

Commissioner's Message

Recently I attended in Perth the Conference of Commissioners of Police of Australasia and the South-West Pacific Region.

This year the theme of the conference was 'The Future Face of Policing in Australia' and I had the pleasure of listening to a number of 'outsiders' speak on how they see the role of the police now and in the future. Of course, these speakers were supplemented by the views of other experts on the criminal justice system, all of which provoked a great deal of discussion among the Commissioners and their advisers.

It is my intention to publish in future editions of *Platypus* extracts from some of the presentations at the conference. I hope that you will find them as interesting as I did.

I know some people hold the view that many of the initiatives currently being taken within the Australian Federal Police, are quite radical and out of step with other jurisdictions. As it emerged it became obvious to me that although we may be at the forefront of change, conceptionally we are very much in step with the emerging consensus view. I must add that I am not referring just to police administrators. The paper delivered by Bob Page, Secretary of the Police Federation of Australia and New Zealand, contained many points which

demonstrated that the police union movement is philosophically very close to management in terms of future developments in the law enforcement industry. Certainly the Commissioners resolved to work closely with the unions on a number of matters.

The achievement of police professionalism seems to be high on everyone's agenda. I see it as one of the big issues in the future. However, it is also apparent to me that many people refer quite glibly to professionalising the police without total understanding of what the creation of a profession actually means. It does not merely mean the achievement of greater efficiency and academic qualifications. In my view the question of integrity, dedication, ethics and loyalty to the profession above all else, are matters of great importance.

Various working parties and committees will be looking at every aspect of police professionalism and many aspects of the associated problem will be addressed by the Australian Police Ministers' Council in the next year. No doubt both the police associations and police administration will keep you informed of developments. However, one thing that is worth noting is that what is being put in place in the Australian Federal Police currently, is very much in tune with our collective professional goals.

Story page 19



Platypus is the official staff magazine of the Australian Federal Police, and is prepared by the AFP Office of Information. Requests for permission to reprint material appearing in *Platypus*, and all general correspondence, should be addressed to:

The Editor, *Platypus*
Australian Federal Police
Headquarters
GPO Box 401
Canberra, ACT. 2601

EDITORIAL ADVISER
Associate Commissioner
Steve Gavin

EDITOR
Philip Castle

PUBLISHER/JOURNALIST
Terry Browne

JOURNALIST
Peter Kowalick

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Stella Klein



The *Platypus* has been adopted by the Australian Federal Police as a symbol representing the diverse requirements placed upon members in the execution of their duty. This unique and tenacious little Australian mammal is a survivor against increasing pressure from today's environment. It leaves no stone unturned in its daily pursuits and has equipped itself with a range of features to adapt to changes over many years. It is capable of passing unnoticed, if required, yet demonstrates an unflinching dedication to explore all possibilities in an effort to maintain its special place in Australia's wildlife, at times against large and more powerful opponents — a quality admired and respected by members of the Australian Federal Police.

Contents

PLATYPUS 29

JANUARY - MARCH 1990

Shaping up for the 90s	1
Tourism flaws the Jewels of the Pacific	2
New defences close the gaps	4
AFP Liaison Officers meet in Bangkok	5
Golden Triangle	6
Bamboo war on the Poppies	8
Ted Richards — from the ranks to Commissioner	10
Closer ties needed for law agencies	13
New firing range sets the standard	14
FATS	16
Neighbourhood Watch expansion	17
Death of a Cyprus friend	18
The future face of policing	19