

This Month in AFP History JANUARY

1 January 1990

Smoking was banned in all AFP work areas.

1 January 1990

Implementation of the legislation to provide a unified workforce in the AFP began. Its aim was to establish a single unified award covering all members and staff members, providing a common classification system.

1 January 1995

Members of the ACT Drug Operations Branch began an investigation into nine deaths believed to be a result of heroin overdoses. An analysis of the heroin seized established the 'rock' heroin being sold on Canberra streets had a purity level of up to 77 per cent.

1 January 2003

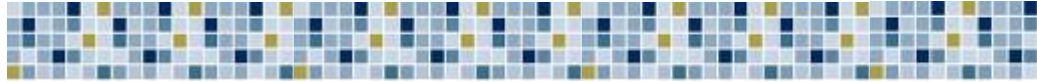
The Australian Crime Commission (ACC) was founded on 1 January 2003 with AFP Commissioner Keelty nominated as Chair of the Board. The ACC replaced the National Crime Authority, the Australian Bureau of Criminal Investigation and the Office of Strategic Crime Assessments.

5 January 1997

In a joint AFP, Customs and Coastwatch investigation, Operation Cyclops, approximately 10 tonnes of cannabis resin was seized from the vessel *Southern Cross*, north of Port Stephens. Three people were arrested in Australia and the mother ship, *Hiddensee*, was detained by French authorities in Noumea on 9 January. Eight crew members were arrested and extradited to Australia. The owner of *Hiddensee* was sentenced to 12 years in prison.



5 January 1997: in Operation Cyclops approximately 10 tonnes of cannabis resin was seized from the vessel *Southern Cross* north of Port Stephens. – AFP Museum Collection



5 January 1997

The AFP developed and introduced a new information management system, Police Realtime On-line Management Information System (PROMIS), to provide a single, consistent system for documenting the progress of investigations, information collection and its subsequent retrieval.

6 January 1995

An Indonesian man was searched on arrival at Sydney Airport and found to have 39 blank credit cards and an encoding machine in his possession.

6 January 1995

Operation Paradox, an annual phone-in conducted by ACT Policing received 98 calls relating to victims of sexual or physical assault. Two people were charged with offences as a result of the calls.

7 January 1993

Operation Sachet involved 1.273 tonnes of cannabis seized in transit south of Rockhampton. The drugs had been recovered by syndicate members from the *Spring Queen*, which was sunk deliberately off Mackay. Customs became aware of the scheme in its planning stages and alerted the AFP. Nine people were arrested.



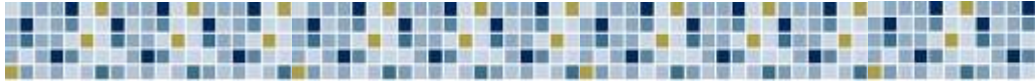
7 January 1993: As part of Operation Sachet, an AFP diver inspected the *Spring Queen* which had been deliberately sunk by members of a cannabis importing syndicate.

7 January 1998

The Hanoi liaison post opened.

10 January 1989

Assistant Commissioner Colin Winchester was killed by two .22 calibre bullets as he pulled up in his car in the driveway next to his Deakin home. The investigation to find the killer was code-named Operation Peat.



Assistant Commissioner Colin Winchester

10 January 1992

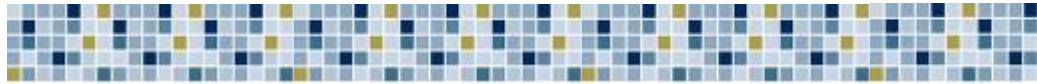
A memorial window was dedicated to the memory of Colin Winchester at St Peter Chanel's Church in Yarralumla, ACT.

10 January 2009

A 56-year-old Canadian man was arrested in Sydney for allegedly importing 10kg of cocaine hidden in forklift batteries. On 22 December 2008, Customs officers at Sydney's Port Botany container examination facility inspected a consignment from Mexico containing a forklift and found white powder in the forklift batteries that tested positive for cocaine. The AFP executed search warrants on premises in Moorebank and Bankstown and arrested one man. The drugs seized as a result of this operation had an approximate street value of more than \$2.45 million.



10 January 2009: A 56-year-old Canadian man was arrested in Sydney for allegedly importing 10kg of cocaine hidden in forklift batteries. – Picture courtesy of the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service



11 January 1995

A consignment of four crates containing framed pictures arrived at Sydney Airport from Thailand. Operation Brawlins resulted in the search of the consignment revealing 55.8kg of heroin concealed in plastic bags wrapped in carbon paper in the lining of 29 glass paintings. The street value of the drugs was estimated to be \$75 million. A controlled operation resulted in the arrest of a Chinese national and four Canadians. The principal received life in prison.

11 January 1999

A man was extradited to Australia from The Netherlands. He was regarded as the principal of the failed import of 10 tonnes of cannabis resin seized under Operation Cyclops. At the time, this was the largest seizure of cannabis in Australia.

11 January 1999

A Sydney man was arrested for attempting to import 649.5 grams of cocaine. He was sentenced to nine years in prison. Also part of Operation Walkman, another man was convicted for the importation of 1075 grams of cocaine and received a seven-year sentence. His father was already serving a 12-year sentence on drug-related charges.

11 January 2000

Operation Opus resulted in the seizure of 76.4kg of ecstasy tablets, 9.041kg of MDMA powder and 9.117kg of cocaine from The Netherlands. The drugs were concealed in a container of farming equipment arriving in Brisbane via Malaysia. They were estimated to have a street value of \$26.4 million.

12 January 2005

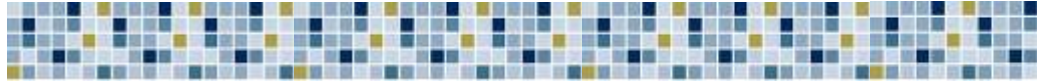
Zhang Hong Jie, a 25-year-old Chinese national and University of Canberra student was found murdered in an apartment in Belconnen, ACT.

13 January 1989

More than 2000 family members, friends and colleagues attended the funeral of Assistant Commissioner Colin Winchester held at St Christopher's Cathedral at Manuka.



13 January 1989: The funeral for Assistant Commissioner Winchester was one of the largest held in Canberra.



13 January 1990

The Chiang Mai liaison post opened

14 January 1988

Southern Region moved into its new headquarters in La Trobe St, Melbourne.



14 January 1988: The Melbourne office moved into the La Trobe St building.

15 January 1992

Federal Police in Hobart used a Hobart Marine Board pilot launch to remove two stowaways found on board the *L'Astrolabe*, a French ship bound for Dumont D'Urville in French Antarctica. The stowaways were protesting against the construction of an airstrip in the French territory that they believed would damage the habitats of native birds. They were placed on good behaviour bonds on their return to Hobart.

17 January 1982

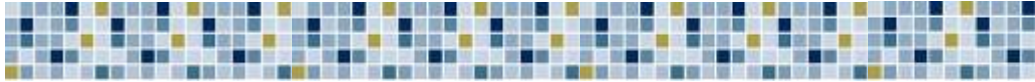
Operation Toggle was a three-year drug operation, which progressively netted 100kg of heroin imported by one Thai syndicate. Most of the heroin came into Australia through Sydney.

18 January 1999

A joint agency operation involving the WA Police, the AFP, Customs and the NCA resulted in the seizure of 294 grams of heroin and the arrest of a Vietnamese man.

18 January 2003

A firestorm hit Canberra killing four people and destroying 500 houses. Police and Emergency Services conducted evacuation operations. The AFP's firing range at Weston was destroyed in the fire.



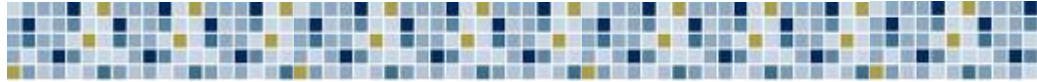
18 January 2003: A firestorm hit Canberra killing four people and destroying 500 houses.

21 January 1985

A man took over a gun shop in Civic (ACT) and fired more than 300 shots into the street. He surrendered to police, without injuring anyone.



21 January 1985: a disturbed man took over a Civic gun shop and fired more than 300 shots into the street. – Canberra Times photo



21 January 1997

The AFP Regional Traffic Team was implemented to increase police presence of the roads in the ACT.

21 January 2000

A shipment of black cocaine from Brazil was intercepted at Sydney Airport disguised as organic fertilizer in Operation Cabaret. The principal involved in the importation was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

22 January 2006

The Online Child Sex Exploitation Team shut down its first Australian-hosted child pornography website and arrested its alleged creator.

24 January 2000

The Rangoon liaison post opened

24 January 2000

Additional government funding was given to the AFP to assist in the Sydney Olympics security operation. The explosive residue detection capabilities of AFP Forensic Services were significantly enhanced in time for the Olympics.

24 January 2008

A 26-year-old Lithuanian national faced court charged with importing approximately 28kg of amphetamines concealed within a large granite column. The drugs had a potential street value of approximately \$2.2 million.

26 January 1989

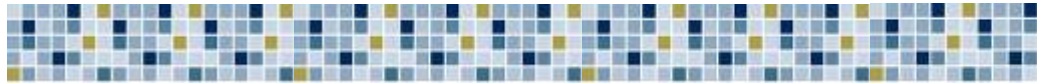
A \$1.4 million nursing home fraud was shut down when AFP officers arrested the proprietor of a Melbourne-based nursing home business. He had been making fraudulent claims against Commonwealth aged-care programs and pocketing the salaries of non-existent staff for his chain of five nursing homes.

27 January 1994

Operation Wand resulted from information received from overseas. A search warrant was executed at premises in Artarmon and Manly, NSW. Cocaine weighing 175kg was located in two metal trunks. Five duffle bags containing approximately 95kg of cocaine were also found in a 1970 Mercedes Benz vehicle parked in the garage. Eighteen people were arrested.



27 January 1994: Assistant Commissioner Eastern Region Phil Baer with 157kg of cocaine seized in Sydney during Operation Wand. – AFP Museum Collection



27 January 1994

Five people were arrested in connection with T-shirts printed with forged logos and trade marks, including the Sydney Olympic 2000 logo. A total of 20,000 printed and blank T-shirts were seized with 300 printing screens, printing equipment and dryers. One of the men charged owned a Chinese-based T-shirt manufacturing company and also a number of stalls at the Sydney markets which he supplied with the forged stock.

27 January 2001

Sir Colin Woods, the AFP's inaugural commissioner, died in his sleep aged 80. The obituary below was written by Sir Colin's press secretary Gregson Edwards.

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www.canberratimes.com

OBITUARY

COLIN WOODS

Founding head of the AFP

THE FOUNDING commissioner of the Australian Federal Police, Sir Colin Woods, who died at his home in Britain on January 27, aged 80, made a remarkable and lasting contribution to policing in Australia.

Administratively, he achieved a great deal over the course of his three-year appointment (1979-82) in Canberra. He forged a national policing body from three agencies — the Commonwealth Police, the ACT Police and the Narcotics Bureau of the Australian Customs Service. In 1980 he played a leading role in the formation of the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence.

Despite encountering some initial hostility from the ranks, as well as from the public, mainly due to his being perceived as another "transplanted Pom", Sir Colin went on during his relatively brief stint in Australia to become a widely admired and oft-quoted public figure.

In the process, he achieved a number of notable firsts for policing, particularly in pursuit of his belief that the police should be seen as "part of the community, not apart from the community".

Sir Colin was the first police officer invited to address the National Press Club; he was the first police commissioner to publicly give journalists access to top-secret crime files; and he established the first police public-affairs office staffed by professional journalists, a move that was immediately emulated by the Victoria Police.

His achievements in Australia came as no surprise to those who worked closely with him in the AFP headquarters, then on the sixth floor of the National Mutual Building, opposite the city police station. It was clear to them that this was a gifted administrator, one whose lateral thinking, superb communication skills and commitment to accountability



marked him as an outstanding leader of a modern police force.

Ironically, the one who was most surprised was Sir Colin himself. Aged 59 when he was recruited by the Fraser Government, he would remark that he had never anticipated a "spell Down Under" at what he had presumed was the end of a high-

ly successful policing career in Britain.

Colin Philip Joseph Woods, KCVO (1977), CBE (1973), was born in Bermondsey, south of the Tower Bridge, London, on April 20, 1920, the son of Michael Woods, sub-divisional inspector, London Metropolitan Police. After education at Finchley Grammar and with war looming, he joined the army and was commissioned in the Royal Ulster Rifles where he served from 1939 to 1946. In 1941 he married Gladys Ella May Howell, to whom he remained devoted throughout his life.

In 1946 he joined the Metropolitan Police and progressed swiftly through the ranks to deputy commander. From 1966 to '67 he was commander, traffic department, going on in 1968 to head management services. From 1969 to '70 he was commandant of the National Police College before being appointed assistant commissioner (traffic) in 1970.

In 1972 he was assistant commissioner (crime) and then served as deputy commissioner from 1975 to '77 before being appointed to the top police post of Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for England and Wales, the position he held until his appointment to the Australian Federal Police.

Sir Colin said before leaving Australia that he had often thought about settling here permanently, but only if his daughter and her family were able to move out as well. He was able to continue his association with Australia and visited several times in the 1980s in his capacity as a director of the multinational Securicorp and as a security consultant to Qantas.

He is survived by Lady Woods, his daughter, Carolyn, and two grandchildren.

— GREGSON EDWARDS

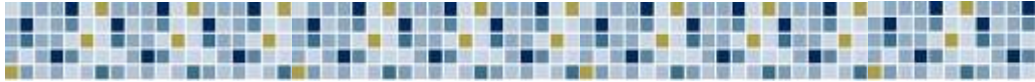
Colin Philip Joseph Woods, born April 20, 1920; died January 27, 2001.

28 January 1997

Federal Agents and Australian Maritime Safety Authority members boarded the Karen-B after it entered an area near Booby Island (Torres Strait) without a pilot and breached the Great Barrier Reef Maritime Park Act. The Master of the ship was fined \$5000.

28 January 2001

Four people died in a plane crash on 28 January 2001 near the Canberra Airport. Not long after taking off the plane crashed into a paddock and burst into flames near the corner of Fairbairn Avenue and Addison Road, Majura. The single engined Beechcraft Bonanza was heading for Tumut.



28 January 2001: ACT Policing investigated the deaths of four people in a plane crash near Canberra Airport. The single-engine Beechcraft Bonanza was heading for Tumut.

28 January 2003

An oil slick 100km long and one nautical mile wide was found by Great Barrier Reef Marine Park officers near the Whitsunday Islands. The Russian Captain of the vessel, Pacific Quest, was charged following an investigation by the AFP.

29 January 1999

Operation Magnetic began when a British citizen arrived at Brisbane International Airport from Bangkok. A Customs search located four wooden wall hangings containing 14.4kg of heroin. A controlled operation at a Sydney hotel resulted in one arrest.

30 January 2001

Senator Chris Ellison was appointed Federal Minister for Justice and Customs.

A joint AFP–NSW Police investigation, Operation Gynea, led to the seizure of 34kg of MDMA tablets hidden inside a consignment of computer monitors from Malaysia. Two men were arrested.

ALSO IN JANUARY

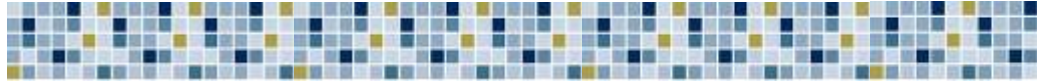
January 1983

The Medifraud Squad was established with four members to investigate cases referred by the Health Commission.

January 1989

Two AFP officers were attached to the United Nations Border Relief Operation in Aranyaprathet in north-eastern Thailand, to assist the UN and the Thai Government improve the security and protection of some 300,000 displaced Cambodians located in camps along the Thai-Cambodian border.

Self government was brought in for the ACT. The role of the AFP as the Territory's police organisation was retained.



The discovery of 2.4 tonnes of cannabis in a container at Swanson Dock in Melbourne, led to a large-scale and complex investigation involving the AFP, Customs, UK Police, UK Customs and NZ Police. The cannabis was shipped to the UK as a controlled operation and resulted in three arrests.

January 1990

The Australian Protective Service, with Cabinet approval, progressively assumed responsibility for the counter-terrorist first response function at all designated security airports except Canberra. The transfer commenced in January 1990 and concluded on 20 June 1990. As a result of the transfer, 200 redundancies took place.



The transfer of security responsibility for Sydney Airport to APS on 1 July 1990, completed the process which had begun earlier in the year. This photo is of the Melbourne handover.

January 1991

The AFP arrested three men in connection with the discovery of 51kg of cannabis concealed in drums of automotive body sealant at Fremantle.

January 1992

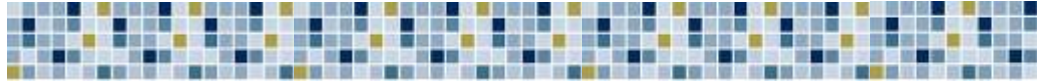
An AFP investigation started in conjunction with the Queensland Criminal Justice Commission into the importation and trafficking of heroin. The operation ended in September 1992 resulting in 21 arrests.

January 1999

A joint operation by the AFP and the Australian Taxation Office, Operation Maraca, led to the arrest of a Gold Coast man in relation to 34 counts of defrauding the Commonwealth. He received a three year sentence. The operation involved the complete dismantling of a pyramid structure designed to defraud the Commonwealth. More than 50 people were known to have joined the scheme.

January 2000

In Operation Bott, intelligence information from Dutch authorities led to the seizure of 50kg of MDMA in Melbourne, concealed inside seven rolls of florist paper. Two men received prison sentences of 25 and 30 years.



January 2004

Operation Vivify was a joint operation between the AFP and Customs resulting in the arrest of three men for the importation of 42.5kg of MDMA. Some of the drugs were found in a refrigerated air cargo container.

This information is compiled by AFP Recognition and Ceremonial from previously released material. Enquiries regarding the content of this page should be directed to terry.browne@afp.gov.au or phone (02) 6293 7861.

More AFP history can be found at
http://www.afp.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/131260/AFP-TheFirstThirtyYears.pdf