

# Fighting crime at the local, national and international level

By Commissioner Mick Keelty



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*The topics covered in this edition of Platypus reflect the AFP's diverse law enforcement roles and responsibilities at the local, national and international level, and are indicative of the flexibility needed to respond to the changing criminal environment.*

In a paper prepared for the Police Executive Leadership Program, Federal Agent Tony Negus considers the future directions for police leadership.

He demonstrates that traditional notions of police leadership and management, which hark back to policing's hierarchical, military roots, are being challenged by innovative and flexible styles that embrace new ideals and concepts.

Looking at these same issues in the context of community policing, Chief Police Officer for the Australian Capital Territory John Murray considers the value of these traditions in a modern community policing environment.

The article explores the importance of forming consultative relationships with the community and developing the 'right' police for our community policing role.

At a national level, Federal Agent Steve Jackson

examines the threat posed by West African organised crime syndicates, which has emerged as an issue requiring a coordinated, collaborative approach from law enforcement agencies.

The article follows on from a conference on West African crime hosted by the AFP in Perth last year, and explores the extent and character of West African organised criminal activity in Australia.

Also on the national law enforcement front, we have reprinted a speech presented by Deputy Commissioner John Davies at the Combating Wildlife Crime in the 21st Century Conference in December last year.

His speech outlines the AFP's strategic approach to combating environmental crime. He explains the AFP's role in the protection of the environment and acknowledges the benefits of inter-agency cooperation in tackling environmental crime.

Federal Agent Paul Osborne, the AFP's Senior Liaison Officer in Bangkok, gives us an insight into the AFP's international role with an account of the recent activities undertaken by the post in Thailand.

As the central hub for coordination of the AFP's international liaison function in South East Asia, the Bangkok post is one of the busiest overseas posts and is an intrinsic element in the AFP's 'front line' fight against transnational crime.

The AFP is also involved in a number of long-term cooperative projects and training initiatives in the South East Asia region, including the US Department of Justice's International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA).

Federal Agent Richard Terry has recently returned from his secondment to the ILEA in Thailand, and his article expands our understanding of both the aims of the Academy and the AFP's role in contributing to this training initiative.

Finally, I might mention that the AFP will this year co-host Australia's first international women and policing conference in Canberra in October. The conference presents an excellent opportunity for law enforcement professionals to come together and share their views on current and future trends facing women and policing.

Further details on the conference can be found in this edition of our journal.