



A message from the Minister

The creation of the Australian Federal Police is a milestone in our history and national development.

The distinction that sets the AFP apart is that it combines the experience and skills of two established law enforcement agencies, one metropolitan-based and the other Australia-wide.

It is appropriate that the ideals for the AFP be laid down so that its members and the public can be aware of the role expected of it by the Federal Government.

The AFP, with its diverse range of skills, including general duties police work, anti-terrorist capacity, the investigation of white-collar crime and the equally important job of protecting Commonwealth property, will be a unique body.

Terrorist violence which occurred in Australia last year gave rise to the Government deciding to create the AFP on the advice of the renowned Sir Robert Mark and I can see various ways in which the new body will make positive contributions to maintaining the unending fight against crime in its many forms.

It is important that men and women in the AFP regard themselves as part of a police agency which, in co-operation with the States, has the potential to improve and protect all that is worthwhile in our national lifestyle.

I believe that the force will come to be very highly regarded by its peers in Australia and overseas, not because of any overriding legislative authority but simply on the basis of excellence which I am confident, it will achieve under the guidance of its first Commissioner, Sir Colin Woods, assisted by his senior officers.

I am proud to be associated with its formation and I wish every member who serves in it a satisfying and rewarding career.

John McLeay

The Editor's VIEWPOINT

A new Police Force has emerged in Australia. Although still in its embryo stage, it already carries the stamp of success. The culmination of 12 months' planning, research and feasibility studies by a dedicated Task Force, drawn from the former two Forces, produced submissions and volumes of reports to ensure that every aspect from administration to the 'Policeman's lot' was covered.

From where I stand, it would appear that the incorporation of the two Police Forces to form a cohesive, well administered organisation such as the Australian Federal Police, has been no easy task. No doubt the movement of rank and file into different roles will 'ruffle feathers'. Hopefully, time will dispel uncertainty and quell any apprehension. In the meantime, to give the Force a 'fair go', I suggest petty jealousies must be laid to rest and teamwork (esprit de corps) made to prevail.

I believe AFP has (and offers to the career-minded) a promising future for highly trained and talented young men and women; it has the resources to do a good job.

The role of a Constable, whether General Duties or Protective Service, is far greater today than ever before in preventing/detecting offences against the Government, its interests, establishments, Diplomatic personnel/residences and the community as a whole, the man on the beat is the eyes and ears of the Force.

The media continually report acts of violence, mayhem and murder overseas and in recent times we have seen instances of the same pattern of lawbreaking occurring in our own country.

As one member of AFP (whose sins have earned him the position of editor of this journal!) I perceive that with crime becoming more sophisticated and daring — computerised white collar crime, terrorism, organised subversive groups and general breaches of law and order the time was right for an FBI-type Force to emerge. It is hoped that AFP has the co-operation of State and World law enforcement agencies to keep it abreast if not ahead of current trends.

For those who had the fortitude to read this far, you may like to note that this publication is the Official Journal of the AFP. Future editions will contain items on policy/administration, reviews, technical reports, district, social and sporting items of interest to every member and, I hope, to people outside the Force. Contributions from members are welcome, either in the form of letters to the editor or straight articles on topical subjects.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity as an individual member (although I am sure other members would share my sentiments) to wish Sir Colin Woods and the senior officers incorporated from the two 'old' forces every success with AFP.