

From the CEO



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World-wide concerns about the protection of the environment, and the contribution of the Australian Customs Service in protecting and maintaining Australia's unique flora and fauna, feature in this issue of *Manifest*.

Cooperation and work carried out by Customs for its client agencies enables Australia to benefit both environmentally and economically. Customs National Marine Unit and Coastwatch are major contributors to this work.

While maintaining the environment is important, so too is the ability to maintain the integrity of Customs administrations throughout the world. This theme is taken up in articles dealing with Australian Customs work on World Customs Organisation task forces and the work on cargo management re-engineering.

A common thread in several articles is the importance of cooperation between Customs agencies throughout the world. Another article makes the point that information and intelligence sharing between not only Customs administrations, but also law-enforcement agencies, helps in the constant battle against illegal activities and international crime syndicates.

The success of Customs procedures comes to the fore in the final report on the Olympics, just as the success of the National Maritime Museum interactive Customs exhibition has proved that the work of Customs is of great community interest. The celebration of Australian

Federation continues with an article about the Father of Federation Sir Henry Parkes.

The diversity of Customs responsibilities has also interested the new Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Chris Ellison. A profile of Senator Ellison is included in this issue.

Finally, a rewarding chapter in recent Customs work is the recognition of the Customs contingent to East Timor. I am delighted with the award of a Public Service Medal to a Customs officer for his, and his team's, contribution to the efforts in rebuilding East Timor.