



# Bali remembered

When the Bali bombs exploded on 12 October, 2012, Detective Superintendent Michael Kelsey was just 500m from the Sari Club. He and the then Senior Liaison Officer, Glen McEwen, were in Bali to discuss three criminal investigations with their Indonesian counterparts and other AFP staff.

“We could actually feel the shock wave from the bomb when it hit the restaurant we were meeting in,” Federal Agent Kelsey says. “We could feel the building shudder and vibrate. I experienced the Jakarta Embassy bombing as well but the Bali bomb was worse.”

Just 20 minutes later the two Federal Agents were running up Poppy’s Lane to the bomb site.

“There were people streaming away from the bomb site as we were heading toward it, many of whom were injured and bleeding. There was shattered glass literally all over the ground, obviously from the shock wave from the bomb. When we got to the actual scene it was chaotic.

“There were still flames in the Sari Club and Paddy’s Bar across the road. There were literally hundreds of people around the scene, a lot of whom had suffered injuries, non-life-threatening cuts and abrasions, bumps and bruises and that type of thing. When we got to the Sari Club it was a mess and there was just a lot of chaos and pandemonium.”

For three hours Federal Agents Kelsey and McEwen assisted. The two agents later returned to the Australian Consulate about 2am to file reports. Later that morning, Superintendent Kelsey says, the then AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty telephoned. “He basically said ‘How can we help’ and offered as much as he could give.”