



Commissioner's message

Identity crime is a rapidly increasing problem within contemporary society that costs the Australian community about \$1.4 billion each year. It is also a fundamental enabler to all other crime types as criminals seek to disguise their identities from law enforcement and the people they hope to exploit.

This edition of AFP Platypus Magazine highlights that the September 11 terrorists had amassed 364 false names between them in order to perpetrate their acts against innocent people.

Increasingly sophisticated networks of criminals continue to use identity crime as an enabler to other crimes such as the drug trade and human trafficking to money laundering and, as mentioned above – terrorism. Tellingly, the explosives used in the Bali bombings were shipped to Bali using false identity documents.

Platypus unpacks the complex web of technology, techniques and practices of identity crime in the major feature article for this edition of the magazine.

This edition also highlights the significant success of the SK Foods litigation under Australia's *Proceeds of Crime Act* legislation. The conviction of a Californian tomato grower on tax fraud and racketeering offences in the United States led to the demise of his companies in America and Australia.

This case presented the AFP with a challenging litigation to restrain a \$50 million surplus after the sale of the Australian company to reimburse creditors. The successful litigation reinforces the key message that the AFP will pursue corporate criminals and remove their assets.

The 50-year contribution to Cyprus by Australian law enforcement is also recognised in this edition. In May 1964, 40 police officers drawn from across Australian jurisdictions deployed in what was an historic first for Australian police – that of a peacekeeping role.

Australian police have been there with the Cypriot people through challenging times. The article highlights the amazing first-person accounts of police officers who have served with the mission.

This year also marks the 20th anniversary of the AFP's deployment to Mozambique in March 1994 to help bring to a close the many years of civil war that all but destroyed the country.

Finally, Platypus also reports on the release last year of an important document that captures the invaluable collective experience of Australian police on overseas missions.

The new doctrine detailed in the Strategic Framework for Police Development will support the AFP International Deployment Group in improving security, stability and governance in our region and beyond.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Platypus.

Commissioner TW Negus