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Cop gay pay row

SUE HEWITT

ACTING Chief Commissioner Ken Lay faces a revolt from rank-and-file members over their right to be paid to march in a gay-pride parade, but not on Anzac Day.

Officers are paid to support the gay event, but not for participating on Anzac Day, unless they have served overseas in the military or as peacekeepers.

The police union argues all former military or peacekeeping personnel, regardless of service overseas, should be paid if they march on Anzac Day.

Victoria Police command did not respond to questions about whether the policy might change. But a police spokeswoman said paid leave to march for non-overseas ex-service people was being considered.

Police Association secretary Greg Davies said the union was pushing for the change during enterprise bargaining negotiations.

He said if officers could march on full pay in the Gay and Lesbian Pride parade, it was "one in, all in" and former military staff who had not served overseas should be paid to take part in the Anzac parade.

Under former boss Simon Overland all officers could participate in the gay march. Attendance is classified as being on duty, according to the *Police Gazette*.

But officers who were not former military or peacekeepers with overseas experience had to take time off to march on Anzac Day.

Victoria Police argued officers had attended the gay march since 2002 and it "significantly" improved the "trust, confidence and co-operation" with the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities.

Mr Davies said the rules were discriminatory.

He said the RSL was now the Returned and Services League rather than Returned Services League, and recognised all military personnel.

Family plans: Tamsyn Manou. Picture: ANDREW TAUBER

Tam's Games almost over

CATHERINE LAMBERT

TRACK golden girl Tamsyn Manou (nee Lewis) has revealed she will hang up her runners to start a family after the London Olympics next year.

The athletics champion, now known by her married name, heads off to Europe this week to compete on the European circuit.

She will be based in London, staying with former running great Sir Sebastian Coe, to train and hopefully compete in her last Olympic Games in London next year.

"That's my goal and then I'll retire," Manou said.

"I don't want to be running all the time and I don't want to travel as much. I miss my friends and family when I travel, even though I'm good at creating a home away from home and look forward to seeing everyone over there."

The 33-year-old married former Test cricketer Graham Manou last month, followed by a honeymoon in Hawaii.

Manou said she would like to start a family soon after retiring.

"I definitely want children, so that's hopefully on the horizon," she said.

But for the moment she is completely focused on the world championships in South Korea in late August, followed by Olympic trials early next year. She has switched her event from the 400m and the 400m hurdles to the 800m.

"It's not normal to change events but I've always been one of those athletes who has been able to do lots of events," she said.

Manou will be back in Melbourne on October 9 to participate in the Marathon Festival for the Cerebral Palsy Education Centre.

As ambassador, she will be leading an expected 100 kids in a 3km walk and the young boy who first opened her eyes to the condition, Tate Kemp, will be by her side.

People interested in participating in the walk or marathon run can register at www.melbournemarathon.com.au

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