



Commissioner's Message

I am very pleased to advise that the successful operational performance with which the AFP began 2012 has continued since the last edition of *Platypus*.

The end of year statistics, which will soon be detailed in our 2011-12 annual report, show that the AFP has met or exceeded all 33 key performance indicators specified by the government in the Portfolio Budget Statement. This is the first time that this has occurred in the AFP's history and reflects both strong operational results and improvements in meeting and managing the expectations of external stakeholders. These results, however, are possible only through the determination and dedication of the AFP workforce.

Likewise, this year's external client survey shows that overall satisfaction with the AFP has risen from 85 per cent to a record high of 90 per cent. This survey is taken each year and reflects the views of over 850 stakeholders. The result is significant because these improvements have been seen across the entire AFP.

One good example of the AFP's recent operational results was the finalisation of the AFP and Australian Customs and Border Protection Service operation on 30 July that smashed an international drug syndicate.

The operation seized 558 kilograms of illicit drugs estimated to be worth up to half a billion dollars on Australian streets. The drugs, including 306 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine (ice) and 252 kilograms of heroin, were seized in Sydney, with seven people arrested.

It is the largest seizure of ice in Australian history and is Australia's third largest seizure of heroin.

This edition of *Platypus* reflects on the 10 years since the Bali bombings on 12 October, 2002.

The features illustrate how the AFP responded to the tragedy and then evolved proactively to confront the spectre of terrorism both in Australia and internationally.

This edition of *Platypus* also marks the commencement of two important new capabilities in the AFP with the launch of the Specialist Response Group (SRG) and the AFP Facial Recognition System.

The impressive formal opening of the SRG on 5 July is covered with amazing images from what was a rare opportunity to see specialist policing in action.

Meanwhile, the fantastic capability of the AFP Facial Recognition System is highlighted in this ever-developing high technology area of policing.

Finally, it gave me much pleasure to share the moment with former AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty at the official unveiling of his portrait at AFP College.

The AFP commissioned our own forensic artist, Ross Townsend, to paint the portrait to commemorate Mr Keelty's achievements as Commissioner.

The portrait now hangs with the official portraits of the AFP's four other former Commissioners.

I would like to personally thank each and every person in the AFP for their outstanding work in making the Australian community a safer place through the ongoing successes of our organisation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T.W. Negus'.

Commissioner T.W. Negus