

Commissioner's *message*



The diversity and scope of the AFP's expanding role as Australia's international policing agency comes into clear focus in this latest edition of Platypus. As well as our strong commitment to traditional policing and investigative responsibilities, our skills and expertise are increasingly being sought for prevention, capacity building and even humanitarian purposes.

In the wake of the Indian Ocean tsunami, which has left a lasting impression on those who were both directly and indirectly involved, the AFP was proud to present a mobile Disaster Victim Identification unit to the Royal Thai Police during a two-week DVI training course, developed and presented by our members.

I am immensely proud of all the AFP members involved in assisting the local authorities with the massive and emotionally difficult task of identifying the victims of the disaster.

Through strong and successful partnerships established with Thailand, we were able to provide assistance almost immediately after the tsunami hit; this ability is greatly enhanced by having people positioned on the ground in AFP offices established in both Bangkok and Chiang Mai.

The AFP has, for a long time enjoyed a good relationship with and the Royal Thai Police, evident through our office in Bangkok and the relocation of our office in Chiang Mai, where Senior Police Liaison Officer Federal Agent Cliff Gutheridge is stationed. Having

people on the ground enables both countries to strengthen relationships through open lines of communication.

Internally, the AFP has been gradually expanding and strengthening the capabilities of our Confidant Network. The Confidant Network has been in operation for more than eight years and while integrity is crucial to maintaining confidence in any organisation, it is also one of the AFP's core values, along with fairness, trust, accountability, commitment and excellence. Without integrity our police organisation is worthless. As a Confidant, and as Commissioner, I am very committed to supporting the excellent work of the Confidant network.

On an individual level the AFP remains committed to supporting individual achievements by members. Federal Agent Warton was the recipient of the Prince of Wales award, an initiative of the Australian Defence Force. Federal Agent Warton, who is now in the position of Senior Police Liaison Officer in Islamabad has written a paper after a one month sponsored visit to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Canadian Maritime Forces. His studies both in Australia and abroad have provided us with a deeper understanding of the trends in the field of people smuggling and transnational crime.

The Senior Executive had the opportunity to meet Australian of the Year, Dr Fiona Wood at the Executive Management Board earlier this year. Dr Wood guided us through the similarities of the AFP and the work in which she is involved, highlighting the fact that both the AFP and her team are working towards the same goals after the Bali bombings, particularly in the field of disaster responses and disaster preparedness.

Finally, I was proud to be a part of the official opening of the AFP International Training Complex after two-years in the making. Training courses are now fully booked for the next 18-months and the feedback that we continue to receive from people who have attended the complex is very encouraging. The complex was established to train recruits for international deployment, however the complex will also be open for future use by other departments to conduct training which is critical to their work.