

Letters to the editor can be sent by:

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Looking for redcaps

Dear Mr Dunn

I hope that you might assist me as I endeavour to find former Redcaps. Among the many former UK police officers now serving with SAPOL, there might well be some who have served in the Corps of Royal Military Police.

There is a strong and vibrant branch of the Royal Military Police Association operating in Australia, with the majority of members currently in Western Australia.

However, all former serving members are cordially invited to join the branch. They can enjoy the social contacts available to them and to keep in touch with former members through the RMP Journal, the WA Branch newsletter and a specialist Old Comrades link-up webpage and newsletter.

Interested parties should contact me by phone [(08) 8552 9175] or e-mail [randywarden@virginbroadband.com.au] for further details.

Former members of the Royal Air Force Police, Royal Marine Police, Royal Navy Regulatory Branch, and any other former service personnel who were at some time formally attached to the RMP may also apply for membership.

Kind regards
Ron Warden
SA Co-ordinator

Complaints not an issue of education, psychological profiling

The Editor

As a police officer for the past 12 years and recipient of complaints, I was disappointed with the views of Sarah Bolt in *Reduce police complaints with education, psychological profiling* (*Police Journal*, April 2010).

One only has to work the Hindley St beats or in a traffic section to understand what motivates people to complain. It has very little to do with educating officers or changing the psychological profiling currently in place.

Police officers are not the punching bags for every angry person who believes he or she has the right to use them in that way. If an offender receives an injury due to an officer lawfully defending himself or herself or others, this is beyond questioning.

Handcuffs are made of steel and will cause injury to the wrists, from minor redness to cuts and abrasions. There is no dignified way of placing a violent person into the rear of a police cage car.

With the constant changes to legislation and general orders, it is not difficult to see why officers sometimes fail to carry out one or other of their duties. Police officers are authorized officers under many acts and do not always have the luxury of having information at hand.

Police across the state every day make decisions at a moment's notice and receive

no consolation if they get those decisions wrong.

It was no surprise to see that traffic matters was one of four categories of complaints which outnumbered all others. Most expiation notices issued are over \$100 and bring demerit points.

The lowest category of speeding starts at \$220. This is one day's pay for most and two thirds of a pension for others. It is not difficult to see the financial impact these penalties cause.

Then there is the prospect of losing one's driver's licence through the demerit system. This can have a life-changing effect and cause so much damage to a person and his or her family.

These drivers have little or no way of saving themselves from this situation – apart from lodging a police complaint in the belief that it might, in fact, turn the situation around.

I have known some people to beg, then cry, and then become angry when you finally hand them the notice. Complaining is just another course of action.

I totally disagree with Ms Bolt's assertion that the answer to reducing the number of complaints in those top-four categories lay in recruitment, psychological profiling and education. Police officers are neither uneducated nor poorly trained.

I am proud to be a member of the South Australia Police,



along with the many professional police officers I have worked with during my years of service. The many officers I know are good people who are extremely tolerant, compassionate, educated, and from many different cultures.

Shane Mulligan
Senior Constable
South Coast Traffic