

Commissioner's message



This edition of *Platypus* goes to press after police and emergency services across the nation, including the AFP, responded to one of the worst peace-time disasters that has ever occurred in Australia: the bushfires in Victoria.

The response to the Victorian bushfires has demonstrated the high levels of cooperation and interoperability which is increasingly required from modern policing services. The AFP works with a wide variety of government agencies, both here and overseas, and with the private sector, to ensure successful outcomes for its law enforcement operations. This issue of *Platypus*, our 101st, highlights some of our key achievements in 2008 and the interagency cooperation necessary to reach that success.

The Year in Review section in this issue of *Platypus* gives an interesting overview of the broad spectrum of law enforcement activities that the AFP undertakes.

Community events, protection duties for events such as the Olympic torch relay, general policing duties and overseas deployments for peacekeeping duties are just some of the activities that demonstrate the AFP's multifaceted approach to law enforcement.

The AFP, in collaboration with its national and international partners, plays a significant role in protecting children and young people from exploitation and preventing the viewing and dissemination

of child-abuse material. The outcome of investigations such as Operations Thuja, Irenic, Centurion and Resistance demonstrate the success of the AFP's response to this crime.

I would also like to record my admiration for all those who helped with the response to the Victorian bushfires. Those members who volunteered to go to the bushfire-affected areas did so at short notice and have done everything required of them. Their contribution, and that of other law enforcement and emergency services personnel who assisted, exemplified professionalism and dedication to duty. Assistance was not limited to those who travelled to Victoria. AFP staff members also sent several truck-loads of donated items to assist victims of the bushfires. I congratulate everyone for the contributions they made and for serving the affected communities in the best way possible.

As the AFP approaches its 30th anniversary in October, it is important to note that the history of the organisation includes the individual stories and experiences of the men and women of the AFP. This issue of *Platypus* contains the first of regular contributions from past

and present AFP members. I look forward to reading more of these stories in future editions.

On a final note, Deputy Commissioner National Security John Lawler has retired from the AFP to take up a new role as Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Crime Commission. On behalf of all AFP staff, I wish John well in his new role.

M J Keelty APM
Commissioner