

Commissioner's message



At the time of our last issue, the AFP had a contingent of more than 100 people hard at work alongside their colleagues in Papua New Guinea; Australian Douglas Wood was working as a contractor in Iraq and new members of our expanded Protection Portfolio were settling in to their roles as members of the AFP.

As I look toward a new financial year, our PNG contingent has been called home, Douglas Wood has been through the ordeal of capture by Iraqi insurgents and is home; we are celebrating the milestone of a year since the integration of former APS officers into the AFP and next month we farewell ACT Chief Police Officer John Davies while welcoming new CPO Assistant Commissioner Audrey Fagan.

Further afield, in the last year we have had a bombing outside the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, the murder of Protective Service Officer Adam Dunning in the Solomon Islands and the loss of so many - including some of our Indonesian policing colleagues - in the tsunami.

All these events serve to highlight the uncertain and volatile times in which we continue to live and the magnitude of work that faces the AFP.

We cannot face these challenges without the support and partnership of our international law enforcement colleagues, our state and territory police colleagues and the ongoing confidence of governments both here and overseas.

Perhaps it is time we added partnership to the list of AFP core values.

In this issue we look back on the first year of integration and our expanded protection portfolio; the 10th anniversary of the AFP Malunggang Indigenous Officers Network and the ongoing success of ACT Policing's *Operation Halite*.

The sudden death of Fiji Police Assistant Superintendent Asaeli Tamanitoakula at Wee Jasper in May is remembered with moving photos of his repatriation and funeral in Fiji; we look at our ongoing work through the International Deployment Group and its many successes and relive the premature but much anticipated return of our contingent from Papua New Guinea.

The IDG is also celebrating the opening of its international training complex this month. Built to ensure the AFP continues to provide the best possible training for AFP, state and international police, the complex will be officially opened by the Prime Minister Mr John Howard. A feature on the complex will be published in our September issue.

At the time of printing, the Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Chris Ellison was to announce the winning design for the National Police Memorial, recognising the contribution made by police to the Australian community.

The memorial, to be constructed in Kings Park in time for National Police Remembrance Day in September, will commemorate the more than 700 police who have been killed on duty, or who have died as a result of their duties.

We are also pleased to announce the winner of the 2005 CIT design competition for National Missing Persons Week and have published a speech by Federal Agent Lisa Richards who outlines her success at balancing work and family issues.