

Commissioner's message

The impact of change on our every day lives can be enormous. We are living in an exciting era when new technologies are connecting us in ways that could not have been anticipated a decade ago. We are now online, in touch and in tune 24-hours-a-day.

But change can also be challenging. New technologies are being exploited by criminal networks to subvert justice and exploit vulnerable members of our community. From a law enforcement perspective, we need to stay one step ahead and develop new methodologies to address some of the issues created by the onset of the 21st century. This issue of Platypus examines some of the ways the AFP are achieving this, including the implementation of the improved RAPID system of number plate identification and the subsequent results of our ACT Policing traffic teams.

The Spectrum Program provides another example of how technology is making life much easier for police officers. There has been a great leap forward in our ability to use electronic systems to process the administrative aspects of our work, freeing up valuable

time for our members involved in investigations.

The globalised environment has also increased the need for closer relationships between international policing agencies. I recently had the pleasure of hosting the Pearls in Policing Conference in Sydney, the first time it has been held outside the Netherlands. This executive-level forum is designed to allow the free flow of ideas and concepts which has led to the development of new approaches in combating transnational crime.

Information and ideas can be shared in a variety of ways and in this issue, Platypus looks at how the AFP is working with educational institutions such as Charles Sturt University to develop best practice in policing. The article on the AFP's role in a recent course for Superintendent level officers in the Indian Police Service provides a real insight into the importance and benefits that these educational programs provide.

Finally, I am delighted to introduce you to the AFP's new headquarters. The heritage listed Edmund Barton Building was designed by the architect,

Harry Seidler and has been modified to meet environmental expectations, with a strong emphasis placed on minimising our carbon footprint.

Within Canberra's parliamentary precinct, our new home now provides for the majority of our functional business areas to be situated in the one building and truly demonstrates that we have come of age as an organisation.

T.W. Negus
Commissioner

