

Commissioner's message



As another year draws to a close, I am proud and humbled by the diversity of the AFP's work, and the results we've achieved. As a responsive and agile agency, the AFP's ability to respond to new and emerging priorities in Australia and around the world means our members are often asked to help in a variety of ways.

This year, our specialist divers were part of the international effort to save a Thai soccer team trapped in a flooded cave system. Their resilience in the face of overwhelming odds, their ability to work in partnership with Thai authorities and other partners, and their bravery in undertaking an exceptionally risky rescue, demonstrates the best of the AFP to Australia and the rest of the world.

Our partnerships are our strength, and this is again highlighted in this year's Platypus Annual. As part of the Home Affairs Portfolio, through our international network, and in supporting APEC in Papua New Guinea, the AFP continues to actively engage with the international law enforcement community and relevant partner agencies. As part of Australia's national security framework and through our local and international work, the AFP will continue to serve our community to ensure its ongoing safety now, and into the future.

One of the areas we continue to add value is through innovation, upholding an ongoing tradition that is recognised in this annual with the story of the Polilight; an invention that has changed the face of forensic science and transformed modern day policing. It all started with a good idea; and today we continue to seek out new ways to do business and improve outcomes. This is reflected in much of the work we've been doing to prepare our agency for the law enforcement landscape of the future.

But in reflecting on how we have grown, it is important to remember that the core focus of our work has not changed. It's been nearly 40 years since the Hilton Hotel bombing, which resulted in the formation of the Australian Federal Police in 1979.

Our core values of integrity, excellence, respect, accountability, commitment, fairness and trust, remain the bedrock of who we are as an organisation, and are reflected in the achievements of our members.

The 2018 Platypus Annual reflects on the different ways we serve – from providing support to the International War Crimes Tribunal to supporting our neighbours in Solomon Islands strengthen their justice system. This work can take its toll, and I would like to recognise the high price some of our members pay to serve their communities.

In celebrating our achievements this year, I also acknowledge the work we are continuing to ensure we reflect the diversity of the community we serve, and the health of our members.

I look forward to another year of progress and partnerships, and hope you enjoy reading this annual as much as I have. From all of us in the AFP family, stay safe during the Christmas holiday period, and have a prosperous 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Colvin'.

Commissioner Andrew Colvin APM OAM