

A subtle change to bring a significant impact

By Commissioner Mick Keelty



A subtle, but important change to the AFP's vision statement that was launched at the May senior executive service meeting should have a significant impact on the AFP's internal and external focus.

The vision: "To fight crime together and win" carries with it the message that regardless of what role any particular employee undertakes, the core business is fighting crime, but we must have regard for each other in doing so.

The addition of the word *together* reflects the AFP's focus on partnerships and these occur inside organisation and with our external stakeholders. Partnership is about looking after each other's interests and that is a practice that I am encouraging and supporting. The concept of partnerships is reflected in many of the articles in this edition of our journal.

A paper presented at the Cyber Sabotage 2002 conference held in Sydney in May argued for 'real partnerships' between government and industry in order to combat cyber sabotage. In essence, it is a statement that there is a need to work together to solve these problems and that there is a role for all those involved.

Partnerships, to some degree, exist in most aspects of police work and the comments offered by Mr Ted Quinlan, the ACT Minister for Policing, to the graduating class on March 25 implored the graduates: "At all times . . . to project yourselves into the shoes of those you serve. The community is your partner in solving and preventing crime."

Preventing and detecting crime is only part of the cycle of policing. In March, I delivered a presentation based on Australian Proceeds of Crime legislation and practices to the International Crime Conference held in Hong Kong. Transnational organised crime groups count on the dysfunction between jurisdictions regionally and internationally in the hope that they will not be pursued either

because of complexity or time.

The AFP has demonstrated its commitment to regional and international partnerships through its overseas liaison officer network. This is a network that grows increasingly important in monitoring international crime impacting on Australia. Intelligence gathered through overseas partnerships enables investigators to react swiftly when crime crosses our borders. Federal Agent Andrew Warton in *The changing tide of people smuggling* gives a first-hand perspective on the investigative challenge of such a crime.

The range and depth of the AFP's work is also demonstrated in this edition of *Platypus Magazine* with a strong central theme on the role technology has to play in all aspects of the AFP – an idea thoroughly explored in the article titled *Less emphasis on the holster, more emphasis on the head*. This article provides a snapshot of current and emerging technology available to the AFP.

Similarly, technology and its application to crime prevention and crime investigation is covered in articles on our role in the provision of security at CHOGM and our role at the 16th International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences held in Canberra in mid May.

An organisation risks becoming irrelevant if does not regularly take a critical look at itself. Federal Agent Luke Cornelius in challenging the relevance of the AFP's mascot also challenges the relevance of the AFP. He first accuses the platypus of being an impostor, and then he casts doubt on its viability in the modern world, but follows with a disclosure of a little-known attribute that may allow us to leave the masthead of this magazine unchanged.

