

Commissioner's message



This issue of *Platypus* is a special one. The progress of the AFP's magazine from its humble beginnings in 1979 to the internationally recognised corporate publication it is today, is a reflection on how far the organisation has come. As we celebrate 100 editions of *Platypus* it is timely to remember not just its practical value as a vehicle of corporate communication but its legacy as a historical record documenting how the AFP has evolved to meet the challenge of change—change in the world, public policy, community expectations and patterns of crime.

In mirroring the many phases of AFP development, *Platypus* has helped to brand its highly adapted namesake into the organisation's psyche. Over time notions that the magazine was named after a boat or a colloquial reference to 'flat-footed' police-on-the-beat have given way to a more fitting analogy of a tenacious resourceful animal that quietly goes about its business.

Similarly the AFP can draw comparisons with the furry monotreme, as it achieves quiet success while maintaining a serious capability to rise to any challenge.

In this commemorative 'looking forward, looking back' edition, former commissioners, ministers and editors alike pay tribute to *Platypus*'s origins, influences and evolution. An overview of editions 1–99 highlights not so much a chronological history of the AFP but the chequered parade of themes and events that have graced the pages of *Platypus*.

Lessons of the past, exemplified by the courage of Australian troops on the Kokoda track, are revisited in an article that looks at incorporating historical wisdom into future executive leadership programs.

From this linchpin story about an arduous trek I had the privilege of participating on earlier in the year, the spotlight pans to subjects that illustrate where the AFP is benefiting from innovation and collaboration—the outstanding success of *Operation Inca*, international training milestones and leaps in internet crime-fighting to name a few.

This edition also features the ever-widening ripples of partnership that the AFP is generating in its fight against crime without borders. From personal friendships to study exchanges, regional training and inter-agency cooperation on investigations to being a major contributor to United Nations peacekeeping efforts, the AFP knows it can't fight a good fight alone.

Finally, the magazine closes on a light-hearted note showing its extraordinary reach. From Hollywood actors to leaders of small nations, *Platypus* promises to throw open a window on a force to be reckoned with.

I hope you thoroughly enjoy the 100th edition of *Platypus* and make good use of the commemorative CD indexing its contents from Edition 1–100.

M J Keelty APM
Commissioner

