

Editor's Note

The AFP receives widespread and daily media coverage for its work. Prosecuting international cocaine syndicates, countering e-crime, fraud and terrorism often get the big headlines.

In this issue we continue in the same vein with coverage of the new AFP-led Criminal Assets Confiscation Taskforce. In union with the Australian Crime Commission, Australian Tax Office and the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions the Taskforce fights organised crime by intensively pursuing accumulated wealth.

But we also step outside the box to reveal a lesser known side of the AFP's work – the behind-the-scenes efforts and hidden skills of members involved in operational and community policing initiatives around the nation.

With the National Rugby League season well and truly underway, the work of the AFP in educating rugby league players about the pitfalls of using illicit drugs and social media sites deserves recognition. Its impact since 2007 has sparked interest from other sporting codes keen for similar programs.

Turning to Canberra, many non-sworn AFP members at ACT Policing Operations continue to dispatch critical information via the AFP radio network to officers on the beat or in patrol cars. Their work provides the backbone of a significant service.

In the Northern Territory, one AFP officer's role in the Federal Government's 2007 Indigenous 'Intervention' takes a different turn as he trains an athlete for Robert de Castilla's Indigenous Marathon Project.

In Queensland, AFP Operation Clement saw officers head to the state to assist their counterparts with the fallout from the floods, and later, Tropical Cyclone Yasi. Many members worked days off and during holiday leave, much as they did for the Victorian bushfires and during the New Zealand earthquake.

Finally, in this edition we highlight the pivotal support provided by the AFP's Bomb Appraisal Officers at Australia's 11 major airports. Their work in bomb detection and deterrence embodies the crucial behind-the-scenes work undertaken by many AFP members.

There's much about the AFP that's out of the box.

