

**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 Nov 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 purpose statement: To celebrate and promote 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.

This is now called the Transitional Program.

The Aboriginal Cadet Scheme

Commencing in 2018, the Police Academy has asked the Association to provide a Patron of Aboriginal heritage for their Cadet scheme.

Young men and women are selected to participate in the cadet scheme, based on their performance they are then given the opportunity to join a squad to become police officers

The Police Auxiliary Officers Scheme (PAO)

PAO's perform some other limited Police functions (Exhibits and some Transport services). They staff all the metro Lockup's and perform duties with the management of prisoners in the Police Custodial system, they have similar powers to the Police Officers. These PAO's free up fully sworn police officers for frontline duties.

They are recruited into the Police Academy for an 8 week course. The majority of the curriculum is the same as the Police Recruits in training.

Patron Coordinator

A Patron 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. The coordinator reports to the Association State committee.

On average the Academy has 10 squad intakes yearly, typically with 30 recruits per squad. A squad normally comprises of 60% males and 40% females.

The Academy provides 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.

Patron Involvement

The Patron will receive from the Academy a list of the Squads member's names, a short bio of past academic achievements, work history and a time table for the 28 week course.

The Patron is welcome to attend the recruits Orientation day at the Academy. This is normally held on the Thursday prior to their Induction day. The Academy must be advised if the Patron is attending.

On induction day the Patron will meet the Principal of the Academy, Squad supervisor and recruits.

Patron's activities,

1. To give a short address (2-3 minutes to the Recruit Squad, selected family members and Academy staff) at the Induction ceremony in which the recruits are sworn in as police officers.
2. When attending your Squad activities you must present to the Reception, where you will sign in and be given a visitors pass for your movement around the Academy, this will be returned at the end of the day. You will also be required to wear your Association Patron's badge (provided by the WA Branch of the Association).
3. 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 weeks.
4. Suggested interaction consists of attending classes and socializing with the recruits at morning tea and lunch break.
5. Patrons are required to liaise with the Squad Supervisor or Squad Leader to advise when attending.
6. Patrons may be asked to participate in their Squads activities, a rewarding experience.
7. To be available for recruits should they wish to discuss any matter.
8. To attend the Award ceremony the day before the Graduation parade, Dress is business attire, Association pin and no medals.
9. At the Awards ceremony the Squad Patron will present the Order of Australia Association Good Samaritan Award to a recruit who was selected by his peers.
10. The Squad Patron will also be required to give a short address (2-3 minutes) to the gathering at the Award ceremony.
11. To attend the Graduation Ceremony and to be present for the Squad photograph at its conclusion. Dress is business attire with medals.
12. 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.
13. To be available for a period of 12 months post-graduation to offer advice and guidance to officers as required. Patrons are given the e mail addresses of the recruits to contact if desired.
14. **The Squad Patron is welcome to join the recruits during any of their training sessions on or off the Academy campus except for firearms and driving training.**

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 uphold 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 47 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”.

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.

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



The Police Academy Awards Ceremony, Joondalup.

