

Congratulations roll in

A succession of ministers has stood at the helm of the AFP since its inception in 1979 and as a consequence appeared in the pages of *Platypus*. Their appreciation of the magazine and its contribution as the official record of the AFP is reflected in the tributes below.

Message from the Minister



Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon. Bob Debus

During my time as Minister I've been extremely impressed by the professionalism and innovation shown by the AFP both here and overseas, a view expressed to me regularly by many people I speak to. Recent major operations like *Operations Centurion* and *Inca* have also reminded the public that the AFP is one of the best police forces in the world.

Congratulations to *Platypus* on reaching this milestone, it's a valuable publication for the organisation and a good motivation for members to see their personal and group successes in print. Keep up the good work.

Tributes from former ministers



Senator the Hon. David Johnston

Changes in the way we read our news, inform, communicate and carry out traditions, make the continuance of *Platypus* as a print publication particularly significant. One hundred editions of any corporate publication is a milestone—more so if that publication is the longest running public service corporate magazine still in print.

As a minister in the previous government I recognised that as well as the critical role of the AFP abroad—in counter terrorism, drug seizure international crime, peacekeeping and other operations—the work of the AFP here at home receives great public attention and support. Operations such as the Emergency Response Plan to protect Aboriginal children in the Northern Territory, recently confirmed to be strengthened and most likely continued by the current Government, internet security and significant drug investigations receive extensive mainstream reporting.

Platypus provides essential additional information to your wide and varied readership on the many initiatives and achievements of the AFP, and for these, and your 100th edition, I offer my hearty congratulations.



Senator the Hon. Chris Ellison

Congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the publication of the 100th edition of *Platypus* magazine.

It has been my privilege to have been the longest serving minister with responsibility for the AFP, and to have worked closely with many good people including the Commissioner Mick Keely.

The period from 2001 to 2007 saw, I believe, some of the most significant changes to the AFP and indeed nationally to law enforcement. Not only did the AFP budget triple in that time but staff at home and overseas doubled. However it was not just about numbers. Post 2001 we saw the AFP take a central role in counter terrorism at home and abroad and initiatives such as the Australian High Tech Crime Centre, the Online Child Sexual Exploitation Task Force and measures to counter people smuggling and trafficking, all expanded the AFP's more traditional role of fighting illicit drugs. During this time, the Australian Crime Commission was also set up with Commissioner Keely as chairman.

Internationally we saw the AFP play a crucial role especially in maintaining stability in neighbouring countries such as East Timor and the Solomon Islands.

The amalgamation of the AFP and the Australian Protective Service also gave the AFP greater coverage especially in aviation security. I commend the work of each and every officer within the AFP and the important work *Platypus* does in providing vital information to its readers.



The Hon. Amanda Vanstone

Congratulations to everyone involved in *Platypus* for achieving the 100th edition. The men and women of the AFP will always have a special place in my heart.

Mick Palmer was the commissioner during my time as minister. His reforms and the increase in funding formed the basis that allowed the AFP to grow into what it is today.

I often thought the men and women in the AFP didn't get the media credit they deserved and it is typical of their service mentality that they didn't seek it. All I would ask Australians to think is this: what if it was your son or daughter working undercover to stop thousands of hits of filthy drugs hitting our streets; or accepting babies over a barbed wire fence into the protection of the UN compound in East Timor; or walking and walking the streets of Bangkok on the slimmest chance that you could match a street scene in a photograph from a hotel window to the actual street and thereby help put a child pornographer on trial.

How proud you would be. How proud we all should be.



**The Hon.
Daryl Williams
AM QC**

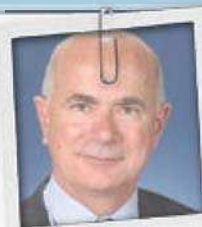
Congratulations to the Australian Federal Police and to *Platypus* for reaching this impressive milestone.

In my years as Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, I saw the AFP develop rapidly from a largely domestic-focused service to a formidable and highly respected force in national and international policing.

Since the emergence of national security as a front-line issue for Australia, the AFP has established itself as a crucial line of defence.

It has worked closely with the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation and established effective relationships with police and security agencies around the world, including the Indonesian police in our own South-East Asian region.

The AFP is now a vital, independent organ of Australian government and I am confident that it will continue to deliver the highest quality service in the name of Australian safety and security.



**The Hon.
Duncan Kerr
SC MP**

May I congratulate *Platypus* on reaching its 100th edition.

My time in office as Minister for Justice (1993–96) covered a period which took in the final year in office of former commissioner Peter McAulay AO QPM and the appointment of Commissioner Mick Palmer AO APM as his replacement in 1994. Both men deserve much credit for the way in which the AFP has continued to evolve—from a smaller force often maligned by those outside its ranks as lacking the ‘real’ police functions of their state counterpart agencies—into a professional organisation which, notwithstanding any occasional criticisms, is undoubtedly Australia’s pre-eminent national law enforcement agency. I recall in particular the changes to the rank system which were introduced with the support of the Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) and Commissioner Palmer in 1996. That involved the then controversial decision to identify all sworn AFP as ‘federal agents’.

My time as Justice Minister also saw the beginnings of growth in the role of the AFP in providing front-line assistance for overseas operations. I have been proud to visit AFP peacekeeping teams in Cambodia and Cyprus. It also saw the consolidation of the idea that the AFP must have an overseas presence in parts of the world where cooperation with other law enforcement agencies is important. I wish all serving and past AFP officers well and commend *Platypus* for being a vehicle for sharing their experiences and making their important work known.



**The Hon.
Michael Tate AO**

One of the treasured mementos of my time as Minister is a heavy bronze platypus presented to me on my retirement. It is a constant reminder of the *Platypus* magazine and I am very happy to congratulate all those involved in its 100 editions so far.

There were very significant changes in the structure and operational reach of the AFP during my time which led to occasional robust exchanges with the AFPA! Perhaps my most interesting contribution was to foster the placement of AFP officers in our embassies overseas gathering information on those targeting Australia for various nefarious criminal activities.

All the best for the next 100 editions of the magazine charting the contemporary history of the AFP.

Tributes from former commissioners



**Major General
Ron Grey
(AFP
Commissioner
1983–88)**

It was evident from an early stage that the AFP needed effective communication, both internal and external, embracing all levels with a free exchange of ideas, attitudes and general information.

It is vital for all to be kept informed. Hence a special congratulations to staff and indeed all those involved with *Platypus*, both now and in the past, on reaching its first ‘century’. As a journal, it has brought an understanding of the breadth and diversity of the AFP. The years of articles, photographs, letters and vignettes are a testament to a vibrant police community.

The editors and production staff can look with pride at their achievement.



**Mick Palmer AO APM
(AFP Commissioner 1994–2001)**

At the time of my retirement from the AFP in March 2001, the then AFP Media and Public Relations

Team, headed by Steve Jiggins, presented me with two bound copies of *Platypus* magazines (Vol. 43–70 inclusive) that were published during my time as commissioner.

When Commissioner Mick Keelty recently invited me to provide a short personal recollection of my time in office for publication in the 100th edition I went back to my bound *Platypus* copies to refresh my memory of events.

Platypus is a wonderful chronicle of the history, development and achievements of the AFP and its people. Through its national and international distribution, *Platypus* has become the official record of the organisation and a genuine journal of reference not only for the AFP but for law enforcement more broadly.

My seven years with the AFP were the most challenging, exciting and fulfilling in my 35-year police career. While there are many issues and events that will forever remain in my memory, a review of *Platypus* editions 43–70 refreshed several that, for me, were of particular significance.

These editions of *Platypus* magazine are replete with accounts of challenge and achievement, presenting a testament to the quality of the people that are the AFP.

I congratulate *Platypus* on reaching its 100th edition milestone and the people of the AFP for their continuing success and commitment in difficult and dangerous law enforcement times.

I continue to watch progress and events with quiet pride and look forward to the opportunity to celebrate edition 200.

I wish Commissioner Mick Keelty and the men and women of the AFP every success for the future.