

Commissioner's Message



It has been a very busy year for the AFP, full of challenges that have affected the organisation and our members profoundly – both in a professional and in a personal capacity. This edition of *Platypus* features a chronological review of the AFP's achievements this year. Six pages are dedicated to highlight the many significant events and achievements we have experienced across the organisation during 2007.

As you read through the following pages, I'm sure you will agree there are many dedicated AFP personnel supporting each other, as well as our law enforcement colleagues in other agencies.

It is this commitment that delivers outstanding results for the AFP and our stakeholders

Notwithstanding the many successes you will read about in this edition of *Platypus*, it has also been a difficult year for the AFP. As an organisation we have responded with resilience and demonstrated our ability to adapt to change.

I am particularly proud to have hosted the *International Policing Toward 2020* conference in November. More than 300 delegates from 30 countries gathered in Canberra to look at what the future may hold for law enforcement agencies here in Australia and across the globe. The expert presenters discussed a broad range of disciplines, including crime, geopolitics, science and technology. Over two-and-a-half days, delegates

discussed many stimulating visions of the future. It is my hope that the discussions will be continued by delegates in their home jurisdictions so that together we can plan our evolution to suit changing needs.

As we head toward the year 2020, it is increasingly important for law enforcement agencies to analyse the role we are to play in our evolving societies.

This year has also seen the expansion of the AFP's international liaison role, illustrated by the opening on Australia Day of the Bangladesh office. More recently, I had the privilege of opening a new office in Guangzhou, China.

Back home, it has been my pleasure to work with the Islamic Liaison Team to build relationships with Melbourne's Islamic communities.

The future is, for most part, an uncertain commodity, but through the triumphs and tragedies we've experienced over the past year, the AFP has shown itself to be a resilient, forward-looking organisation that

is well-placed to address future challenges.

As 2007 draws to a close, we can all reflect on a year of proud achievements across the whole range of our law enforcement activities.

I would also like to acknowledge the crucial support of our stakeholders from government and the private sector, both in Australia and overseas, which contributes to our success in detecting and preventing crime.

Finally, I would like to wish all AFP staff, their families, loved ones and *Platypus* readers a safe and peaceful festive season.

Mick Keelty APM

AFP Commissioner