

Commissioner's Message



A quality team comprises quality individuals. We all play a unique and valuable role in the AFP's response to incidents whether they are at home or abroad. Our people have been tested time and again in our response capacity and relationship building, and always demonstrate the highest commitment.

As we go to print, the AFP has been called to Timor-Leste in an advisory capacity following an outbreak of civil disorder. While events in the region will be covered in more detail as they unfold, at this early stage I can reflect positively on the fact we have been able to provide the Australian Government with a swift and capable response.

In similar circumstances, members responded to unrest in the Solomon Islands recently, and with pride I witnessed first-hand their commitment, dedication and professionalism in dealing with an extremely difficult and dangerous situation. This edition of *Platypus Magazine* features an overview of the Honiara riots, with a particular focus on the importance of the intervention mission in helping the region through these times of uncertainty.

The AFP serves the Australian community on many fronts and I am pleased to see many of these diverse areas highlighted in this edition. Importantly, each and every

AFP member, sworn and unsworn, plays a valuable role in meeting the challenges of serving the Australian – and international – community.

A fine example of the impact one individual can have is illustrated in an article about the reunion between former AFP officer Jack Thurgar and a Greek Cypriot farmer whose life Jack saved in 1979. On its own this is a moving story, however I draw your focus to the greater significance of what it highlights. As police, we come across unexpected events from time to time which call upon our personal strength and in some cases, bravery. The importance of our bearing upon members of the community can never be overlooked, and I would emphasise to all members of the AFP the potential you have to change a person's life.

A quality team comprises quality individuals and I am proud of the team that is the AFP.

MJ Keelty, APM