

Attestation Parade, Thursday 17 December 2009
Speech by Commissioner Scipione APM

OFFICIAL GUESTS

- The Hon. Michael Daley MP, Minister for Police;
- Deputy Commissioner Dave Owens APM, Field Operations;
- Deputy Commissioner David Hudson APM, Specialist Operations;
- Deputy Commissioner Cath Burn APM, Corporate Services;
- Assistant Commissioner Michael Corboy APM, Commander, Education & Training;
- Host Officer, Superintendent Ian Ball, A/Principal, NSW Police College;
- Mr Les Tree AM, Deputy Director General, Department of Premier & Cabinet, Law Enforcement & Security Coordination Division;
- Mr Steven Lowy - Westfield Holdings (*Presiding Officer for the ADPP (Constable Education Program) Board of Management Committee which oversees the contract for the teaching program*);
- Associate Professor Tracey Green - Charles Sturt University;
- Dr Michael Kennedy – Senior Lecturer, School of Social Sciences University of Western Sydney;
- Police colleagues, family members and friends and most importantly, **members of ADPP Class 35.**

Good evening and welcome to the third attestation in this 25th anniversary year of the NSW Police College here at Goulburn.

Warm congratulations to all the new Constables graduating today. My policing colleagues and I know very well the sense of pride and satisfaction that each of you is now feeling. I want you to think about that feeling; to remember it; and to enjoy it because you have earned it. You have proven yourselves physically, mentally, and academically fit for one of the most demanding jobs that there is.

Today, you earn the privilege of serving the community as police officers, and there is no higher responsibility than that of service to the community.

The reason I ask each of you to stop and remember the sense of pride and satisfaction that you are now feeling is because it is important that you never lose it.

Professional policing doesn't just happen because of the training you've received; the equipment that you carry; or the uniform that you wear. It requires a true partnership with the

communities that you will serve. This partnership requires you to care about, trust and respect the communities you serve. And that they, in turn care about, trust and respect you.

Your success, and the success of the NSW Police Force, depends not only on how well you enforce the law; it also depends on how well you build your relationship with the community you serve. Doing that well requires constant effort on your part.

During the training you have received here at the College, you will have learned about our commitment to Customer Service, our Customer Service Charter, Policy and Guidelines. You are going to hear about Customer Service constantly throughout your service and rightly so. Service to our customers; service to the community is the most fundamental of building blocks on which the NSW Police Force is built.

Our work on Customer Service has been recognised, with our program having recently won the *Delivering Services Category* in the 2009 Premier's Public Sector Awards. Whilst

winning such awards is welcome indeed and reflects well on the hard work and effort so many of our people have put into the program, Customer Service does not end with winning awards, far from it. Our commitment to Customer Service must be constant and unrelenting and I expect all of you to maintain the highest standards of service to our customers, it is what the community demands, deserves and rightly expects and it is up to every one of us to deliver.

Many people live their lives largely insulated from the darker side of human behaviour. You will not. Sometimes you will come face to face with the worst that people can do to each other.

Whether on duty or off, your oath of office carries with it an obligation that you uphold the law and act with integrity. I mention *integrity*. Expect to hear that word again and again because as a police officer you have powers that are not available to any other class of employee. Powers such as to: carry arms; use coercive force; enter and search premises; seize and hold property; deprive people of their liberty; and to require them to defend themselves before the courts.

Because of this, if you do not act with integrity, there will be repercussions, make no mistake.

Having sounded this note of warning, let me balance it by saying that if you are honest, apply yourself, and act to the best of your ability, then your decision to become a police officer will return handsome dividends.

You are joining the profession of policing at a significant time. The NSW Police Force is a vibrant organisation, Australia's oldest and one of the largest in the English speaking world. We have a highly diversified, professional and well equipped force, able to manage large events such as World Youth Day and tackle issues of concern to the community such as Alcohol Related Crime. New laws mean we can deal more effectively with offenders and investments in technology such as DNA, fingerprints and facial recognition, to mention just a few mean we are on the front foot.

One of the things I am confident that you will find enormously helpful is the support of your work colleagues and your families and friends.

On behalf of the NSW Police Force, and our graduating police, let me now thank the families, friends, and supporters. Those of you who are able to join with us today, and those who could not. I know that you have supported our graduates through the hard months of study and training as I know you will continue to support them through their policing careers. In many ways, you are going to live the job as much as our graduates will. You may not have realised that you were signing up for so great a responsibility, but today you become a part of the larger police family.

To our newest officers - The Oath of Office you have just undertaken must never be taken lightly. It is your commitment to our community, your colleagues and the proud traditions of the NSW Police Force. While I do not expect you to be on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, I always expect you to behave in a manner befitting of a police officer. To put it simply I expect you to behave with integrity, **there it is again, that word integrity**. It is what the community rightly expects of us as Police Officers and it is what I expect of you as your Commissioner. **Nothing less**. Integrity must underpin everything we do as police officers. It is the core value which today you have sworn to uphold.

In practice this means that you must be honest and trustworthy, ethical and professional, while you are on duty but also when you are off duty. The health and good reputation of NSW Police Force depends on it.

I expect you to respect and abide by the law you enforce. Let there be no doubt amongst anyone here that enforcing the law is not compatible with breaking it. Lose my confidence and you will lose your career.

I will be the first to acknowledge you have made a brave decision in choosing to become police officers. It is not a job for anyone. It is not a job that everyone can do. Your life will be changed forever from this point on. You will be under constant scrutiny, from me, from your colleagues and from the public. You have worked hard to get here but your toughest work lies ahead of you.

But ask any officer, who has had the honour of marching off this parade ground after a lifetime of service, would they choose another career if they could have their time again and I guarantee you they will tell you no.

There are two fine officers marching off this evening. Superintendent Ron Mason who recently completed 38 years service in rural and metropolitan commands and Inspector Irene Juergens, affectionately known to one and all as 'IJ' and the longest serving policewoman in Australia and the Southern Hemisphere. Both depart after long and distinguished police careers to a well earned retirement.

Ron and IJ, on behalf of my police colleagues and the community of NSW, I express my thanks and appreciation for your hard work, loyalty and commitment. You are role models for each and every member of today's graduating class and the classes which will make their way onto this parade ground in the future. Well done and, again, sincere thanks to you both and all the best of luck in your retirement.

The values and commitment that Ron Mason and Irene Juergens embody are what it means to be a police officer. That is what it means to be part of the Force. Welcome, class ADPP 35, welcome into the family that is the policing profession.

In concluding I would ask that you enjoy and celebrate this day. This is your day. You have worked hard and sacrificed to get here and I congratulate you.

My thanks again to the many family members and friends here today. For those of you who have driven long hours to be here I ask that you take care on your journey back home. And to our soon to be serving officers, I look forward to seeing you wearing your uniforms with pride.

Well done and thank you.