Clasps were not issued with the APS Service Medal as the length of qualifying time did not equal 20 years. The APS Service Medal is something of an oddity, being an example of a medal that became obsolete on the day that it was created; with the reintegration of the APS into the AFP the reason for the APS Service Medal’s existence ceased and the medal is a “one off.” Recipients of the APS Service Medal received a medal set consisting of a full sized medal, miniature medal and ribbon bar, all in a leatherette presentation case.

**Australian Capital Territory Awards.**

Members of Australian Capital Territory Policing are eligible for several awards established by the government of the ACT, namely:

- ACT Community Protection Medal
- ACT Community Policing Medal
- ACT Emergency Medal

These medals are not technically AFP internal awards; however, they are accepted by the AFP for unrestricted wear by its members. In addition, no police officers except members of ACT Policing are eligible for the ACT Community Protection Medal, while the ACT Community Policing Medal is unique to ACT Policing.

The **ACT Community Protection Medal** was established in 2002 to recognise sustained diligent or outstanding service. The ACT government awards a maximum of five awards each year on Canberra Day (second Monday in March); one award is made to a single recipient from:

- ACT Ambulance Service
- ACT Fire Brigade
- ACT Rural Fire Service
- ACT State Emergency Service
- ACT Policing

The ACTCPM (Figure 30) is struck in nickel-silver plated to resemble antique bronze; the obverse of the circular medal features the arms of the City of Canberra (the ACT does not possess a grant of arms). The reverse features a stylized sprig of gum leaves and nuts at the top left above the inscription: **FOR / DISTINGUISHED / SERVICE.** Below the inscription is a raised rectangular plinth for engraving of the recipient’s name. The medal is fitted with a straight bar suspender, with a floreate foot attached to the top of the medal. Suspension is via a 32mm wide ribbon of maroon, with five equal central stripes of dark blue, gold, white, gold, dark blue; the maroon represents service and sacrifice, while dark blue, gold and white are the heraldic colors of the ACT.

The **ACT Community Policing Medal** was established by the ACT Government in 2002 as a method of providing tangible recognition from the government and people of the ACT to the members of the AFP who police Canberra and the ACT. The medal is awarded to members of AFP ACT Community Policing for at least 10-years diligent service. The medal may be worn in addition to the AFP Service Medal but is worn after all other AFP awards. The rather attractive, oval shaped medal is made of bronze and features, on the obverse, the supporters and shield from the arms of Canberra (Figure 31). Around the
outside of the medal is the inscription **ACT COMMUNITY POLICING MEDAL**. The reverse of the medal features a rectangular plinth on which the recipient’s name is engraved and above this plinth appears the inscription: **FOR / DILIGENT / SERVICE**.

The medal is fitted with a straight suspension bar with a floriated clasp which is soldered to the top of the medal. The medal is suspended from a ribbon of white with dark blue edges with a central thin stripe of dark blue flanked by thin stripes of gold, the gold stripes separated from the central stripe by thin white stripes. The colors of the ribbon, dark blue, gold and white, are the heraldic colors of the ACT. On December 6, 2008, a clasp to denote 20-years cumulative and diligent service was established; award of the clasp is application based.

The **ACT Emergency Medal** was established by the ACT government in March 2004 in the wake of the disastrous bush fire that swept down on Canberra and neighbouring communities in January 2003, killed four people, injured 500 and destroyed over 500 buildings, plus causing substantial other infrastructure damage.10

The order of wear for AFP internal awards is the mirror image opposite of official Australian awards worn on the left. While official Australian awards are worn with the most senior medal on the far left as seen by a viewer, *i.e.* closest to the center line of the jacket or shirt, for AFP internal awards it is the opposite, with the most senior wide ribbon, with three equal stripes of flame red/yellow/flame red, with the central yellow stripe bisected with a thin blue stripe. A single clasp 2003, has been authorised for this medal. The medal is issued un-named; there is no space on the reverse for naming and the flan is too thin for edge naming.

**Wearing of Awards**

Unlike official Australian Government awards from within the Australian honors and awards system, which are worn on the left breast, AFP internal awards are worn on the right breast. This practice is followed by most of the other police, corrections and other emergency services (ambulance, fire, rescue, etc) in Australia. Exceptions are the Western Australia Police and the Northern Territory Police, whose members wear their State/Territory internal awards on the left breast, after all official Australian awards. Figure 33 shows AFP Commissioner Tony Negus wearing the Australian Police Medal (APM) and the National Medal, both awards from within the Australian honors and awards system, on the left breast; his AFP Service Medal on the other hand is worn on the right breast.
award worn on the viewer’s right, again i.e. closest to the center line of the jacket or shirt, however, in this instance with the medals on the right-hand side.

Figure 34 shows an AFP Superintendent (far left, front row) and several AFP Uniform Protection personnel attending a ceremonial function. The Superintendent is wearing the Police Overseas Service Medal (with two clasps), an official Australian award, on the left, while on the right he is wearing the AFP Commissioner’s Commendation for Excellence in Overseas Service, worn closest to the button line, followed by the AFP Service Medal, to the left of the commendation insignia and closest to his right shoulder. The AFP Uniform Protection officer to the left of the Superintendent is wearing the Police Overseas Service Medal and National Medal on the left, while on the right he wears the AFP Commissioner’s Commendation for Bravery, followed by the AFP Service Medal, again with the commendation insignia closest to the button line. The officers in the white-topped caps are members of the South Australia Police.

The order of wearing of AFP internal awards (referred to by the AFP as the “order of precedence”) is laid down by the Commissioner, and may be varied from time to time at the discretion of the Commissioner. The order is shown below and items in **bold** are AFP internal awards:

- Australian Federal Police Bravery Medal
- Commissioner’s Medal for Excellence
- Commissioner’s Medal for Innovation
- ACT Community Protection Medal
- Commissioner’s Commendation for Bravery (no longer awarded)
- Royal Humane Society (Stanhope Gold) Medal
- Royal Life Saving Medal
- Royal Humane Society (Silver) Medal
- Royal Humane Society (Bronze) Medal
- Commissioner’s Commendation for Conspicuous Conduct
- Commissioner’s Commendation for Excellence in Overseas Service
- Commissioner’s Commendation for Hazardous Overseas Service
- AFP Operations Medal
- Australian Federal Police Service (Long Service & Good Conduct) Medal
- ACT Community Policing Medal
- Australian Protective Service (Long Service & Good Conduct) Medal
- Other Police Valour & Meritorious Service Medals

*Figure 34: An AFP Superintendent and several AFP Uniform Protection personnel at a ceremonial function.*