

# Honoured with the Keys to Canberra

*Chief Minister Jon Stanhope presented the AFP with the keys to the city as a symbol of the community's great respect for the organisation on its 25th birthday.*

Mr Stanhope presented the keys to AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty at a special ceremony in Veterans' Park on 19 October.

"The keys to the city are the greatest honour a community can bestow," Mr Stanhope said. This is a symbol of the great respect we in Canberra have for the Australian Federal Police and our pride in being home to the organisation's headquarters and many of its personnel."

"In its first 25 years, the AFP has established a reputation as one of the world's truly great police forces," Mr Stanhope said.

"The contribution that the AFP has made, and continues to make, to our city, to Australia and indeed to the world cannot be underestimated. *The marching column included representatives from all areas of AFP operation.*

Photo by Brian Hartigan



*Commissioner Keelty receiving the Keys to the City plaque from ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope.*  
– Photo by Brian Hartigan

"The men and women of the AFP have been involved in peacekeeping and law enforcement missions in countries such as the Solomon Islands, Cyprus, Indonesia and the Philippines. They worked with distinction in East Timor to ensure that the ballot for self-determination in 1999 reflected the will of people.

"Perhaps most notably, they worked tirelessly to identify the victims of the Bali bombing and, with their Indonesian counterparts, to bring the perpetrators to justice."

Photos by Terry Browne





Mr Stanhope said the people of Canberra had a closer relationship with the AFP than most other Australians, through the provision of policing services in the ACT.

“Canberrans have faith in the integrity, commitment and excellence of ACT Policing and the AFP,” he said.

“The keys to the city of Canberra are a mark of our great respect for the Australian Federal Police and our appreciation for the great work its men and women do every day.”

**Top Left:** Canberra City Pipes and Drums lead the AFP march to the headquarters building.

**Top Right:** Chaplain Sarah Hubert positions the AFP flag after receiving it from the colour party.

**Bottom Left:** The ceremony attracted a number of senior representatives from government and allied agencies.

**Bottom Right:** In fine voice for the national anthem, Chief Operating Officer Trevor Van Dam, ACT Opposition Leader Brendan Smyth, ACT Commander Operations Steve Lancaster and ACT Chief Police Officer John Davies.

Photos by Brian Hartigan

