

Commissioner's Message



The first half of 2007 has been one of the most challenging in the history of the AFP. While the organisation has achieved some of its best operational results and undertaken a significant executive restructure to ensure its continued success into the future, at the same time the difficulties associated with a policing career have touched us all.

It was a severe blow in March with the loss of Federal Agent Mark Scott and Commander Brice Steele in the Yogyakarta air crash and again with the loss of Assistant Commissioner Audrey Fagan towards the end of April.

Assistant Commissioner Fagan had a truly stellar police career in which she scaled professional and academic heights, while maintaining a personal and caring touch with everyone she met in the course of her duties. She will be missed by all at the AFP, but her contribution to the development of our organisation will never be forgotten.

We have dedicated this edition of *Platypus Magazine* to Audrey who was a great friend to all of us in the AFP Executive. It is also timely to recognise that the AFP has an established Wellbeing Services program. It is a program built upon years of experience both at home and abroad.

As interim ACT Chief Police Officer, Assistant Commissioner Andy Hughes has undertaken to continue many of the sound initiatives Assistant Commissioner Fagan introduced to meet the ACT community's policing needs and these are progressing well.

At the national level, 2007 has been a busy year operationally, with some notable achievements particularly by the AFP's International Network. This has included our involvement in key investigations and arrests overseas as well as the elevation of the AFP's status with the South-East Asian Nations Chiefs of Police (ASEANAPOL) from observer to dialogue partner.

We were afforded similar status with Europol earlier this year. We should not take this form of recognition lightly. It is an

honour for the AFP to be afforded such status with organisations that are selective in their partnerships and especially considering that Australia is neither a member of the Association of South East Asian Nations nor the European Union.

Domestically, it has also been a strong year on the investigations front in areas such as illicit drug trafficking, counter terrorism and identity theft. The organisation has also been focused on preparations for APEC security and planning is well under way for the AFP International Conference to be held in Canberra in November. More than 500 delegates from around the world are expected to attend this important event to consider challenges of the future under the theme, *International Policing: Toward 2020*.

2007 has also seen us implement a revised organisational structure to handle the ever increasing demands on the AFP, a restructure that I believe will better position the organisation to deal with its diverse range of roles and responsibilities well into the future. Details of these changes are outlined in *Platypus Magazine*.

Importantly, a new Collective Agreement that will see the AFP through to 2011 was also endorsed by our membership in April and the agreement is already working to provide a stable and practical operational base for the years ahead.

Mick Keelty APM

AFP Commissioner