



Commissioner's Foreword

For the past 30 years the Australian Federal Police has been a part of Australia's national story, its history bound up with the major events that have shaped our lives.

But in many ways the tale is only partly told. Reports of arrests, raids and seizures give the public account of AFP operations. It is often impossible to convey the depth of such investigations, or the intricacies involved in combating crimes that cross national and international borders.

In three decades, policing has changed. We can now access vast databanks of information in the same time it took to find a single file stored next to the desk. Technology has made life easier, but also created a whole new landscape of criminal behaviour.

The AFP has adapted to meet these new challenges, in the process developing world class technologies and processes to fight crime in all its guises. Our High Tech Crime Operations have been amazingly successful in shutting down internet predators that target children, taking part in several international operations that have resulted in numerous arrests both in Australia and abroad.

But however technologically advanced our investigators become, they remain committed to serving the Australian community and the safeguarding of our national interests.

In order to do this, our operations have grown. In 30 years we have doubled in size. More than 6000 AFP members now serve in Australia or at one of our 31 international posts and 11 overseas missions. Our investigations encompass a variety of crimes, from child sex offences to tax evasion, drug smuggling and terrorism. Our members work as general duties police in the ACT, uniformed police at Australia's major airports, detectives, liaison officers and in a variety of specialist fields.

It is interesting to speculate whether the pace of change over the next 30 years will be as rapid as it has been over the past three decades. The original members of the AFP could not have known how the organisation would change during their careers, and it is difficult for many to imagine a life beyond computers, the internet and mobile phones.

One thing that will not change is the loyalty, dedication and commitment of the men and women who make up the AFP. I am proud of the work they do, and of what the organisation has achieved in 30 years.

We look forward to the next 30 years of serving Australia.

Commissioner T. W. Negus APM
Australian Federal Police