

# Commissioner's message



The theme of this edition of Platypus – collaboration – demonstrates how the AFP works successfully with other law enforcement agencies and Government departments to detect and prevent crime.

In October, the AFP will celebrate its 30th anniversary.

Policing has changed considerably since the AFP was formed in 1979. The organisation has adapted well to changing priorities, and it is interesting to see how new and emerging technologies are impacting on modern-day policing.

The global financial crisis is likely to create a new set of challenges for the AFP both at home and internationally. The law enforcement community will need to be adaptive, responsive and agile to ensure that we continue to intercept and successfully prevent illegal activities in this challenging environment.

The Pacific Transnational Crime Network, an initiative of the AFP, is an example of how collaboration between policing organisations contributes to the growth of a truly global policing network.

Another AFP response to new and emerging crime has been the introduction of currency detection dogs. The dogs are trained in our state-of-the-art facilities, and complement the work already undertaken by the AFP's drug detection, and explosives and firearms detection dogs.

Providing further education opportunities for AFP staff members is a priority for the organisation, and I am pleased to note that the new iAspire online learning system is now available to all AFP members.

I would also like to bring your attention to National Missing Persons Week which will be held in August. This year, it has a particular focus on elderly missing persons who may be suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

This will be the first time that National Missing Persons Week will be held in conjunction with National Homeless Persons Week to highlight the problems faced by both missing and homeless people, and their families and friends.

As this 102nd edition of Platypus goes to print, you will be aware that I have announced my retirement from the AFP effective 2 September 2009.

This date coincides with my 35th anniversary in policing. It has been a privilege to lead the AFP and I am proud of the achievements of the men and women of the organisation.

**M J Keilty APM**  
Commissioner