and serious competitors.

So if you’re 35 years or over and have an interest in wine, come on down to Dunedin next year and take part in what will definitely be one of the most enjoyable sports at the Masters Games. Get a team of four together and enter. Alternatively, if you’re coming down to compete in other sports and would like to take part, register individually and the organisers will place you in a team.

To register for the Games, go online to www.nzmg.com and just click on “Register Online”. If you require additional entry forms or would prefer to speak to someone you can contact the Games Office by phoning 0800 303 500. If you want to find out more about Wine Options try Googling “Wine Options”. One of the first hits you will come across is listed as “Wine of the Week – Guide to Wine Options in NZ.” This article will give you a rough idea of how the game is run.

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Auckland Metropolitan Police Rugby League Team, the Fencibles, travelled to Queensland recently to play the curtain raiser to the Brisbane Broncos round-21 clash against the Manly Sea Eagles.

Auckland league team plays NRL curtain raiser

By Tony Feasey

Auckland Metropolitan Police rugby league team, the Fencibles, recently returned from Queensland, Australia where they played the curtain raiser to the Brisbane Broncos round-21 clash against the Manly Sea Eagles.

Invited to play by The Brisbane Broncos Rugby League Club, the game was to coincide with the Broncos 20th anniversary of entering the NRL. Initially, the Fencibles were set to play their counterparts the Queensland Police, but a leave embargo put in place during the APEC conference meant the team was unable to take part. A new opposition had to be found - enter the Brisbane 2nd Division representative team.

The Broncos Operations Manager, ex-police officer Brian McGrath, was a fantastic host. On arrival to Suncorp Stadium, the boys were given a short tour of all the facilities, including the Broncos changing sheds, the media conference room, and the plush after-match care facilities. The team was then allocated two large changing rooms and an indoor area to use for warm-ups.

Show time

On match day the ground was in pristine condition with kick-off set for 12.30pm - the hottest part of the day at 26 degrees.

From the outset the team could see it was going to be a long 80 minutes. The Brisbane team had majority possession and the Fencibles were forced to defend their line on numerous occasions. The kiwi boys were doing all the tackling, having been starved of possession due to a number of unforced errors.

It was about eight minutes from half time when the pressure started to take its toll. The Fencibles fell behind on the scoreboard and went into the sheds 10-0 down. But thanks to strong performances by Tyne Daniels and Keki Wilson, along with some tough tackling by Josh Lautogo, the team was still in the game.

Second half

The Fencibles started strongly in the second half with Norm Asaua making some powerful runs up the middle, but the team just couldn't get the last pass to stick. Some strong defence from Tony Tatupu and Keki Wilson kept the Brisbane team honest, but the Fencibles were on the wrong end of the penalty count, which finally ended up 11-1 in favour of Brisbane.

Late in the second-half, the Brisbane rep team racked up even more points. The heat, and superior match fitness of the opponents took its toll on the Fencibles, with Brisbane taking out the game 32-0.

Members of the Fencibles, and even the opposition, commented on just how tight the game had been, regardless of the final score.

Ultimate compliment

Brian McGrath paid the Fencibles the ultimate compliment by inviting the team back again next season to play the Queensland Police.

Phil Campbell, Vice-Chairman of the New Zealand Rugby League, was also on hand to pay his compliments. He told the boys that they were fantastic ambassadors, not only for Rugby League but also for the NZ Police.

Later that evening the team was invited back to the Brisbane Broncos’ clubrooms to unwind with a meal and a few beers.

Fitting presentation

While in Australia, the team also met up with the Queensland Commissioner of Police, shortly before the team’s departure from Brisbane airport. The boys presented him with a number of items, including signed All Blacks, Wallabies, and Warriors jerseys, they had obtained for the Family Trust of Constable Brett Irwin, who was shot and killed while on duty, shortly before the team’s arrival. The items will be auctioned off at a later date to raise funds for Constable Irwin’s family.

The Commissioner was also presented with a Maori carving, donated by the NZ Police Association, which he gladly accepted.

The Fencibles would like to thank the NZ Police Association for their continuing support and wish Greg O’Connor a speedy recovery from his recent illness.

Visit www.policeassn.org.nz for updated contact details for the Police Council of Sport management committee, District Sports Officers and the latest schedule of events.
Wheel Ferns basketballer nets Police Sportsperson of the Year award

Michelle Nunn was named the NZ Police Association Sportsperson of the Year at a ceremony in her hometown of Invercargill recently.

The 26-year-old is Captain of the New Zealand Women’s Wheelchair Basketball Team, the Wheel Ferns, and also plays in the Australian Wheelchair Basketball league - making her the first New Zealand woman to play in an international league.

She has also won numerous medals for New Zealand in Track and Field, including a gold in the 100 metres at the FESPIC Games - the biggest multi-sports and multi-disability games in the Asia-South Pacific region. Last year, her talent for shot put saw her qualify for the Athletics World Championships in Holland.

**Recognition**

Nunn was selected for the award from eight nominations nationwide. Police Association Vice-President Stuart Mills presented her with the award at a ceremony at the Invercargill Police Station, where she works in clerical support.

"It has just been fantastic to feel recognised and acknowledged by my colleagues and to know I am part of a great team, both on and off the court," Nunn said.

A serious car crash when she was two-years-old left Nunn wheelchair-bound, and as she grew up her love of sport came to play an increasingly important role in her life.

Since joining the Police, Michelle said she has had amazing support from her colleagues and supervisors, right through to the Police Council of Sport.

“One of the main things I love about basketball is the team environment - supporting, encouraging and helping each other, and all working towards a common goal. I have been lucky enough to have this sense of team-work mirrored off-court by those in the New Zealand Police," she said.

**Qualification**

After gaining a Bachelor of Sport and Recreation in 2002, Nunn became involved in sports administration and the coaching of young athletes, and has taken a leading role in developing wheelchair athletics and basketball in Southland.

Mr Mills said Nunn was an extremely talented sportsperson, who deserved to have her name alongside previous award winners including Black Cap Shane Bond, Silver Fern Jenny-May Coffin, and All Black John Gallagher.

“This award acknowledges not just Michelle’s achievements on the New Zealand and world sporting stage, but the respect her fellow police colleagues have of her outstanding accomplishments," he said.

“The immense commitment, training and determination that competing at this level takes, is something all high-level sports achievers will appreciate. Certainly these are sought-after, highly valued qualities in members of Police," Mr Mills said.
Police lend a hand at NZ Special Olympics

New Zealand Police staff made up a large portion of the volunteers assisting with this year’s Special Olympics Winter Games based at Cardrona Ski-Field near Wanaka.

Six police staff took annual-leave to provide assistance to the 46 athletes competing in the snowboarding and skiing events, at the week long games held from 14-17 August.

Event organiser, Senior Constable Stew Hewett, from Oamaru, said that police officers were rated highly by the Special Olympics committee. “Police officers have great interpersonal skills - they can relate to anyone. The athletes really responded well to them,” he said.

Long involvement

Hewett has been involved with the Special Olympics for more than 15 years in a number of different roles that have equipped him with the skills and knowledge necessary to facilitate the unique winter event.

“That’s why the committee were happy for Stew to organise and co-ordinate the event. Police are great organisers and Stew had the event going like clockwork. The athletes suffer from conditions such as Autism, Down’s Syndrome and Asperger’s, so some of the risk assessments attached to the athletes were a bit of a worry - but Stew had it all in hand,” said police volunteer Malcolm Johnston, from Christchurch.

“The amount of work that he and Sue Rudduck of Oamaru put into organising this event was phenomenal. They did a great job and really showed the police in a good light,” said Mr Johnston.

Between them, the group of six volunteers has more than 47 years of experience with the Special Olympics programme.

Great snow, a competitive atmosphere, and even better weather meant the Olympics were a resounding success.

NI Lawn Bowls Champs in Taupo in Nov

The Police Association-sponsored North Island Lawn Bowls Championships will be held in Taupo on Wednesday 7 November and Thursday 8 November.

It is the first time the champs have been held in Taupo and the event, which will be limited to 16 teams of four players, will be played under the “Classic” format.

Teams of four must consist of at least two current or retired, sworn or non-sworn members of Police (male or female) who are affiliated to a bowling club.

Entries are on a first-in-first-served basis as there are only two greens available for the tournament. Be sure and book your accommodation early. To register, or for more information contact: Andrew Campbell (07) 377-9336; extn 74336 or Allan Gibson (07) 377-9330 (extn 74330) or by Emailing either Andy or Allan via Lotus Notes.

New Zealand Police North Island Touch Rugby Tournament

The New Zealand Police Association North Island Police Touch Tournament will be held on Friday, 16 November 2007 at Anderson Park Sports Ground, Hawke’s Bay.

Entry Fee is $150 per team and entry is open to all grades.

For more information and to enter contact Bryan Smith at Flaxmere Police by Email: Bryan.Smith@police.govt.nz or extension 66005 or 027 451 4819.

South Island Touch Rugby Tournament In November

The New Zealand Police Association South Island Police Touch Tournament is being held on Sunday, 25 November 2007.

This is a tournament for all ages and abilities.

There is a change in venue this year to the Woodend Rugbygrounds, Gladstone Road, Woodend. These are similar grounds to the previous venue at Mandeville, secluded and set in a rural environment.

Transport will be provided between Papanui and Woodend before and after the tournament. Bookings are essential.

This is a great family day out with loads of free entertainment for the kids. Entry fee is only $200 per team. Bookings for transport and team entries close 9 November 2007.

For further details on the contact person in your area, please Email or phone Tony Maw at the Rangiora Police Station on (03) 313-2683, extension 35783 or anthony.maw@police.govt.nz.

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The Dunedin Police Golf Club will play host to both the 2007 New Zealand Police Golf Champs and the South Island Police Golf Champs in November.

The events will be held at the Otago Golf Club in Balmacewen, Dunedin.

Organisers are expecting a full field and already have 110 confirmed entries, which have come from both ends of the country, including Auckland and Invercargill, with a large representation from Taupo.

Over the years, many trophies have been presented to winners in both events, however, a number of these have become lost or misplaced. Organisers request that police staff and retired members look around home and the workplace for these items, so they can be re-issued at this year’s events.

If you know the whereabouts of any of the trophies, please contact Phil McDouall at the South Dunedin Police Station: Ph: (03) 455-1199 or ex 34104 or Email: Phil.McDouall@police.govt.nz.

**Steve Rutherford’s retirement function**

A retirement luncheon is to be held for Detective Inspector Steve Rutherford at the Alexandra Park Function Centre, Greenlane, Auckland, on Friday 2 May 2008. Steve has had a distinguished career over the last 36 years, the vast majority of which has been in the CIB in South and Central Auckland. He has successfully led many high profile investigations including the re-investigation of the Janine Laws homicide, Operation Harvey (the hunt for the serial rapist, Malcolm Rewa), and Operation Reeves (the hunt of several offenders for a series of armed robberies and double murder). Tickets can be purchased for $60 from Geoff McCarthy or J ean Robinson via Lotus Notes, P.O. Box 22142 Otahuhu, or ringing (09) 295-0200.

**New Zealand Police Association Mountain Bike & Road Cycling Champs**

**29/30 October 2007, Nelson**

*Entries close: 19th October 2007*

*Monday 29th October*

**Timings:**

- Hill climb: 0900 hours - registration - Lions Playground, Bisley Walk, Tahunanui Beach. 0930 hours - hill climb starts. **Course description:** 3.35km climb from the beach to awesome views over Nelson and Tasman Bay. Height gain 155m, smooth tar-seal roads. Will run a category for MTB’s (no slick tyres allowed) if sufficient numbers.

- Road race - 3 stage tour.

  1200 - 1230 hours - registration - Upper Moutere Hall.
  1245 hours - race briefing.
  1300 hours - race starts. **Course description:** Stage 1: 15.50km flat valley ride, finishing at Queen Victoria Street, Motueka. Stage 2: 42.00km slight incline throughout with a good climb to finish the stage at the top of Neudorf Hill. Stage 3: 8.5km mainly downhill (open grade to travel 23km).

  **Distances:** Open - 80.5km; Recreational – 65.5km

  **Prize-giving and finger food will commence at the completion of the race at the Upper Moutere Hall. (including spot prizes).**

**Timings:**

- Cross-country: 0900 - 0930 hours race briefing.
- 0945 hours – race start.
- 1000 hours – race start. **Course Description:** Road race.

  (Subject to logging restrictions). The race will start with a 2.5km gradually increasing climb on 4WD road. At the top on the first lap only all competitors will be sent up a short steep firebreak (most people will walk it), from then it is single track that zigzags back down the valley. Able to be ridden by all levels with enough roots, rocks and ruts to keep you on your toes. Average time for three laps at a recent race was 1hr 35mins. Some photos are available on the Nelson Mountain Bike web site. Look under short rides, Tuckers Trails.

- Downhillers: 1230 - 1300 hours - Registration
- 1300 hours - 2 practice and 2 timed runs start. **Course description:** Prize-giving for the day will be held at the Nelson Police Station at the conclusion of the downhill event.

  *Contact Wade Jennings or Rob Hambrock via Lotus Notes for any further information.*

**Leather belts out; cargo pants in**

Police in San Diego, California are taking on more of a military look with lightweight gear being the essence of the first uniform change in over 50 years.

Leather belts with brass buckles are out; nylon belts with quick-release plastic buckles are in. Slacks are out; lightweight cargo pants are in. Shiny badges and nameplates are out; cloth patches are in.

The new uniform, introduced recently, reflects how illegal border crossings have changed in the past decade. As enforcement heightened, routes moved from the streets of San Diego and other border cities to unforgiving, often-remote mountains and deserts on the 1,952-mile, U.S-Mexico border. That means rigorous exercise in extreme heat for migrants - and the agents who pursue them.

The redesign marks only the second major uniform change since the Border Patrol was created in 1924. Fourteen thousand agents will be issued with the uniforms in a three-year rollout.
Fountain of knowledge

Speaking of the ‘fountain’, I also hear they are going the way of Police National Headquarters (PNHQ) and advertising positions without exams. Obviously, we are struggling to fill some crucial positions and this says to me that we need to make promotion remuneration very attractive. We need to have them lining up to fill the vacancies rather than ‘desperately seeking’ those not yet qualified by virtue of those written qualifications required to reach those heady heights.

I also still have Fed mates who take promotion and lose money. I thought we would have sorted that out over the past few years but apparently not. Wouldn’t more responsibility equate to better pay? Maybe this is part of the reason why we can’t get staff to join our most sacred Institute of learning, the place where ‘best practice’ begins. I would have thought that it was “best practice” to entice quality with quality pay?

Well team, it’s almost time to have your say again as in less than a year we’ll be back at the round table with the ‘Dark Lord’ of HR trying to get him to put his hand into those prickly pockets! Mind you, let’s hope Aunty Helen provides more than a bit of pocket change to help out her ‘New Age’ Police Force. So if you get a chance, get on your local committee and have your say.

The ‘holy’ pilgrimage

I also see our most ‘Holy-Man’ has made the great pilgrimage to France to see how the most holy of wars (the fight for the William Webb Ellis Trophy) is policed in anticipation of 2011. I’m sure he has dressed himself most appropriately in black in support of the occasion and the AB’s and I am sure he will be wearing the essential support wrist band marketed out of Timaru! The war will almost be over when you read this but have faith in the only true colours of success. The Black of the AB’s and the blue of policing!

Support for All Blacks from Afghanistan

Recently, after a conversation between Inspector Brett Amas, who is deployed in Afghanistan as part of the Police training team in Bamyan province, and a Navy Chaplain, Colin Gordon, a request was forwarded to New Zealand to provide workable media sources so staff could follow the fortunes of the All Blacks at the Rugby World Cup. The technology will also be able to assist staff with training sessions when they travel to the districts.

Police staff were grateful to the Palmerston North RSA and Lions Club for funding. Inspector Amas told Police News that when Police and Defence Force staff was told about being able to watch the All Blacks campaign they were “ecstatic”.

HOLIDAY HOME AVAILABILITY

- for bookings see: www.policeassn.org.nz

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To make a booking - Call one of our Customer Services representatives on 0800-500-122 or Ext 444442 or log on at www.policeassn.org.nz and use your Member ID and Login to make your own booking

October 2007
Encryption for Police radios long overdue

Regarding the issue of encrypted radios: I read recently that the All Blacks have travelled to the World Cup with state-of-the-art encrypted Tait radios so that rival teams can’t intercept details of lineout calls. It was also reported that the team had to have approval from the Government before they could take the radios out of New Zealand.

We all know that any criminal with half a brain can get a $100 scanner from Dick Smith Electronics and listen in to our transmissions and know where we are, what we’re doing, whose working and what time we’re knocking off. Or failing that, they can just tune in to a Japanese import car radio to certain frequencies and get the same result for free, yet if we want to listen in to the bad guys we have to jump through hoops to get interception warrants from a High Court judge.

My point is this: how can the Government can approve encrypted radios for the nation’s rugby team yet the nation’s Police go without? How many offenders would either get caught or refrain from committing a crime if they couldn’t hear what we were saying?

If Police are serious about reducing burglary stats then encrypted radios need to be a new weapon in our arsenal.

Come on, let’s move into the 21st century and get some proper technology. Can the Police Association get the ball rolling on this one?

Paul Rainham
(Otaki)

Thanks for your letter Paul. Police are currently addressing this issue through ongoing discussions with Tait Technologies, which recently protected the All Blacks’ communication methods at the World Cup through the provision of high-tech encryption. A pilot scheme is due to be undertaken with the Wellington Surveillance Squad as this issue went to press, with a view to rolling it out to other squads nationwide. Training of technicians and engineers is currently under way. Over the last five years, surveillance squads and Armed Offenders’ Squads have used digital radios where the encryption is changed each month.

‘Dumbing down’ the jury system

Last month, members of a Manukau Jury high fived youth gang accused and hugged family members, minutes after acquitting them all of grievous assault charges. This is the latest and most worrying example of jury-driven acquittals instead of evidence-based acquittals.

One of the increasing number of obstacles preventing the fair administration of justice are the six challenges afforded to counsel for each accused. Taking the example I have cited, the Crown were allowed 12 challenges and the eight defence counsel a total of 48 challenges.

The Crown rarely, if ever, exercises its right to challenge potential jurors whereas it is commonplace for some defence counsel to exhaust theirs. The defence tactic is to “dumb down” the jury selected to sit on cases, especially in trials involving complex legal issues involving several parties.

No longer is “a jury of their peers” serving the victims, their families and the community. Is it any wonder we get ridiculous verdicts?

Another tenet of our criminal law is that there is no room for sympathy and prejudice - the jury’s verdict must be solely based on the sworn evidence and exhibits produced - sound familiar? Where is the level playing field when the defence gets away being able to adduce prejudicial and sympathetic evidence in their favour? On any occasion the Crown is perceived to be doing so, the judge stumps on it immediately, or the trial is aborted. Consequently, the defence will milk it for all it is worth.

The sad thing about all this is that the judiciary, in some instances, seems to allow them to get away with it, in my opinion at the expense of a fair and just trial. It is time the pendulum swung back somewhere near the middle. Reducing defence challenges in multiple accused trials to three each would be a good start.

Dave Pizzini
(Counties-Manukau)

Column open to interpretation?

I read with interest the President’s editorial in the August issue of Police News. It probably wasn’t his intention but what Greg O’Connor said could be interpreted, as us saying we know better than the community what they want, and that investigators are more important than community constables.

No one would argue against putting a priority on getting stuck into organised criminals, including those dealing in drugs. However, what the community tells us, time after time, is that they want Police to be more visible, accessible and familiar. The 250 of our staff who are dedicated community constables are providing what the community tells us that they want.

We are all in the same team. Let’s not make points in favour of one part of policing at the expense of another.

Bill Searle
(National Manager, Community Policing, Police National Headquarters)

The editorial was not a criticism of community policing and certainly not intended to convey the impression that we know better than the community but, rather to highlight the fact that the mantra, which sometimes comes from Police leadership, needs to be challenged, especially in relation to gangs and organised crime. There has been reluctance to acknowledge the extent of the problem in some quarters within Police.

As you will no doubt be aware, the Police Association is calling for a Commission of Inquiry into gangs/organised crime at present. – Editor.

Anti-Terrorist Squad photo request

I am a former NZ police officer now working as a law enforcement advisor to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna, Austria. Through Police News, I am seeking to find out if any of your readers has ever digitised the photo of the original NZ Police Anti-Terrorist Squad taken at Shelly Bay Air Force Base, Wellington in 1977 (I think it was 1977, it may have been 1976)? I was one of the original members and have the photo but I did not bring it with me to Vienna. It appeared in Ray Van Beynen’s book on the Armed Offenders’ Squad (AOS), published a few years ago, so someone might have copied it digitally then. If so, I am keen to obtain a copy for a UN display on the history of anti-terrorism regimes throughout the world, which is to be held here early next year. I am not sure that many of the original members are still in the Police but I’m sure, like me, they still receive and enjoy reading the Police News. If someone can help me out with a digital copy of the photo please contact me via any of the methods below:

Pat O’Sullivan
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P O Box 500, A - 1400, Vienna
Phone: +43 1 260604238
Fax: +43 1 260606878
E-mail: patrick.osullivan@unodc.org

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University papers and real policing

I have to agree with Tom Savage’s letter in last month’s issue of Police News. I believe his is not the first letter of complaint in relation to this university paper that is so trendy these days. I cannot believe the money we are wasting on this tick box, hoop-jumping paper. Who is really ever going to bother with anything in it? Like all the exams we do, they are merely memory tests and once completed they are forgotten.

Having passed their exams, plenty of cops then have to refer to the book to sort out policy, procedure, and charge texts. So what’s the point? What does it prove? That you could quote something over and over again for weeks on end and quote enough of it in the manner required to get over 50% of it right? We live in a world where the buzzword is king, not practical skill and experience.

It’s about time promotion was done in a meaningful way. The fact is my sister could study her heart out and pass these exams but would probably never make, or want to be, a Police sergeant. Making the right decisions under pressure and inspiring troops to follow you doesn’t come from writing assignments or parroting off section 317 verbatim.

I failed the exams one year, due to a lack of study and trying to get through a huge workload on the frontline in Auckland. I barely got time to work and catch up on sleep let alone keep my head above water long enough to spend hours typing up buzzwords and assignments. And I’d be quoting from a book I’ll never use, which has not the slightest thing to do with policing.

Granted, if you want to manage Fletchers then maybe doing all 20 management papers may get you your degree and an interview but otherwise, why can’t we get real?

I’m sure there is a learning curve in all this if you are a new cop and have just got PA. But, personally, I think there has to be a better option.

Ivan Felton
(Mt Wellington)

Copper’s crossword

By Constable Cunning

Clues:

Across:

1. To break and enter (6)
2. Climbed (6)
3. Careless (5)
4.  Forearm (5)
5. Paths (7)
6. Parcel (7)
7. Take civilly to Court (5)
8. Middy (4)
9. Helping special people (abbrev.) (1,1,1)
10. Eyed that flower (4)
11. Some people are at the end of one (5)
12. Used physical force (7)
13. Former residents of a country (11)
14. Take back (6)
15. Fought over (6)
16. Amino (6)
17. Kaiser (6)
18. Centralising (6)
19. Return ticket (6)
20. Caret (6)
21. Admits (6)

Down:

1. Part and parcel of 1 across (5,3,5)
2. Return the favour to (11)
3. Send a task to; take off (6)
4. Bends (6)
5. Let air out of (13)
6. Part of Emails to be downloaded (11)
7. Cross-examine and proved wrong in Court (11)
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16. Battle (6)
17. Ideal (6)
18. Ideal (6)
19. Ideal (6)
20. Ideal (6)
21. Ideal (6)

September answers

Across:

1. Race
2. Careless
3. Forearm
4. Paths
5. Return ticket
6. Attach
7. Attach
8. Attach
9. Attach
10. Attach
11. Attach
12. Attach
13. Attach
14. Attach
15. Attach
16. Attach
17. Attach
18. Attach
19. Attach
20. Attach
21. Attach

Down:

1. Referral
2. Caret
3. Admits
4. Admits
5. Admits
6. Admits
7. Admits
8. Admits
9. Admits
10. Admits
11. Admits
12. Admits
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Useful Information & Contacts

New Zealand Police Association:
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24 hour/seven days service

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Shortly members will receive their ticket to a number of cost-saving discounts from a range of retailers, nationwide.

Here are the vendors already lined up to offer our members something special.

See page 195 for more information on the new Members Discount program launching soon...