

Commissioner's Message

As we head into the second half of the year, the AFP is in a strong position. Established in our new headquarters, we remain committed to delivering results for the Federal Government and the Australian community.

We continue to play a major role in the Commonwealth Government's reinvigorated focus on organised crime through its Organised Crime Strategic Framework and the National Organised Crime Response Plan. Our Crime Program has played a major part in this strategy and has gone on to be a key component in a national drive to disrupt transnational drug syndicates and other organised crime groups.

The Minister for Home Affairs and Justice, Brendan O'Connor, publically acknowledged our recent seizures of large amounts of cocaine and methamphetamine. Along with our interstate police partners, the AFP has contributed to a 30 per cent increase in drug seizures over 12 months.

The AFP's ongoing commitment has seen lasting damage inflicted on increasingly complicated transnational drug syndicates attempting to exploit Australia's borders. In this edition of Platypus, the AFP Crime Program and the successes of its Serious

and Organised Crime team are presented in more detail.

In keeping with the Government's overarching plan, our partnerships with state and territory police forces – among other groups – remain as crucial as ever.

Throughout May, the AFP has benefited from joint taskforce arrangements for illicit drug operations with the Western Australia Police, Queensland Police, Customs and Border Protection, and international partners including South and Central American law enforcement.

Meanwhile, our commitment to apprehending high-tech criminals remains a prime objective. Only this month the AFP uncovered an online network that had allegedly been sharing child abuse images, charging 11 men in a nationwide operation. The AFP also identified two children at risk during the operation and removed them from harm.

In the March edition, I announced that many AFP members had been recognised at the 2011 Australia Day awards. Since that time, several have been presented their medals by Governor General Quentin Bryce and more still have received Queens Birthday Honours.

I was delighted to receive the news that former Commissioner Mick Keelty, Assistant Commissioner and National Manager High Tech Crime Operations Neil Gaughan, Senior Liaison Officer New Delhi Commander Dick Moses and former National Coordinator Protection Intelligence Superintendent Barry Corrigan all received Queens Birthday honours.

Former Commissioner Keelty received an Officer of the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to national and international law enforcement, while Assistant Commissioner Gaughan was given an Australian Police Medal for his long-standing commitment to fighting technology-enabled crime.

Commander Moses received an Australian Police Medal for distinguished service to policing in the international arena, while Superintendent Corrigan received the same award for his service to protection intelligence.

A full list of Queens Birthday recipients will appear in the next issue of Platypus.

In April, three AFP members officially received their Australia Day honours at an investiture ceremony in Canberra, including ACT Chief Police Officer Roman Quaedvlieg and Chief Information

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



Editor's Note

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.