

A big year

for the AFP Museum

The 2004 anniversary celebration provided the Australian Federal Police Museum with many opportunities to put parts of its vast historical collection on display. Although the Museum is closed to the public, (but still open to members), it has found innovative ways to bring photographs, information and objects into a variety of venues and events outside its premises at Weston. The anniversary has also been the springboard for solid research and the compilation of a history of the AFP.

Photo by Brian Hartigan



The Australian Federal Police Museum display proved popular at the Canberra Family Day.

The AFP Museum receives many requests for information about the history of the AFP. As a way of celebrating the 25th Anniversary, extensive research by the Museum staff has been collated into a timeline of the first 25 years of the AFP. This history will be of interest to members, researchers and the public and is now available through the Museum Web page:

<http://www.afp.gov.au/afp/page/Prevention/AFPmuseum/Home.htm>

This is an on-going project that will be continually added to reflect the work of the organisation and the issues affecting the AFP. Anyone with additions or comments is invited to contact the Museum's curators on:

Phone: (02) 6287 0618 (163 618)

Fax: (02) 6287 0247 (163 247)

or e-mail AFPmuseum@afp.gov.au

In the future, the AFP Museum curators aim to develop similar histories for ACT Police, the Commonwealth Police and the Federal Bureau of Narcotics so that this information will be readily available.

Travelling Banners

The history research also provided the basis for six colourful and informative banners which give a brief overview of federal and ACT policing from the 1800s through to the present day.

The banners were a great success at the Canberra Family Day and at the Melbourne Family Day. They can be seen at the Museum at Weston when not on loan.

Touch screen

To make its vast collection of photos and resources accessible to a greater number of people the Museum is currently developing an interactive touch screen. This will link photos, information and histories in way that is easy to use and portable. Ultimately photographs, personal accounts supplied by members and the history of the AFP and its predecessors will be available. This is exciting technology which will deliver continually up-dated information for members and other visitors in the future.

Oral history

The Museum staff has started recording oral histories from past and present members to capture anecdotes, significant events and to honour the careers of police over the years. These are an often insightful, amusing and thoroughly entertaining reflection of where the AFP has come from and how it stands now. The results will be used in a variety of ways including displays and on the Museum's new touchscreen, and will become part of its research collection.

Notebooks and pens

The AFP Museum has a variety of objects in its care. As well as having fascinating stories to tell, many objects are also beautiful or intriguing in appearance. The Museum captured several of these on notebook covers as a novel way of presenting the Museum's collection. These notebooks, with a pen, were given as a gift to everyone who attended the 25th Anniversary Dinner at the Great Hall in Parliament House, Canberra, and also to those who attended the Museum's afternoon tea celebration on 19 October.

Donations to the collection

The AFP Museum regularly receives objects and photographs. Actual objects from operations bring the stories to life and greatly appeal to visitors. Historical objects help to preserve information about the AFP's past.

If you would like to contact the Museum about any of these projects or just drop in if you are in the area, the Museum is located at: Building G, Unwin Place, Weston, ACT, 2611.

Call Chris Cranston or Margaret Tyrie on 6287 0618 or x163 618

For members and member escorted official visitors, the AFP Museum is open from 9am-3pm Monday to Friday.

The AFP Museum produced a number of notepads featuring items in the historical collection



ACT Police Station Sergeant's clock



East Timorese scarf



Glock training pistol



False-bottomed pots used in smuggling drugs