

Editor's Note

Officer Rudi Lammers. Although unable to attend the investiture, Federal Agent Anthony Stafford's extraordinary experiences as a peacekeeper in the Solomon Islands appear on the following pages of Platypus.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the many AFP members whose hard work and persistence has ensured that our agency's Workforce Diversity Plan remains prominent in the community and effective in the workplace.

Their work to deliver support to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees was recognised at the recent Equity in Diversity Awards, where the AFP was ranked top public sector organisation for its professional delivery of service. Our Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer Network was also recognised, ranking second in the 'employee networks' category.

I am proud that the work of the AFP has – and will continue to be – appreciated by the community and within government.

T.W. Negus APM
Commissioner



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The AFP recently found itself involved in a familiar scenario.

A burgeoning list of responsibilities and a frequent need to coordinate resources spread throughout the capital signalled that it was time again to switch 'old HQ' for 'new HQ'.

While 7 April 2011 marked the official opening of its fourth National Headquarters, many AFP members had already been working to ensure that the changeover not only went smoothly, but that it brought with it the best of what had been started in its former home.

In this edition of Platypus we celebrate a vital element that has led to the early success of the AFP's latest major venture: celebrating the past and embracing the future. Throughout the following pages we cover the opening of the new building and hear from AFP senior management on the significant benefits that it has brought.

We also turn back the clock 31 years to when the AFP began its official peacekeeping role in the Pacific and how this involvement will be recorded in a major Australian War Memorial publication.

In a related article, recent Order of Australia Medal recipient Federal Agent Anthony Stafford shares an engrossing story of his time investigating serious offences in a destabilised Solomon Islands.

Finally, the recent wins for the AFP's Crime Program, instituted at its former headquarters, is also explored – and we delve deeper into the history of the AFP's Water Operations team.