

The AFP is making history day by day



With the AFP approaching its 30th anniversary in October 2009, a project is underway to capture the three decades of AFP history in a concise and readily accessible format.

Recognition and Ceremonial is driving the project in its role as guardian of the AFP's customs and traditions. Team Leader for the project is Terry Browne, who has worked in a variety of AFP public relations and media liaison capacities since 1984 and has had a long-time interest in collecting the AFP's history.

Mr Browne's commitment to recording the AFP's history was last seen in the 2004 publication of *Beyond the Call*, a pictorial history of the AFP's first 25 years.

"With the 30th anniversary swiftly approaching, I'm committed to collecting as much of the AFP's operational and corporate history as possible and to get it

into a single ready-reference format.

"Along with the facts, figures, places and dates, I am also after the personal stories that go with the job. These are the stories that make up the AFP's heart and soul and are stories that have been rarely, if ever, written down.

"Over the years I have heard some amazing accounts of individual experiences in the job and it is crucial that these are captured," he said.

"I am extremely lucky to have access to the unique collection of the Australian Federal Police Museum in Canberra. The AFP Museum, which has been operating since 1993, has been doing a fantastic job of collecting and maintaining the information and artefacts which form the substance of the AFP's history.

"While the Museum has lost its display

area in the ongoing competition for office space, when you see the vast number of objects, images and documents that have been donated to the Museum you realise that behind each mission, investigation or event there are enormous number of personal stories that underpin the AFP's successes," he said.

Mr Browne says there is so much for AFP members to be proud of when it comes to their own corporate history. However, he is concerned that where history is unrecorded or not easily accessible, it will be lost.

"While the AFP's facts and figures can be found by research, I am keenly seeking those current and former members willing to give me a personal account of what took place from their point of view. I am looking for those personal stories that when told will make AFP members stand a little taller and expand their chests a little wider," he said.

This includes stories concerning international liaison, peacekeeping, national investigations, ACT Policing, protective service and the roles played by support staff.

"History is a living thing – it exists alongside contemporary events and is created daily. What is news today, is history tomorrow, but only if it is captured in an accessible form," he said.

Former or current members wanting to discuss contributions to the project can contact Mr Browne at:

<terry.browne@afp.gov.au>.