

Commissioner's message



It has been another busy and productive year for the AFP, one spent reinvigorating our operational capabilities and improving the way we work with our partner agencies, both in Australia and overseas.

The previous edition of Platypus detailed some of the significant operational successes achieved by the AFP during 2010. We have continued to work with our partner agencies to combat criminal activity. This includes a joint investigation with Customs and Border Protection, NSW Police and Queensland Police to dismantle a cocaine smuggling operation on Queensland's south coast. In all, 464kg of cocaine was seized, the third largest cocaine haul in Australian history with a potential street value of more than \$160 million.

The AFP has also continued to build and consolidate relationships with our international partners. I recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Secretary of Pakistan's Ministry of Narcotics Control, Tariq Khosa, at the AFP's national headquarters in Barton.

While this particular MoU focuses on drug crime, enhanced transnational cooperation between law enforcement agencies is critical in identifying and countering all matters of associated crime.

In the following pages you will also read about our significant contribution toward the Commonwealth Games in India. Not only were the Games free from terrorist incident, the event also enabled us to build on our growing relationships with the Indian Police Service and other Indian law enforcement agencies. We also worked closely with our Commonwealth counterparts from Britain, Canada and New Zealand, and our members in New Delhi hosted several high-profile visits, including Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex.

This year we have hosted a number of events which have helped to identify and prioritise the issues affecting our ability to effectively combat criminal activity. These include the High Tech Crime Conference held in Sydney in September and the biennial Virtual Global Taskforce conference in December.

The AFP is also gaining international recognition for the work we do across a number of fields.

The 2009 National Missing Persons Week campaign won the prestigious Silver Dolphin award at Cannes, while closer to home the ACT Policing arm of the AFP was also recognised for its *drink-drive*

radio commercial at the Australian Commercial Radio Awards.

I would personally like to congratulate all those involved in raising awareness of these issues across the community. I would also like to mention AFP National Managers Kevin Zuccato and Frank Predergast, who earlier this year were honoured with Australian Police Medals at Government House in Canberra.

Finally, the achievements of many of our members will be highlighted during a new television series set to air on Channel Nine early in the New Year. The series *AFP* provides an insight into the diverse and difficult work this organisation deals with on a daily basis.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you, your families and your community a safe, happy and prosperous festive season and New Year.

T W Negus APM
Commissioner