

**The Recruit Squad Patron
Scheme
At the WA Police Academy
Joondalup**



**The Order of Australia Association
Western Australian Branch**

Introduction

The inception of the Patron Scheme for the recruit training squads commenced in 2000 at the Maylands Academy and continues at the state of art Training Academy now situated in Joondalup next door to the Edith Cowan University.

The purpose of the Patron Scheme is;

“To provide access to an esteemed member” of the community to reinforce the community’s expectations of police officers while providing **“personal advice and guidance as appropriate”**.

It is hoped that this paper will encourage more members of the Association to follow the example of past patrons and support the scheme.

I believe it helps in the pursuit of the Association motto *“to foster love and pride in Australian citizenship”*.

It is vital that the WA Branch continues to foster this flagship project for many more years to come.

Historical Background

The Police Commissioner in 2000 was from New Zealand, where such a scheme was used with success at their Training Academy in Auckland. The Commissioner invited the WA Branch of the Association to participate in a similar project.

Scheme Concept

- Provides for recruits to interact with distinguished community leaders;
- Enables community leaders who have been recognized in the Order of Australia to pass on their experience and wisdom to the recruits;
- Builds a support base, additional to the WA Police, for recruits to access during and after graduation; and
- Supports the ideals of integrity, community service and pride in Australian citizenship fostered during police training.

Formal Agreement

On 28th October 2002 a Memorandum of Understanding between The Order of Australia Association WA Branch and The Western Australian Police Force Service regarding the Scheme concept.

Achievements

In 2006 the scheme developed an Advisory Directory to assist Transitional Officers and their families settle into Western Australia. The scheme was called The Direct Entry Accelerated Training Transitional Officers program (DEAT). This training scheme went for 12 weeks. DEAT squad members, experienced Police Officers were recruited from the UK and Ireland with a minority from Interstate and from Western Australia.

The Perpetual Trophy

The Association's Perpetual Trophy recognizes a recruit of the calendar year and embraces qualities such as professionalism, ethical conduct, communication, attitude, leadership, teamwork, self-discipline, motivation and intellect. The selection is made by a panel chaired by the Principal of the Academy and includes the Branch Chairman or his representative.



Presentation

The presentation of the trophy forms part of the last graduation ceremony parade each year and is made by the Branch Chairman.

Patron Involvement

1. To give a short address to the Recruit Squad [and selected family members] during the ceremony in which the recruits are sworn in as police officers.
2. To periodically interact with the recruit squad during the 28 week training program. [Frequency of this interaction is at the discretion of the Patron, but recommend once every 2 to 3 weeks].
3. To be available to recruits should they wish to discuss any matter?
4. To attend the award ceremony the day before the graduation parade, Dress is business attire and no medals.
5. To attend the Graduation Ceremony and to be present for the Squad photograph at its conclusion. Dress is business attire with medals.
6. You may be invited to attend an after graduation function as a guest of the squad. It is entirely up to you if you want to attend.

7. To be available for a period of 12 months post-graduation to offer advice and guidance to recruits as required. Patrons are given the e mail addresses of the recruits to contact if desired.
8. **The Squad Patron is welcome to join the recruits during any of their training sessions on or off the Academy campus.**

Past Patron Comments

“My participation as a Recruit Squad Patron at the WA Police Academy was an interesting and rewarding experience. The involvement with both the Academy and the Recruits gave me an insight as to just how much training these young cadets have to go through. Moreover the engagement you cultivate with each cadet you really feel you have become a personal confidant to them. This in turn has made me very aware of how important a role Police play in our environment”.

“Being a Patron of one of the 2016 Police recruit squads has been one of the most enjoyable volunteer activities I’ve been involved in since I retired. There were a number of reasons for this, one being the fun of being around young people, another being that it was not too demanding on my time. It was fascinating gaining insights into the training curriculum, and being able to observe simulations and scenarios. Initially both I and the recruits found the role of Patron a little difficult to get our heads around and operationalize it, but I quickly realized that just being there, providing support , encouraging the recruits and listening to their stories seemed to work for them. There was also strong support for the role from the senior staff at the Academy and that was a real plus – staff was welcoming and appreciated our presence”.

“I was a patron in 2015 and enjoyed the experience immensely. I was amazed at the amount of training that was condensed into 28 weeks and at the end of that period these young men and women were thrust into society and expected to up hold the law in accordance with community expectations. The squad was most welcoming of my presence and today a number still communicate with me. The staff at the academy believes in the scheme and is very supportive. Being able to choose classes from the program that held my interest was a bonus. I found talking to groups of recruits during morning tea and their lunch break was a good way to get to know them. I would recommend that you try it”.

“For the past 28 weeks it has been a great pleasure to attend the Police Academy at Joondalup as Patron for Grey Squad No 1 for 2016. 30 recruits ranging in age from 19 to 53 years participated in a very rigorous training program to prepare them for life in the Police Force. The very warm welcome I received from all these recruits was heartening. The Patron is there as a community member to whom the recruits can refer should they have any issues they would like to discuss with someone outside the Police Force. While this role was not taken up during their training I will be available to them for the next 12 months. Patrons attend the Academy as often as they are able and I found the best time to go was during the lunch break when there was time for informal chats. It is a very worthwhile experience and one I heartily recommend”.

Scheme Coordinator

A scheme coordinator is appointed to the Patron Scheme, which embraces all aspects of the Associations involvement at the Academy. The coordinator liaises with the Academy Management and is available to provide guidance to the Patron’s.

On average the Academy has 4 squad intakes yearly with 30 recruits per squad. A squad normally comprises of 22 males and 8 females.

A booklet is available upon request that outlines a Summary of the Police Patron Scheme Guidelines and the Patron's involvement with the Western Australia Police service.

The Patron Scheme provides an enriching, rewarding and unique experience for the Patron in helping the Police Service to produce Professional officers to protect and serve the community of WA. It is vital that the scheme continues, the presence and the role of the Patron is very much appreciated and supported by the Commissioner and the Principal and staff at the Academy.

The reader is invited to join in this exciting and exhilarating challenge as a Patron at the Police Training Academy.

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The Police Academy Graduation Ceremony, Joondalup.

The 2016 ceremony was attended by, her Excellency the Governor, the Minister for Police, the Commissioner of Police, the Squad Patrons and family and friends.



