



# Commissioner's Message

**T**HE theme chosen for this edition of *Platypus* is Automatic Data Processing. As you are aware ADP in its various applications is having an increasing influence on modern policing. It is in all our interests to gain a full understanding of the available systems in order that they may be used to their full potential.

The Government has recognized the importance of ADP systems to the AFP by providing \$7 million over the next three years. These funds will be spent on our information system which requires upgrading because of the huge demands being placed upon it. Information systems are however just the beginning; expansion of ADP applications in other areas such as communications and imagery enhancement should be included in our goals for the future.

I also wish to take this opportunity to address a different subject; that of superannuation. The current efforts to improve superannuation benefits available to members of the AFP have my complete support. The whole issue of pension justice and associated conditions of employment needs close examination and significant improvement. I am concerned not only that members obtain an adequate pension on retirement but also that the inequities associated with invalidity pensions be resolved. I do not, for example, believe a member should be forced into early retirement just because he or she is not capable of performing the full range of police duties. Many tasks requiring extensive police experience could be undertaken by a person who would, under today's circumstances, be lost to the force. If the Regulations need changing to allow this we should so proceed. I am sure many positions could be found for personnel, not 'fit' for the whole range of normal police tasks. I look forward to your comments on this and other issues in future editions of *Platypus* or other appropriate forums.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.A. Grey', written in a cursive style.

(R.A. Grey)  
Commissioner of Police