



AFP
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE



1979



1946



c. 1927



1963

Celebrating 100 years of policing in the ACT

ACT celebrates 100 years of faithful policing



Humble beginnings: The Commonwealth Police (Federal Capital Territory) begins duty as the first official police presence in the national capital.

ACT Policing continues a fine tradition of policing the national capital.

When Colonel HE Jones put on his hat in September 1927 for the official photograph of the first Commonwealth Police (Federal Capital Territory) in the ACT he had just 10 officers under his command.

Colonel Jones and his men had just officially relieved the NSW Police Force detachment as the official police presence in the national capital.

The NSW Police Force had served faithfully — in what was then largely a rural region — since 1882. They had served on after the official naming of Canberra in 1913 until Colonel Jones assumed command in 1927.

This first Commonwealth service was renamed as the Commonwealth Police (Australian Capital Territory) in 1938.

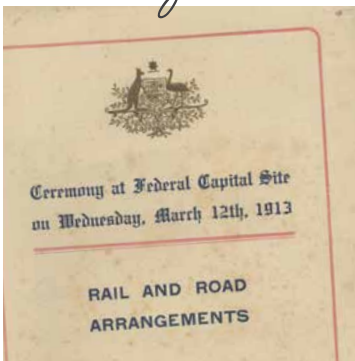
The name changed again in 1957 and became known as the Australian Capital Territory Police or, more commonly, ACT Police.

A defining moment in the evolution of community policing in the national capital was reached on 19 October 1979 with the birth of the Australian Federal Police (AFP). This was achieved by merging the Commonwealth Police, ACT Police and the Narcotics Bureau.



From left: Chief Police Officer for the ACT Roman Quaedvlieg, ACT Police Minister Simon Corbell and AFP Commissioner Tony Negus sign the annual 'purchase agreement' in 2010.

Centenary timeline



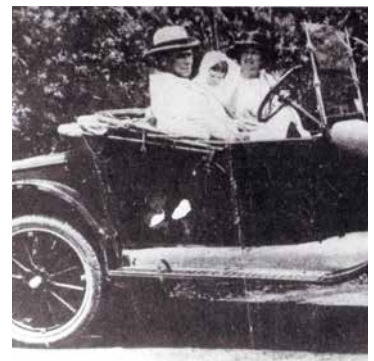
1913

The NSW Police Force still patrolled the 'Federal Capital Territory' as it was then known, mostly doing the rounds of rural areas.



1922

NSW Police Force Constable John W Stuart took over the Molonglo Settlement Police Station, located where Fyshwick is today.



1923

The first record of a woman playing an active role in policing was Patience Cook, the wife of Sergeant Philip J Cook.

During planning, it was determined that the AFP should produce two outcomes: Outcome 1 would increase the AFP's national law enforcement capability; and Outcome 2 would establish a community policing effort for the ACT. Thus, today's ACT Policing was born.

ACT Policing has now developed into a modern, highly effective police service of almost 1000 members — often leading Australia in progressive initiatives.

Chief Police Officer for the ACT Roman Quaedvlieg says the Outcome 2 model for community policing in the ACT has evolved into the complete solution.

“The short answer today, if you ask the question of whether Outcome 2 is the best model for the ACT, is a definitive yes,” Assistant Commissioner Quaedvlieg says.

A recent audit by the Australian National Audit Office looked at ACT Policing's contractual arrangement with the ACT Government over the past 10 years and has endorsed its effectiveness.

The audit also revealed that ACT Policing has improved in all its key performance indicators.

“If you look at the KPIs on a graph, where we need the line to go up it goes up significantly and where we need it to go down it's going down,” Assistant Commissioner Quaedvlieg says.

“That is across an entire bracket of key performance indicators and crime types.”

One AFP – two Outcomes

The reciprocal benefit between AFP National and ACT Policing is a source of mutual strength to both outcomes.

Assistant Commissioner Quaedvlieg says the 2011 visit to Canberra by United States President Barack Obama is a perfect example.

He says resourcing the necessary security envelope was a huge undertaking for any jurisdiction, let alone a comparatively smaller service such as ACT Policing.



Chief Police Officer for the ACT Roman Quaedvlieg



1926

As the national capital grew, police were relocated from Molonglo to Acton in inner Canberra.



1927

The Commonwealth Police (Federal Capital Territory) was born in the same year that the provisional Parliament House was opened.



1938

The name of the territory's policing agency was changed to the Commonwealth Police (Australian Capital Territory).

But being able to draw on national resources located in Canberra for additional staff and specialist capabilities makes possible events such as a Presidential visit.

Additionally, ACT Policing draws on the immense corporate expertise in national and international investigative capabilities across crime types.

But Assistant Commissioner Quaedvlieg says that having ACT Policing within the broader AFP is equally beneficial to the national organisation.

“When a raw recruit arrives from AFP College and goes into ACT Policing they are interacting with members of the public from day one,” he says.

“They are actively involved in investigations; they are appearing before and giving evidence in court; and they are learning a police officer’s tradecraft.

“We then export that tradecraft experience into Outcome 1 and I think that makes a better federal agent.”

He says this hard-earned community policing experience is an essential foundation for the many new roles that the AFP has gained in recent years.

He cites the new roles for uniform policing in Aviation, IDG capacity development and peacekeeping missions offshore and Protection as examples.

“If you wind back the clock 10–15 years, the focus of a state or territory police agency compared to a national police agency like the AFP was very different.”

“That diversity of work is benefited by having a police officer with a strong grounding in community policing.”

Innovation

The smaller size and centralisation of ACT Policing allows opportunity for innovation.

With just one operations centre (ACT Policing Operations), new initiatives immediately flow to every ACT Policing operational response and into the community.

Assistant Commissioner Quaedvlieg says initiatives gain traction much quicker than in jurisdictions dispersed over larger states.

ACT Policing’s Mental Health Community Policing Initiative, which is now approaching its second anniversary, is a significant example.

A new badge for ACT Police

In 1957 the Commonwealth Police (Australian Capital Territory) changed its name to the Australian Capital Territory Police and was more commonly known as ACT Police.

The Police Commissioner at the time, Ted Richards, decided it was time to have a new official insignia to reflect the changed identity.

He introduced a much larger badge that was specifically designed by Sergeant Harry Luton to increase police visibility. Sergeant Luton’s design moved away from the oval Commonwealth Police badge that had been used since 1927 when the ACT established its own dedicated police service.



1946

Acton Police Station closed and Northbourne Avenue Police Station opened in buildings relocated from Jolimont, Melbourne.



1947

Constable Alice Clarke (seated) was the first woman to be appointed to the Commonwealth Police (Australian Capital Territory).



1957

Canberra’s police service became the Australian Capital Territory Police or, more commonly, ACT Police, and a new cap badge was introduced.

Policing jurisdictions worldwide have recognised that mental health issues are increasingly prevalent during operational responses and at such a scale that new ways of dealing with the phenomenon are needed.

Mental health clinicians are now located in ACT Policing Operations to provide advice to front-line police trained to identify and triage mental health issues where they occur.

More than 350 police officers have now been trained, and mental health clinicians have provided advice to officers in the field in more than 1400 cases.

Emergency actions where mental health patients were transported by police to The Canberra Hospital for assessment declined from 80 to 40 transports per month in 2011–12.

Assistant Commissioner Quaedvlieg says where an offence has occurred then police officers must act accordingly.

“Ultimately, where we want to be with this initiative is to divert mental health consumers to the health sector and away from the justice sector.”

Assistant Commissioner Quaedvlieg says another important ACT Policing innovation is its work in community engagement.

He says ‘crime prevention’ and ‘community engagement’ are terms that have been used interchangeably by police over the last couple of decades.

The old model meant that small, dedicated cells of police would venture out and talk at old people’s homes and schools and engage generally with the community.

Assistant Commissioner Quaedvlieg wants to change that concept and broaden the understanding of community engagement and its relationship to crime prevention.

He says ACT Policing recognises that preventing crime is significantly more economical than reacting and responding to it.

ACT Policing’s crime prevention function has been redefined and is instilled into every aspect of front-line policing duties.

“We will maintain our traditional responses and reactivity, because there will always be crime that we won’t be able to prevent,” he says.

“But what we want is all front-line constables, criminal investigators and traffic members to have a crime prevention responsibility and I think we are doing some leading work around those roles.”

Adapting to change

ACT Policing’s capacity to adapt quickly has made it well suited to deal with the ever-increasing impact of social media.

Assistant Commissioner Quaedvlieg says modern media has impacted on all aspects of policing — from community expectations to accountability of each police officer’s actions.

He says the ‘CSI effect’ of popular television shows has created an unrealistic vision in the community of what a law enforcement jurisdiction can provide.



c. 1960

ACT Police protected embassies and consulates in Canberra until the Commonwealth Police assumed this role.



1962

Under the ACT Police Rural Patrol Program, one officer in a VW Beetle patrolled 1762 square kilometres or 84 per cent of the ACT.



1969

ACT Police Commissioner Edward Richards formalised the role of water rescue and the ACT Water Police was born.

“People watch CSI and expect the forensics response will be instantaneous,” he says.

Yet Assistant Commissioner Quaedvlieg says the media can be harnessed in the fight against crime and used to inform and educate a jurisdiction’s constituency.

“We can be the best operational police service in the world, but unless we are telling the community how well we are doing, then we are being remiss.

“If we inform the public then they can have those feelings of safety and know that the police are doing a good job.”

Even so, the impact of the 24/7 media world has changed the operating environment irrevocably. This will only continue into the future.

Assistant Commissioner Quaedvlieg says poor behaviour and lack of professionalism, even though unacceptable, may once have been possible without the intense scrutiny of modern media.

The advent of digital technology, the internet and social media means police engaged in public duties are now ultra-accountable for their actions.

“We have the eyes of the world upon us,” he says.

“I consider myself both fortunate and unfortunate to have entered policing at a time where I think it was the last vestige of a previous era in policing.

“It was in Queensland, it was pre-Fitzgerald, and it was very different — but it gave me an insight into what policing looked like throughout the past 100 years.

“But that has changed.”

It is a change that Assistant Commissioner Quaedvlieg embraces wholeheartedly. He says it is an opportunity to raise the bar. It is a phenomenon that he says is producing a better police officer now and into the next 100 years.



1975

Constable Kenny Koala first appeared on Canberra television as a guest in a show called *Junior Police 7*.



1976

ACT Police introduced the traditional English ‘bobby on the beat’ concept in Belconnen, now the Suburban Policing Strategy.



1979

The Commonwealth and Australian Capital Territory Police became the AFP, with ACT Policing as its community policing arm.

Wheeling around the territory

From vehicles patrolling the rural areas of the ACT to transport for our patrols, various modes of transportation have conveyed our police around the territory over the past 100 years.

During the early years of policing in Canberra, motorcycles were the common means of transport for both the Traffic and General Duties Branches, as they enabled police to get to jobs more quickly than a car did on country and city roads.

The Traffic Branch, which included the Motorcycle Squad, was a big branch in the late 1960s. There were 12 to 15 bikes per shift and the two shifts were from 7am to 3pm and 3pm to 11pm.

In 1971 there were three Triumph motorcycles and 38 Honda 750s in the ACT Police fleet.

Through the late 1970s to the 1990s, ACT Policing used a variety of motorcycles — from big four-cylinder Kawasaki 1000s to BMWs (more recently), which arrived as a fully-prepared police package.

Many of the AFP's most senior officers have had their time 'on the road', including former AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty, who spent some time in the Accident Investigation team attached to the Traffic Squad, and current AFP Commissioner Tony Negus, a former pursuit motorcyclist.



1983

The ACT Special Operations Team was established to protect heads of state and provide security at major international events.



1985

The Neighbourhood Watch community crime prevention program was established in the ACT.



1989

The ACT's top police officer, Assistant Commissioner Colin Winchester, was assassinated in the driveway next to his Deakin home.

Women policing the ACT



The first record of a woman playing an active role in policing the Federal Capital Territory was the wife of Philip J Cook — the territory's first sergeant. Patience Cook came to Canberra in 1923 with her husband and actively assisted him, assuming his policing role in his absence. On one occasion Mrs Cook was responsible for the capture of two female offenders.

In 1947 the Commonwealth Police (ACT) employed its first policewoman — Constable Alice Clarke (badge number 45). In 1955 Constable Clarke became a Senior Constable. She retired after more than 20 years of service.

The role of women in policing in the ACT seemed to take a step backwards during the 1960s when public service regulations restricted married women from being police officers.

Also during the 1960s, policewomen were finally issued with guns, though they had to keep them in their handbags!

Before the first uniform was introduced in 1968, ACT policewomen wore their 'everyday' clothes. After this time, the uniform was made up of a blue skirt, jacket and woollen cap and a blue cotton blouse with a black bow tie.

The ACT Police Uniform Committee rejected policewomen wearing slacks for many years — the argument being that women's duties didn't justify them



1994

The present ACT Policing headquarters — the Winchester Police Centre — was opened in Belconnen.



2000

The policing arrangement signed in 1989 for the AFP to provide ACT community policing services was added to in 2000 when an annual 'purchase agreement' was introduced.



2003

When catastrophic bushfire engulfed suburban Canberra, ACT Policing and the broader AFP mobilised to keep people and property safe.

wearing trousers. After much discussion slacks were eventually introduced.

When the women's summer uniform was introduced it was highly impractical and restricted movement. A review of the uniform resulted in a new, more practical design that enabled greater movement.

Women continue to play a significant role in the policing of the Australian Capital Territory.

Audrey Fagan became the first female Chief Police Officer for ACT Policing in 2005. Today, there are many great women policing the ACT. ACT Policing has three female superintendents and a female Deputy Chief Police Officer. Approximately 170 women work on the front line in the ACT. In the 2011–2012 financial year almost 25 per cent of sworn members were female.

Increasing the representation of women in sworn roles is a key area of focus for the AFP and ACT Policing. Significant progress in identifying better conditions for women who police the ACT has been achieved — consistent with the strategic framework of the ACT Women's Plan 2010. Among other achievements, this includes the introduction of flexible working patterns.

The AFP also contributes to the Australia and New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA) Women in Policing forum. The forum is a proactive group that identifies best practice training for women in traditionally male-dominated roles, flexible work options, support for women and networking.



2010

ACT Policing entered the digital era, launching the police.act.gov.au website and two Twitter accounts: ACTPo_Traffic and Roman@CPOACT.



2011

More than 50 ACT Policing and AFP members travelled to New Zealand to help those affected by the Christchurch earthquake.



2011

ACT Policing launched a world-first trial of embedding mental health experts into operations and trained staff to respond to mentally ill people.

Small beginnings to state-of-the-art facilities

In 1913 a small one-officer station at Ginninderra was responsible for the entire Federal Capital Territory (FCT), the only police station within the region's boundaries.

The New South Wales police officers tasked with policing the FCT were mostly based just over the border in Queanbeyan.

The Canberra Foundation Day Ceremony on 12 March 1913 needed a large police presence to perform ceremonial and crowd duties. Some 30 mounted and foot police from New South Wales came to the FCT for the day. They left once their duties were completed.

The first police station opened by the new ACT police service was located in Molonglo (now Fyshwick) in 1922. It was in an administration building at the Molonglo Workers' Camp. It was there to keep order among the growing number of workers and new residents arriving to establish Canberra's expanding inner suburbs. A brick lock-up was added to the Molonglo station to hold offenders until they could be taken to the Queanbeyan court.

In 1926 the Molonglo Police Station staff moved to Acton House in central Canberra.



2011

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh were protected by ACT Policing during a seven-day visit to Canberra.



2011

United States President Barack Obama made an intense 22-hour visit to Canberra, with ACT Policing responsible for the 'security envelope.'



2011

Tasers were introduced in the ACT as a legitimate use-of-force option for police to de-escalate violent situations.

The lock-up stayed at Molonglo and the former Molonglo station reverted to a police residence. Acton House, a renovated 100-year-old settler's homestead, was nestled among the new offices of the Federal Capital Commission at Acton.

The Commonwealth Police (Federal Capital Territory) was established in September 1927.

The new police force — made up of 10 constables and a sergeant — took over duties at the Acton House Police Station. From 1929 the police station was shared with Canberra's first courthouse, ending the need to transport prisoners to Queanbeyan Court House. The Molonglo lock-up was dismantled and rebuilt at Acton.

In 1941 Canberra's police station and courthouse moved to a wing of the disused Acton Hotel located closer to Canberra's emerging business centre, Civic. Canberra was policed from the Acton Hotel until 1946 when the police station and courthouse moved to the Jolimont Building on the corner of Alinga Street and Northbourne Avenue. This sizeable weatherboard building had been relocated from Melbourne in 1928.

Known as both Northbourne and Jolimont Police Station, Canberra was policed from this location for the next 20 years.

It was not until 1966 that the move to the long-awaited and purpose-built City Police Station on London Circuit took place. This new building marked

the practice we have in place today — police buildings being designed to specifically support law enforcement in the ACT.

Other police stations followed in succession — at Woden (1970), Belconnen (1976), Erindale (1982) and a new ACT Policing headquarters at the Winchester Centre (1994).

To support the expansion of Canberra's suburbs during the 1990s new stations were built in the areas of Tuggeranong (1997) and Gungahlin (1998), with the inner south and north seeing new stations built at Woden (2005) and Belconnen (2012).

The new Belconnen Police Station is a state-of-the-art facility. Still housing its famous blue tongue lizards, the contemporary workspace enables interaction and also supports increased morale, sustainability and longevity. Last but not least, it meets the needs of both the police and the community.

It is the face of the future.



Current and former staff celebrate the opening of the new Belconnen Police Station.



2012

ACT Policing launched interactive crime maps to give the community online access to information about the crimes occurring in their suburbs.



2012

The ACT's specialist response and security police were merged with the AFP's operational response police as the Specialist Response Group or SRG.



2012

The new Belconnen Police Station was purpose-built to serve the present and expected needs of a modern police service.

1927



1966



1968



1975