



# 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary creates a busy social year

By Terry Browne, AFP History, Traditions and Museum

A member for each year was assembled in front of AFP Headquarters for a photograph to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.





AFP Museum curator Chris Cranston displays an anniversary quilt when interviewed by a press gallery member at Parliament House in Canberra. *Image courtesy of AAP.*



Senior Officer Kuala Lumpur Post Superintendent Jason Byrnes, retired AFP Superintendent Mick Jarratt, and Royal Malaysia Police Senior Assistant Commissioner Datuk join in cutting the Kuala Lumpur anniversary cake.

The AFP's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year produced a variety of events that included formal dinners, morning teas, reunions and displays to acknowledge the pride that current and former members have in the success of the AFP over the past four decades.

Most events took place during September, October or November 2019, clustered around the anniversary date of 19 October. However, there was one project that demanded a long lead time, so it began in late 2018.

A call-out was made in November 2018 to AFP members and friends by the AFP Museum for assistance in creating a commemorative quilt. The responses were rapid, numerous and enthusiastic, resulting in the need to produce four quilts to accommodate the magnitude of the interest shown.

The quilts were displayed in public for the first time at the 2019 Australasian Council of Women and Policing Conference held in Canberra in early September. They then appeared at the AFP Legacy Ball at Parliament House, followed by the Brisbane Office Ball.

## Morning teas and the cutting of cakes

Many AFP locations opted for a simple anniversary morning tea and a cake cutting ceremony. Photographs of such ceremonies began arriving for publication in early October as the spirit of the anniversary began to spread.

## '40 years, 40 members' commemorative photo

Also in September, a group photograph was organised in front of the 'AFP Globe' at headquarters. The group was a mix of serving sworn and unsworn members representing the unique year in which they joined the AFP, the earliest being Steve Turnbull from 1979 through to a 2019 starter Simon Smith.

## In Federation Mall

At the same time as the AFP Legacy Ball was being set up in the Great Hall at Parliament House, a mini AFP exhibition was staged at the edge of the Parliament House forecourt. Teams



Assisting with the AFP Headquarters festivities were the AFP's current longest serving member Sergeant Peter Theodore and AFP recruit trainee Grace Gopez.



Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom George Brandis affirmed with AFP members in London his continued affiliation with and respect for the AFP.

AFP  
Commissioner  
Reece Kershaw  
welcomes guests  
to the 2019 AFP  
Legacy Ball at  
Parliament House  
in Canberra.



The AFP Legacy Ball attracted almost 500 guests who had an entertaining night of dining and dancing.



Former members in Canberra for the AFP Legacy Ball also visited the AFP Museum's heritage collection.



AFP Commissioner Reece Kershaw presented Peter Theodore, Ashley Redman and Stephen Turnbull with 40-year clasps to the AFP Service Medal at the AFP Legacy Ball in Canberra.





The official party, including Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton, was piped in to the ballroom at the Emporium Hotel to begin the formalities of the Brisbane Office Ball.



AFP Commissioner Reece Kershaw addresses guests to the Brisbane Office Ball.

from Missing Persons, ThinkUKnow, the AFP Museum, Protection, ACT Traffic and the Canine group engaged with the passing public from 10am to midday. Passing visitors expressed surprise in the range of police work done by the AFP shown in the mini display presented by the AFP Museum.

## The Anniversary Ball at Parliament House

The Great Hall of Parliament House provided a grand venue for the 2019 AFP Legacy Charity Ball which was a co-hosted event between the AFP and AFP Legacy.

The AFP's eighth commissioner and newest AFP Legacy Patron, Reece Kershaw, and wife Michelle, joined other distinguished guests and 14 legatee families at a pre-ball reception before welcoming everyone to the function in the Great Hall.

Almost 500 guests attended in their best outfits to be part of one of the anniversary's high profile events.

Dozens of members travelled from interstate to take part in the gala event, in particular there were about

20 former members representing the newly formed AFP Former Members Association, who had travelled as far afield as Melbourne, the Gold Coast, Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast.

The formalities began with a video message of congratulations from Prime Minister Scott Morrison followed by an address by Commissioner Kershaw.

AFP Legacy President Shane McLennan gave an overview of the night's events and encouraged everyone to participate in the fundraising events scheduled throughout the evening.

## Day One staffing list

Former member David Willson put in a tremendous effort in researching and collating a list of the names of officers on duty on 19 October 1979. Three of those 'Day One' officers who were still serving were special guests at the Ball and received their 40 year clasps to the AFP Service Medal from Commissioner Kershaw. The recipients were Superintendent Stephen Turnbull, Detective Sergeant Peter Theodore and Leading Senior Constable Ashley Redman.

## The Brisbane Office Ball

The Brisbane Office Ball was hosted by AFP Assistant Commissioner Jamie Strauss and attracted more than 150 guests including special guests Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton, AFP Commissioner Reece Kershaw, and Queensland Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll.

The formalities began with an inspirational address from Minister Dutton. He spoke to the great work done by the AFP, particularly in Australia's north. He looked forward to hearing more "good stories" of the AFP's successes into the future.

Commissioner Kershaw followed up with supporting comments and spoke to the long heritage of federal policing in Queensland, referencing the 'egg attack' on Prime Minister Billy Hughes at Warwick in 1917 and the subsequent creation of the first Commonwealth Police two weeks later under the *War Precautions Act*.

Visitors to the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of the Sydney office are able to see the history of investigations conducted out of the Sydney Office presented in a timeline researched and designed by Susan Buck.



Acting AFP Assistant Commissioner People Safety and Security David McLean with Ms Susan Buck and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake in Sydney Office.

Commissioner Kershaw went on to speak of the similarities and important differences between his past role of Northern Territory Police Commissioner and his future role with the AFP.

display and also invited in former members to its anniversary social. The Melbourne Office has a strong tradition in keeping in touch with its former members.

## Sydney Office award ceremony

AFP Sydney Office hosted a combined awards ceremony and 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on 28 November 2019. Awards were presented to 70 recipients from the AFP, New South Wales Police and partner agencies.

## At the Australian War Memorial

The anniversary year coincided with the publication of two additional volumes of the *Official History of Peacekeeping* series. The AFP has assisted Australian War Memorial (AWM) researchers to access information about its peacekeeping missions including Cambodia (1992) and Mozambique (1994). These missions are featured in Volume 4 published in March 2019.

The AWM's exhibition curators have also included significant references to the AFP's peacekeeping missions in their latest feature gallery exhibition *Courage for Peace*, launched on 18 October 2019 and open until 3 September 2020.



Former members Ian Hill, Gerry Fletcher and Shanah White enjoyed catching up at the Sydney Office 40 Year anniversary celebration.

A display timeline highlighting 40 years of AFP investigations in NSW was launched and received enthusiastic interest. The timeline remains on display on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of the Sydney Office. Past members were also invited to the event and enjoyed an afternoon of hospitality and reminiscing.

## Melbourne heritage display

For the anniversary period the Melbourne Office added a set of timeline banners to its existing foyer

The exhibition tells the stories of Australians from a variety of agencies who have served in diverse rolls around the world, from Somalia and Rwanda to





Many AFP peacekeepers were invited to the launch of *The Courage for Peace* exhibition which opened on 18 October 2019 at the Australian War Memorial.



Members of the AFP Pipes and Drums supported the 2019 Remembrance Day Last Post Service at the Australian War Memorial, joined in the photo by Vice Admiral Michael Noonan, who delivered the oratory in memory of the Unknown Soldier.

Cambodia, East Timor, Bougainville and the Solomon Islands. The exhibition includes artefacts from many AFP overseas missions along with objects, images and stories from Defence, Foreign Affairs and other departments who have contributed to peacekeeping and humanitarian operations.

In the same week as the opening *Courage for Peace*, the long-awaited Volume 1 of the *Official Peacekeeping, Humanitarian and Post-Cold War Operations* was launched. Authored by renowned historians Peter Londey, Rhys Crawley and David Horner, this 900-page tome covers Australian peacekeeping missions that between 1947 and 1982.

While it is the first volume, it is also the last of the series of six to be published. Covering a large number of Defence Force missions, the Australian police role with the United Nations mission in Cyprus is extensively covered. The other volumes of the set cover Australia's commitment to peacekeeping and reference the many missions the AFP has undertaken.

## And the band played on

Perhaps the last event on the AFP anniversary year program was the AFP Pipes and Drums at the Australian War Memorial. The band appeared in their alternate guise of the Canberra City Pipes and Drums, but the AFP anniversary drum skin was prominent as the band provided the ceremonial music for the 2019 Remembrance Day Last Post Ceremony.

The AFP Pipes and Drums provide ceremonial music for a range of AFP ceremonies — in particular they set the beat for the National Police Remembrance Day march. It has been a busy year for the band, accepting invitations to perform at international events including the Dubai Police Graduation parade and Basel Military Tattoo in Switzerland.

Locally the AFP Pipes and Drums also played at multiple AFP Graduations, award ceremonies, Commissioner's dinners and police funerals.

**The AFP's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary will take place on 19 October 2029.**



AFP Deputy Commissioner Karl Kent presented awards to around 70 recipients from the AFP, New South Wales Police and partner agencies at a combined awards and 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony on 28 November 2019.