



# Police Dog "Ike"

with handler

## Leading Senior Constable Heath Drew

LSC Drew has been a member of the Victoria Police Dog Squad (VPDS) since 2014 and a police officer for 17 years. During that time he has shown exceptional skill in the training and working of police dogs but also a desire to learn in the areas of dog development, training and breeding.

In 2012, Heath purchased Ike, a German Shepherd Dog as his own personal pet dog. Heath wasn't a member of the VPDS at the time but started obedience training and tacking training with him as a young pup.

In 2014, when Heath joined the VPDS he offered Ike up as a prospective police dog. Ike was assessed and performed exceptionally well in testing and qualified soon after as a police dog with Heath as his handler.

In 2016, Heath and Ike represented Victoria at the Australian and New Zealand Police Dog Trials held in Melbourne with VPDS as host.

In 2018, Heath and Ike won the VPDS trials in which each handler and dog team competes and is formally assessed. Ike obtained a Police Dog Excellent grading with an overall trials result of 89.79%. The attainment of an excellent grading in police dog work is extremely rare and held in very high regard owing to the overall difficulty in maintaining high standards across all disciplines of police dog work.



Heath undertakes regular work outside of normal hours devoted to the development of German Shepherd Police Dog IKE and his Dutch Shepherd Duke. Heath also assists other dog handlers in the development of their dogs and is well known for the selfless manner in which he contributes to the development of others.

As previously stated, Heath represented VPDS with P.D.X Ike in the 2016 Australian & New Zealand Police Dog trials held in Melbourne and showing his continued level of high standard and that Ike remains in the upper percentile of high level performing police dogs, they are to attend New Zealand, October 14<sup>th</sup> - October to 19<sup>th</sup> 2018, to again represent VPDS at the Australian and New Zealand Police Dog Trials.

Since becoming an operational police dog 4 years ago, Ike has successfully tracked, searched and apprehended numerous offenders.

Ike's first arrest was a memorable one. A naked male had loitered in a ladies backyard for hours until the owner returned home to find the male. The male jumped the fence and disappeared. Ike attended the job and located the offender hiding in water reeds in swamp land. The offender was actually hiding under water but Ike's nose still located him.

In another arrest Ike located an offender who fled from a burglary, and was involved in a pursuit and ramming of a police vehicle in his attempt to get away. Unbeknown to Heath & Ike the offender was hiding in a garage of a house. After searching for more than an hour, Ike indicated the offender from the footpath through the fence and garage wall to where the offender was hiding.

In July of this year Police Dog Ike and Heath responded to a call of an armed robbery in Thornbury. The offender fled on foot armed with a large hunting knife. Heath & Ike located the male in a nearby street, who was still armed with the knife. Ike successfully and safely apprehended the male who was wanted for a number of other armed robberies and aggravated burglaries.

There are numerous accounts of the high level of work both Heath and Ike perform as a team. Ike is utilised on a regular basis for work in conjunction with the Special Operations Group and Critical Incident Response Team with Heaths background in tactical response and Ike being deemed and having undertaken and completed, further training in the tactical deployment role.