



PLO Chi-Kim Wong (right) with Eddie Chen.

Relationships the focus for PLO

By Jacqui McClure, Media and Public Affairs Branch

Behind the facade of flashing lights and busy streets in Brisbane's Fortitude Valley lies a very unique cultural experience.

It is this culture to which Senior Police Liaison Officer (PLO) Chi-Kim Wong has dedicated his career.

Based at the Fortitude Valley Police Beat, PLO Wong uses his social work experience to assist policing in the Asian community.

He is one of three PLOs in Fortitude Valley along with

Rebecca Johnson and Weng Mun Sum.

PLO Wong started his career as a social worker in Hong Kong before becoming a police officer. After moving to Australia almost 10 years ago, he returned to being a social worker before joining the Queensland Police Service (QPS) in 2001.

It is easy to understand why he has been successful in his role as a PLO. Walking through the Chinatown Mall, almost everyone knows him, and more importantly, respects him.

PLO Wong's culture is very important to him. He believes that in order to make a difference in his local community he must first build relationships and gain people's trust.

"Being a police officer in Hong Kong is very different to here in Australia. I think my role is more to promote an understanding between the Asian culture and the QPS."

PLO Wong's role has taken him beyond his policing duties as he continues to develop initiatives for the local community. He has

recently established Brisbane's first Chinese Scout Group, and continues to do volunteer social work in his own time. He regularly speaks to foreign students and new immigrants about Brisbane, local laws, and issues they may face adjusting to Australian culture.

"If I retired tomorrow I think I would be satisfied that I have made a difference in my community. The relationships I have developed will hopefully go some way to bridging some of the cultural gaps that exist in central Brisbane," he said. ■