

Ongoing commitment to the National Police Memorial



—Brian Hartigan

AFP Deputy Commissioner John Lawler at the launch of the National Police Memorial design competition in March 2005.

Following the formalities of the official dedication last September, the National Police Memorial is now settling into the Canberra landscape as a permanent reminder of the sacrifice made in the line of duty by Australia's police services.

Unbelievably, across all jurisdictions, already five officers have been killed on duty since the last September's dedication, most recently Federal Agents Mark Scott and Brice Steele in Indonesia.

Chair of the National Police Memorial Steering Committee, Deputy Commissioner John Lawler said: "The commitment to the National Police Memorial did not end with the Dedication Ceremony, there is an ongoing need to maintain the memorial and ensure its place as the national focus of police service in Australia.

"The legacy of the National Police Memorial is an ongoing one," he said.

Like the steering committee that preceded it, the newly-formed National Police Memorial Coordination Committee is made up of representatives from all police jurisdictions, the National Capital Authority, Police Federation of Australia and Police Legacy and will attend to the ongoing needs of the Memorial.

Paul Breen, coordinator for AFP Recognition and Ceremonial, said the AFP is functioning as custodians for the memorial on behalf of all jurisdictions.

"Planning for the 2007 Police Remembrance Day service is under way, and while it will not involve the resources of the inaugural dedication, it is anticipated that this year's ceremony and those of subsequent years will occupy a prominent place on the national policing calendar," he said.



—Beck Browne