

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Again, I take the opportunity of writing a few words for inclusion in the Australian Crime Prevention Council Forum which I trust is now becoming a familiar sight on your bookshelves. John Purcell chose the title "Forum" to signify our intention to provide the means for discussion and debate in areas of common interest. I suggest we should all utilise it accordingly. As far as I can judge, Council members are uniformly pleased not only with the fact that we have the journal, but with its general format and articles. I again appeal to members and branch committees to become contributors as well as readers. The task of our very small Secretariat staff in preparing material is a formidable one; it is more difficult if they have to chase up material which should by right, be pouring in.

I was in Brisbane recently for a meeting of the management committee. I then had the opportunity to accept the invitation of the Queensland branch to act as rapporteur at their recent seminar "Crime Prevention Planning". This was held on the 24th October and Mr Bill Clifford, Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology was the principal speaker, being ably supported by planners and others. I must say I gain much satisfaction when the Council and the Institute of Criminology become involved one with the other and in his opening remarks Bill Clifford made reference to the part played in the past by our Council in ultimately gaining Government support for the concept of the National Institute. It was a successful seminar and I hope some of the contributions may find their way into this journal.

Over the years State branches appear to have their ups and downs. So often those on the committees find it difficult to devote time and effort beyond their work and home responsibilities. This results in a cessation of activities and without activities and friendships at branch level, branches wane. May I suggest that when a committee finds interest flagging it should itself seek to bring in new blood — not necessarily young blood — but new people who have the enthusiasm, the interest and above all the opportunity to promote activity. It is worthwhile to remember that there are many people, active people, now living in early retirement, people who were previously involved in occupations relevant to our activities. These people are often only too willing to become actively involved and to foster programmes of interest.

Most of the time of the management committee meeting was taken up with consideration of the future of the Secretariat. Most of you are aware that the Commonwealth Government has maintained our grant for the current financial year but as we have no guarantee as to continuity of grant and as there has been no increase in the grant since inception our wings are very much clipped, our abilities to plan limited. Since the National Executive meeting in Adelaide the office of the Secretariat has changed; the present premises being very austere but as monetary savings are involved we really have no alternative. At present our energies will be devoted to our publication and towards the biennial conference to be held in Hobart next year. There is a most active Tasmanian committee at work. That conference will be preceded by the next National Executive meeting. I anticipate that the National Executive, and the new National Executive after its election, will have before them recommendations from the management committee as to the future of the Council and its Secretariat. These suggestions if implemented may involve changes in the structure and location of the Secretariat. It is well to remember that the revised Constitution will probably be submitted for confirmation and it is important that State and Territory representatives obtain the approval or otherwise of their branches. The new Constitution has been well circulated and should be available to all.

The important thing of course is that we should remain as an active body and I believe a body truly representative of volunteers and their organisations. I see the future of ACPC very much in the hands of volunteers whose contribution to our society itself is I think on the increase.

In conclusion I wish to thank all of you who maintain your enthusiasm and interest in the Council. I am most grateful to our Executive Director John Purcell and to his Secretary Susan King for their unselfish and continuing contribution to our work. I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*J.H. MUIRHEAD  
National President*