

# Commissioner's message

Welcome to a special edition of Platypus magazine, celebrating 30 years of the Australian Federal Police. As part of those celebrations, we have changed the look of our magazine and we hope you enjoy reading about the work of the different areas of our organisation.

Many things have changed since the Commonwealth and ACT police joined forces in 1979 to create the AFP, but perhaps technological advances have had the most impact on our day-to-day business. This issue examines the history of crime scene investigation, and it is fascinating to remember how different things were in the days before computers and DNA profiling.

It also looks at how we use our expertise in the area of forensic science in an international context. Recently we sent Disaster Victim Identification experts to Papua New Guinea to help authorities investigating the deaths of 13 people in a plane crash near Kokoda. In providing this kind of assistance to our international partners, the AFP is able to strengthen ties with law enforcement agencies across the region.

This is an important element of our work, and the AFP is committed to building strong international relationships that protect Australian interests



while helping to maintain stability in our region. For several years the AFP has maintained a presence in the Pacific through programs such as the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands and our work in Timor-Leste. This edition of Platypus looks at the next stage of this involvement, through the Pacific Police Development Program.

It also examines the impact of terrorism on our operations over the past 30 years. Set up in the aftermath of the Sydney Hilton hotel bombing, the AFP was established to investigate crimes affecting the national interest. With several convictions now recorded as the result of our investigations,

countering terrorism continues to be a key priority for the AFP.

In celebrating 30 years of policing, we must also recognise the importance of our people to the success of the AFP as a whole. Across a broad range of geographic locations, and working in a wide variety of roles, the men and women of the AFP are dedicated to combating crime in all its forms. I am delighted to introduce some of them to you in this anniversary edition.

I am proud of the work they do, and honoured to be leading the AFP into the next phase of its history.

**T.W. Negus**  
**Commissioner**