

Commissioner's Message



THE AFP has attained, through its eight years of operation, a place in the policing of Australia second to none, reflecting the reputation of the Force, both within the community and generally in Australia and overseas. Its reputation is one of honesty and integrity. The community feedback is that we have, through our various operational successes, achieved credibility with the public at large. This credibility is further enhanced by public awareness through the media of the general absence of corruption existing in the Australian Federal Police Force. The media coverage has been mixed — sometimes justified in criticism, often bordering on the mischievous but also at times fulsome in praise as for example in Mr Bob Bottom's new book, 'Connections II'. Regardless, the media does not, even in criticism, indicate a corrupt or venal group.

All history has been dominated by change; change is swift and startling in the scientific and technology areas, but the changes in our value system cause the most agony. Despite protestations that innovation is welcome, people in general and perhaps government bureaucracies and authorities in particular resist change to the bitter end. Change is often popular in concept, but uncomfortable in prac-

tice, an attitude which is deeply rooted in history and throughout our growth as a nation. One consequence is the inherent unpopularity of both change and authority. It is often thought more effective to attack the carrier of a new idea than the idea itself; the agents of change do come under sustained, intensified attacks.

Mere physical change manifested by a new building, a move to different areas or the introduction of better equipment generally does not alter the position; but when the change moves into the realm of ideas a wholly different impact follows. For example, the introduction of promotion and selection based on merit and mobility throughout the Force and not on "status" and years of service may well offend many. Old ideas die hard; those who actively resent change always dream that it would be better if they were calling the tune.

Effective allocation of manpower means staff transfers, not for the sake of change alone, but to best utilise individual skills and to develop greater versatility among officers whose careers have taken a narrower course.

Individuals must be prepared to forego the absolute dictation of their career path solely for their own personal satisfaction, if they wish to advance and avail them-

selves of the opportunity for development. Transfers within positions will, of course, be subject to compassionate grounds where such properly exist, with each considered on its respective merit — however transfer in a Federal organisation is a fact of life and vital to the long term promotional prospects of the individual. A true Federal Force can only function in an atmosphere where interchange is freely accepted and skills are uniformly distributed throughout all Regions. Progress can only be maintained through acceptance of a changing environment and a corresponding reaction to meet those additional demands.

The years ahead depend to a large degree on the enthusiasm and self-sacrifice each member is prepared to individually give to create a team effort to succeed in creating a professional and highly skilled Police Force.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.A. Grey'.

(R.A. Grey)
Commissioner of Police

Commissioner

I would like to thank you and your staff for your wonderful assistance and practical help during the Papal Visit.

The Captain of the Swiss Guards told us before he left Australia that the security and policing arrangements for Australia were the best he had experienced in his thirty-two visits with the Holy Father.

Please convey to all your men our sincere congratulations and thanks.

Monsignor Brian Walsh
National Director
Papal Visit 1986

Commissioner

With the closure of the ACT Papal Visit Office, one of the things outstanding is to convey to you our heartfelt thanks for all that was done by the Australian Federal Police for the Pope's personal safety and comfort, and for the comfort and convenience of the many thousands of people who attended the Papal Mass at the National Exhibition Centre on 24 November 1986. Those who planned the traffic and security arrangements and all those who were assigned for duties at and around the Centre are deserving of high commendation.

Pope John Paul II was delighted with

the arrangements and he has asked that his thanks be passed on to all those who contributed.

James Scholtens
Archdiocesan Director
ACT Papal Visit Office

Commissioner

Thank you for your support and cooperation over the past year.

In 1987 we will again be looking for your wholehearted support to ensure the success of our Bicentennial Year in 1988.

J.F. Kirk
Chairman
The Australian Bicentennial Authority