



Commissioners Message



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Picture by Tony Ashby.

The Platypus has been adopted by the Australian Federal Police as a symbol representing the diverse requirements placed upon members in the execution of their duty. This unique and tenacious little Australian mammal is a survivor against increasing pressure from today's environment. It leaves no stone unturned in its daily pursuits and has equipped itself with a range of features to adapt to changes over many years. It is capable of passing unnoticed, if required, yet demonstrates an unfailing dedication to explore all possibilities in an effort to maintain its special place in Australia's wildlife, at times against large and more powerful opponents — a quality admired and respected by members of the Australian Federal Police.



This issue of *Platypus* deals with our involvement over the years with the Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus.

Given that there will be a reunion of UNCIVPOL members in Sydney in October this year, it is an appropriate time to reflect on what has developed into an illustrious episode in the history of Australian Police Forces.

As far as the AFP is concerned, our international involvement is not, of course, confined to the peace-keeping role in Cyprus. As you are no doubt aware, we have twenty Overseas Liaison Officers based around the world and they are proving to be a highly effective element in our law enforcement program.

Quite clearly our members are establishing a very good reputation internationally. In recent months we have been called on to give advice to a number of overseas agencies, including the United Nations. We now have

officers serving in an advisory role in Thailand and a training role in Papua New Guinea and I am considering a number of requests from other countries in the South Pacific and South-East Asia.

For some time we have been addressing the possibility of having to send, at short notice, a relatively large contingent of police to assist the peace-keeping roles in foreign countries. To this end Deputy Commissioner Johnson has been examining some contingency plans. Even as I write this message, the Australian Government is considering an urgent request for us to provide such a force.

In all the circumstances, there is no doubt that our international responsibilities are becoming increasingly a very significant aspect of our on-going operations.

R. (Peter) McAulay
Commissioner of Police

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