

# Commissioner's message

This month marks my first anniversary as Commissioner of the AFP. During the past year I have been fortunate to be able to travel to several of our overseas posts and visit AFP regional offices across Australia. It is an honour to lead such a dynamic and effective police force and to meet the men and women who play such an integral role to our success.

Some of these members are featured in this issue of Platypus magazine, which focuses on the geography of the AFP. Not only on our physical presence in places like The Hague and Singapore, but also how we fit into Australia's law enforcement landscape through cooperation with our partner agencies.

Our work with State and Territory police counterparts through the National Missing Persons Coordination Centre is a good example. The recent success of this year's National Missing Persons Week shows how important this work is in helping to reduce the number of people who go missing, and in working with families to help alleviate some of the impacts caused by the disappearance of a loved one.

The AFP is also committed to working with our international partners to ensure security and stability in our region. The recent success of democratic elections in the Solomon Islands is a tribute to the countries involved in the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI). Through sharing knowledge and expertise, and displaying an understanding of the complex and difficult challenges faced by the people of the Solomon Islands, RAMSI has helped to bring about stability, peace and the rule of law.

Being part of that mission is a rewarding experience for our members and reflects the AFP's ongoing contribution to peace and stability missions around the world.

We also travel a little closer to home, with an article providing an insight into the work being done by our community police officers in the Australian Capital Territory. The Criminal Investigations arm of ACT Policing is an essential part of the work being done to ensure the safety and security of Canberra residents, and is as integral to community policing as patrolling the beat.

It can be easy to forget just how diverse and varied the AFP's work is. Members have the opportunity to undertake any number of career paths, all of which provide exciting and rewarding experiences along the way. This issue of Platypus provides a glimpse into some of those roles, as well as the challenges and rewards experienced by the men and women who undertake them.

**T.W. Negus APM**  
**Commissioner**

