



Commissioner Mick Keelty

Commissioner's message

June 2004 marks 25 years since the enacting of the Australian Federal Police Act 1979. The AFP of 25 years ago faced a vastly different set of social and professional needs but set about creating an environment and structure to best overcome these challenges.

While operational success is our prime objective, it is heartening to know that we can do a wide range of organisational tasks to a high level of expertise. The recent success at the 2004 National Work and Family Awards is an example of how the pursuit of excellence in corporate life can attract recognition.

The awards, presented by the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Business Council of Australia, exist to recognise significant initiatives taken by business to help employees balance work and family.

In the AFP's case the awards specifically recognised the flexible working conditions and support provided through the AFP's Certified Agreement as well as programs such as *Find Your Rhythm* and *Dial An Angel*. The AFP is the first government agency to be recognised with a Gold Award and continues the tradition of innovation and commitment to operational and workplace excellence.

Confidence in the AFP's ability to provide modern and effective law enforcement services has been expressed by the recent Federal Budget where a number of AFP operational areas were funded to enhance major law enforcement initiatives.

Aside from operational budget, funding has been made available for the AFP National Headquarters at Anzac Park West on Anzac Parade in Canberra. While the move will not take place until 2006, this funding provides an opportunity for the AFP to have a long-term home, and one within an iconic heritage building in the Defence and Parliamentary precinct.

The Canberra headquarters of the Australian Crime Commission is also intended to be located with us, ensuring we make the best use of Anzac Park West. Over the next five years we are also planning for the bulk of our Canberra-based specialist

support functions to be relocated to the AFP's Wanggirrali Ngurrumbai facility on Majura Rd, an alternate northern entry route to Canberra.

Innovation and commitment come from a desire for constant improvement and I think that is the theme underpinning the articles presented in this edition of *Platypus Magazine*.

The range of AFP activities could not be demonstrated better than the contrast between Federal Agent Russel Smith in his postcard from London giving an account of recent duties undertaken in diplomatic circles and the hands-on account provided by forensic officer Justine Adamek about an exhumation undertaken in an isolated cave in East Timor.

Federal Agent Leanne Giraud outlines the case for increasing numbers of female officers in peacekeeping contingents drawing not only on her experience in East Timor but also providing depth to her discussion by referencing arguments supporting the issue from a range of academic and law-enforcement organisations.

As the AFP increases its role in policing assistance with near neighbours, the role of women in the policing of the South Pacific also gets a profile with Sergeant Melita Zielonko's report on the inaugural meeting of the South Pacific Chiefs of Police Conference Women's Advisory Network in Fiji.

The remainder of the articles serve to present current developments in the law enforcement environment. Returning to the theme of worklife diversity I recommend that you read the article about the chaplains now engaged with the AFP. This situation emphasises that there is a much greater dimension to a policing career than might at first be understood by the average onlooker.

