



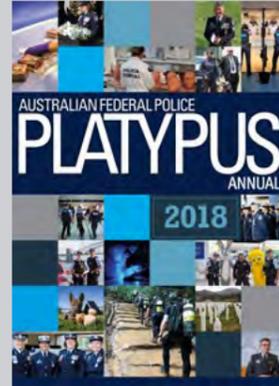


The platypus has been adopted by the Australian Federal Police as a symbol representing the diverse requirements placed on members in the execution of their duties.

This unique and tenacious Australian animal is a survivor against increasing pressure from today's environment. It leaves no stone unturned in its daily pursuits and has equipped itself with a range of features to adapt to changes over many years.

It is capable of passing unnoticed if required, yet it demonstrates an unfailing dedication to explore all possibilities in an effort to maintain its special place in Australia's environment.

Although generally a peaceful animal, the platypus is able to defend itself, if necessary, with a venomous spur. This is done, at times, against larger and more powerful opponents—a quality admired and respected by members of the Australian Federal Police.



Cover images: Selected photos from this edition.

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Requests for permission to reprint material appearing in *Platypus*, and all general correspondence, should be addressed to:

The Editor

AFP Platypus Magazine

Government and Communications

GPO Box 401

Canberra ACT 2601

Telephone (02) 6131 3000

Email: news@afp.gov.au

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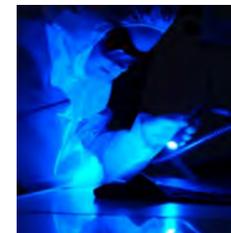
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Platypus Magazine is now a blog.

# PLATYPUS



Platypus Magazine has been the AFP's flagship publication since 1979. During the years, it was primarily a printed magazine, but with changing technology, publication costs and ways that people now access information, it has evolved towards meeting an increasingly online readership.

Since early 2018, Platypus Online has become a regularly updated blog; a dedicated and dynamic section of the AFP website offering an enriched experience including: videos, photo slideshows, shareable articles and an accessible interface which works well on all mobile devices. Explore Platypus Online now!

[afp.gov.au/platypus](http://afp.gov.au/platypus)

## Commissioner's message



As another year draws to a close, I am proud and humbled by the diversity of the AFP's work, and the results we've achieved. As a responsive and agile agency, the AFP's ability to respond to new and emerging priorities in Australia and around the world means our members are often asked to help in a variety of ways.

This year, our specialist divers were part of the international effort to save a Thai soccer team trapped in a flooded cave system. Their resilience in the face of overwhelming odds, their ability to work in partnership with Thai authorities and other partners, and their bravery in undertaking an exceptionally risky rescue, demonstrates the best of the AFP to Australia and the rest of the world.

Our partnerships are our strength, and this is again highlighted in this year's Platypus Annual. As part of the Home Affairs Portfolio, through our international network, and in supporting APEC in Papua New Guinea, the AFP continues to actively engage with the international law enforcement community and relevant partner agencies. As part of Australia's national security framework and through our local and international work, the AFP will continue to serve our community to ensure its ongoing safety now, and into the future.

One of the areas we continue to add value is through innovation, upholding an ongoing tradition that is recognised in this annual with the story of the Polilight; an invention that has changed the face of forensic science and transformed modern day policing. It all started with a good idea; and today we continue to seek out new ways to do business and improve outcomes. This is reflected in much of the work we've been doing to prepare our agency for the law enforcement landscape of the future.

But in reflecting on how we have grown, it is important to remember that the core focus of our work has not changed. It's been nearly 40 years since the Hilton Hotel bombing, which resulted in the formation of the Australian Federal Police in 1979.

Our core values of integrity, excellence, respect, accountability, commitment, fairness and trust, remain the bedrock of who we are as an organisation, and are reflected in the achievements of our members.

The 2018 Platypus Annual reflects on the different ways we serve – from providing support to the International War Crimes Tribunal to supporting our neighbours in Solomon Islands strengthen their justice system. This work can take its toll, and I would like to recognise the high price some of our members pay to serve their communities.

In celebrating our achievements this year, I also acknowledge the work we are continuing to ensure we reflect the diversity of the community we serve, and the health of our members.

I look forward to another year of progress and partnerships, and hope you enjoy reading this annual as much as I have. From all of us in the AFP family, stay safe during the Christmas holiday period, and have a prosperous 2019.

Commissioner Andrew Colvin APM OAM



### Officers dismantle group assisting parental abductions

A two-year investigation into a group assisting parental abductions came to resolution in October, with three men arrested and others served Court Attendance Notices. The group were allegedly organising activities allowing women to abduct their children in breach of family law orders – including portraying fathers as child abusers on social media.

### Two tonnes of GBL washed from Sydney's streets

A joint AFP and Australian Border Force operation resulted in the seizure of 2 tonnes of illicit drug gamma-butyrolactone – commonly referred to as liquid ecstasy, fantasy and 'coma in a bottle'.

A 30-year-old man was charged for his role in this seizure, one of Australia's largest, which has a street value of \$10 million.

# Keeping Australia Safe in 2018



### Arrest for defrauding Disability Insurance

A 36-year-old Victorian man became the first person charged by the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Fraud Taskforce. He allegedly took over \$400,000 between June and July, affecting over 200 individual NDIS funds. NDIS Fraud Taskforce members executed a search and seized a BMW 7 series limousine, a Toyota Hilux and designer clothing and jewellery.

### Money laundering, foreign incursion uncovered

A long-term money laundering and foreign incursion offences investigation by the NSW Joint Counter Terrorism Team (JCTT) produced results in June with the arrests of two men. The team – comprising the AFP, NSW Police Force, ASIO and the NSW Crime Commission - had in late 2017 made arrests for offences relating to proceeds of crime and allegedly travelling to a conflict zone.

### US jail time for grooming Australian teen online

Following an international investigation the AFP the US sentenced a man to 35 years imprisonment for grooming an Australian teenage girl online. A missing persons report had been filed for the then 16-year-old girl with the NSW Police in April 2017. The man had coaxed her to travel to the US without her parents' knowledge, paying for her flights and falsifying travel documents.

### 500kg of cocaine seized in Solomon Islands

The seizure of 500 kilograms of cocaine from a yacht docked at the Honiara marina in the Solomon Islands sparked an international investigation. It is believed the cocaine was placed on board the vessel in South America and was destined for Australia. Two men were arrested in Sydney over the haul after investigations by the AFP, Royal Solomon Islands Police Force, the US Drug Enforcement Administration, the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, NSW Police Force and Australian Border Force.



### Charges over family day care payment fraud

Two people were charged by the AFP in May for fraudulent family day care payment claims totalling \$5.7 million in 2017. The investigation revealed a Sydney family day care operator had falsely made the claims for the enrolment of more than 1,600 children in one month – seeking reimbursement of costs for caring for children for up to 14 hours a day, five days a week.

### Second largest cocaine seizure

An AFP-led investigation into an alleged organised crime syndicate resulted in Australia's second largest seizure of cocaine – 1.28 tonnes. With a street value of nearly half a billion dollars, the cocaine was imported to Australia from China via a container of pre-fabricated steel. Two men were extradited from Serbia for their involvement in the importation and subsequently charged.





# Games, set and match: AFP calls a wrap on Commonwealth Games operations

When Australia participates in major global events, the AFP is there to keep Australians safe.

Already this year, the men and women of the AFP helped protect our citizens at Anzac Day commemorations in Turkey and France, the Winter Olympics and Paralympics in Korea, and on home soil in April we were proud to help deliver a successful and safe Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast.

Critical elements of Games security were the AFPs' presence at Gold Coast Airport, on the surrounding Gold Coast waterways and in other 'behind the scenes' operations – never straight forward tasks by any means, and even more so during times of peak, major event demand.

The indoor concourse of the airport is one long hallway, broken up by baggage carousels, shops, check-in counters and security checkpoints. The Commonwealth Games made it much busier, with athletes, officials, family,

spectators and tourists transiting through the airport daily.

Being part of the AFP presence at a major airport isn't all about pursuing criminal matters. Gold Coast Airport Police Commander Sascha Rayner said a major role for the AFP at the airport is building relationships with the businesses and agencies that make up the airport community – and in reassuring the travelling public that the AFP wants them to enjoy their holiday or return home.



Above: Being part of the AFP presence at Gold Coast Airport wasn't all about pursuing criminal matters.

"An important part of our regular presence is to make people aware that we are here to help them if they need it, and ensure they can move through the airport safely to wherever else they are going," Superintendent Rayner said. This was particularly so during the Games.

"The increased movement of people through the airport during the Commonwealth Games meant it was all hands on deck for our Gold Coast staff. We also had extra people come in from our Brisbane office and airport to increase patrols all around the airport precinct, bolster our intelligence and support functions, and give us the ability to respond to any incidents."

The AFP worked closely with partner agencies and terminal operators responsible for passenger screening as part of a multi-layered approach to security in the aviation environment. This included regular patrols conducted through the terminal by foot, and by bicycle and car around the wider precinct.

Constable Rani Davis is one of the AFP members at Gold Coast Airport primarily responsible for counter terrorism first response duties and general duties policing of the airport community. And she wasn't immune to the buzz when the Games finally came to town.

"During the Commonwealth Games period we increased our numbers due to the high volumes of people coming through the airport – that includes the competitors, voluntary staff and normal passengers," she said.

"I love my job, I love what I do. I love the people I work with. Just to be part of the Commonwealth Games and to be foot on the ground, it's fantastic, I'm very appreciative."

**"The continued smooth operation of the Gold Coast during the Commonwealth Games is definitely a success for the AFP, and for the work of all our members based and seconded here during this three-week period."**

While Commonwealth Games competitors can look to medal tallies to gauge their success, it is much harder for the AFP.

"Success for us is prevention, awareness and deterrence, but you can't measure that like you can arrests, charges or seizures," Superintendent Rayner said.

"The continued smooth operation of the Gold Coast during the Commonwealth Games is definitely a success for the AFP, and for the work of

all our members based and seconded here during this three-week period."

Outside of the airport, the AFP provided specialist resources to assist Queensland Police in protecting the community during the games.

National Coordinator Protection Assessments and Liaison Michael Jarratt oversaw the coordination of the AFP's support and liaison efforts during the Commonwealth Games.

"There is a lot of work from different areas of the AFP that goes into events such as this, with most of that effort expended in the lead-up to the games rather than during it," Superintendent Jarratt said.

"In many ways, the ultimate measure of the success of our planning, coordination and activity – and that of Queensland Police and all of our partner agencies – is that the general public doesn't notice anything out of the ordinary and have a good time in a safe and secure environment."



Official duties saw AFP Maritime patrol from Coolangatta right through to the northern end of the Gold Coast.

"Special thanks needs to be extended to members of the AFP Special Events Planning Team, in particular Federal Agent Michael Hargreaves and Federal Agent Scott Gilbert from Brisbane office, who each worked tirelessly on the planning and delivery of the AFP component of this event over several years in the lead up to the Games."

AFP Maritime members were embedded with Queensland Police to patrol waterways around the Gold Coast, particularly those hosting events or adjacent to venues.

Sergeant Greg Corin from the Specialist Response Group said the AFP contributed a detachment of eight people – four boat drivers and four deck hands – to assist the Queensland Police Service with their maritime responsibilities.

"We're essentially working from Coolangatta in open water areas where the beach volleyball is being held, all the way through to the northern end of the Gold Coast," he said.

"One of the events that the water police component of the Commonwealth Games overlay worked towards was the conduct of the triathlon."



AFP Maritime members were embedded with Queensland Police to patrol waterways around the Gold Coast, particularly those hosting events or adjacent to venues.

Detective Leading Senior Constable Chris Markcrow noted the operating environment was familiar as AFP members built upon relationships with their Queensland colleagues developed during the Brisbane G20 summit in 2014. What wasn't so familiar was operating in salt water, which is different for crews used to operating vessels in fresh water environments in and around Canberra.

On dry land, the AFP also supplied equipment and trained operators to enhance and assist Queensland Police search capabilities during the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Part of this assistance was the AFP's Z Backscatter Vans (ZBV). The ZBV is a mobile, non-intrusive X-ray unit designed to identify large organic materials hidden within vehicles, particularly drugs and explosives.

A group of members were trained and deployed to the Gold Coast – along with regular ZBV operators – for a six-week operation as part of a multi-layered vehicle search area at the games precinct. The vans were also deployed to search duties at other locations, such as scanning buses used to transport Games athletes and their families.



The AFP's 'Z Backscatter Vans' were deployed to identify large organic materials hidden within vehicles, such as drugs and explosives.



The work of former AFP Assistant Commissioner Frank Prendergast – and many other AFP members – has seen community confidence restored in the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force.

Former AFP Assistant Commissioner Frank Prendergast has received the AFP's first 'Order of the British Empire' for services to policing and the community for his efforts in transforming the RSIPF into where it finds itself today.

# 'Sollies' OBE: it's an honour for us all

The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) has gone from being a major receiver of aid to a law enforcement agency being called on to train counterparts in other Pacific nations. It's a remarkable turnaround.

The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) has gone from being a major receiver of aid to a law enforcement agency being called on to train counterparts in other Pacific nations. It's a remarkable turnaround.

The difference in position and capability over the past decade has been enormous and is, in part, the reason that former AFP Assistant Commissioner Frank Prendergast has received the AFP's first 'Order of the British Empire' for services to policing and the community for his efforts in transforming the RSIPF into where it finds itself today.

His work – and that of many AFP members over time – has changed the face, reputation and accountability of the RSIPF, restoring public confidence in the force to its community. The Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) has been the driver behind the change, but not the only thing responsible for it.

In his last role in the AFP, former Assistant Commissioner Prendergast (retired) was the the AFP's National Manager Workplace and Development. In this role he was also involved in transforming organisational culture, and says his experience in the Solomon Islands has shown him how important it is to have the backing of a committed team. And in receiving the OBE, which is the equivalent

of the Order of Australia, from the Solomon Islands' Government, former Assistant Commissioner Prendergast has a genuine intent to acknowledge the role of others in transforming the RSIPF.

"It took me by surprise to receive the OBE, and I'm quite humbled by the fact that I've been awarded the honour. It really reflects on all the good work that was done by many, many AFP people in the Solomons over a long period of time, and also my colleagues in the RSIPF.

"When you look at RAMSI it actually stands out internationally as a very successful capacity mission and a stability operation.

"We restored order, we built the police force in markedly quicker timeframes than people have been able to do internationally – and a successful conclusion of RAMSI last year is testament to how successful the Mission has been, and is evidence of the effort that everyone put into that Mission.

"It is something that the AFP and everyone involved with can be rightly proud of."

"The rest of my career prepared me for the challenge - my time as an investigator in Melbourne and Adelaide, my time managing Adelaide and Melbourne offices, National Manager Counter Terrorism, National

Manager (former) International Deployment Group and National Manager Operations Support all gave me the tools that I needed when I went into the Solomons."

## Elections the key

The 2014 Solomon Islands elections were something of a turning point for the RSIPF and then newly appointed Commissioner, Frank Prendergast, who was sworn in August that year.

Concurrent organisational, cultural and operational challenges awaited, along with pressing upcoming events and the ongoing development of the RSIPF toward an impending 'draw down' of the major role played by RAMSI to a Solomon Islands Police Development Program (SIPDP) in 2017.

But first on the agenda was the looming national election in November 2014. Ensuring the elections were safe and secure was a test the RSIPF had to pass.

The force was already under pressure with allegations that it was unresponsive and lacking in discipline. The community was concerned about whether the RSIPF could manage. There was also criticism, unfair in Assistant Commissioner Prendergast's view, over its management of the April 2014 floods and subsequent riots.



Top: Solomon Islands Police Force Commissioner Walter Kola presenting AFP Assistant Commissioner Frank Prendergast with his OBE.

Bottom: 2014: AFP Assistant Commissioner Frank Prendergast accepts the Sword of Allegiance from Royal Solomon Islands Police Force Acting Commissioner Juanita Matanga during his swearing in.

Right: 2014 – AFP Commander Greg Harrigan welcomes extra AFP support staff to the Solomon Islands ahead of the country's General Elections.



Being ready for the completion of the RAMSI mission in mid-2017 was a national priority and concern. "Everyone's minds go back to the [election] troubles in 2005-2006," he said.

"The police force was under a lot of pressure because of discipline issues and the accusations that they were non-responsive – all these types of factors."

Not only were the elections successful – but the RSIPF earned international praise for its operational conduct. Importantly, the Solomon Islands community found new confidence in its police force.

Former Assistant Commissioner Prendergast says the missing ingredient was appropriate and accountable leadership, which had led to discipline issues and a lack of accountability, which in turn resulted in inconsistent and at times sub-standard performance.

Developing the appropriate leadership team and restoring standards was the absolute key priority, and while this was an ongoing endeavour over the next two-and-a-half years, it paid almost immediate dividends.

"When I arrived I commenced immediately renewing and developing the leadership team as well as enforcing basic standards and the performance of the police force improved quite remarkably and rapidly," he says.

Right: The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force has been delivering cyber safety information courses to community schools since 2014.



Above: 2016 – Royal Solomon Islands Police Force Commissioner Frank Prendergast addresses guests at an RSIPF event.

Below: 2015 – Royal Solomon Islands Police Force Commissioner Frank Prendergast joins Solomon Islands Government officials and then Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands Special Coordinator Justine Braithwaite to open the new RSIPF headquarters on the island of Malaita.



"Now that doesn't happen because one person comes in. That happens because the latent capability exists and it just needed the right leadership approach to bring it out.

"It also occurs because the RSIPF has a lot of very talented and committed staff who were trying to do the right thing, and because the PPF has been working hard for a long time to develop RSIPF capacity and capability.

"I was in the fortunate position of being able to build on the good work of a lot of people so my main role was to build an environment that enabled the potential that existed to be realised.

"In this I had a lot of valuable support from a range of Participating Police Force and RSIPF officers particularly the Commander PPF Greg Harrigan, and Deputy Commissioner Juanita Matanga."

### Remarkable progress

The progress of the RSIPF since the 2014 elections has been remarkable. Former Assistant Commissioner Prendergast said the RSIPF has transformed from being a major receiver of aid to an RSIPF that is increasingly training other Pacific nations.

As RAMSI transitions into the SIPDP, Solomon Islands will still look to its partners, particularly Australia and New Zealand, for support. But that support will be much more in the nature of capability and

capacity development rather than operational policing.

"The RSIPF is looking to the new program to build on the partnership that exists with the PPF, and to focus on building RSIPF's capability, improving RSIPF corporate support and assisting with the implementation of a 'Crime Prevention Model'.

"The bottom line is," Assistant Commissioner Prendergast says, "The RSIPF has been working without a lot of operational assistance - for the past three years, particularly.

"I am pleased to say that the RSIPF Executive and the police force have managed all its competing priorities very well, and I believe there is a growing confidence within the police force that 'yes, we can do this'."

"It is very clear to me that with an appropriate leadership team in place, the work that RAMSI has done over the years has really paid dividends which you can see in the development of the RSIPF today.

"Everyone who has been involved in the PPF and RAMSI should be very proud of what has been achieved."

AFP Commissioner Andrew Colvin said he was proud to see the Solomon Islands Government recognise AC Prendergast with an OBE.

"I congratulate him for his outstanding service to the people of the Solomon Islands and his ongoing leadership role with the AFP. It again demonstrates the significant, positive outcomes the AFP can achieve when it works closely with its international partners to address transnational crime, and in this case, regional stability," he said.

"It is something that the AFP and everyone involved can be rightly proud of."



2016 – Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) Commissioner Frank Prendergast inspects an RSIPF guard of honour.

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PROTEGER Y SER

# A new post combating an ever-evolving threat

AFP Senior Liaison Office (SLO)  
Conrad Jensen has put his hand up  
to assist Mexican law enforcement  
disrupt some of the most violent  
drug cartels in the world.





A forensics officer reconstructs the faces of unidentified murder victims in the Mexican Federal Police forensics facility.

Upper: Mexican Federal Police tactical response demonstrates capability.

Lower: Mexican Federal Police demonstrates its all-female riot police team in action.

Previous page: AFP Senior Liaison Officer Conrad Jensen regularly meets with his Mexican Federal Police counterparts in the Constituyentes facility.

Since October 2017, AFP Senior Liaison Officer (SLO) Conrad Jensen has led the AFP's international liaison office in Mexico, establishing a post to enhance law enforcement cooperation and intelligence sharing between Australia and Mexico, primarily to counter the supply of cocaine and methamphetamines (meth) to Australia.

"The AFP is working closely with Central American law enforcement to be part of a solution to what is a very complex problem," SLO Jensen said.

"In Mexico we're partnering with the Mexican Federal Police, the Attorney General's Office of Mexico (PGR) and other agencies to share intelligence on the organised crime threat."

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime reports Mexico is one of the top 10 embarkation points by weight for amphetamine-type stimulants, a relatively new development for a country known for criminal groups that export cocaine. Mexico is listed as fifth.

But who is behind the supply of illicit drugs in Mexico? The Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generación (CJNG) and the Sinaloa Cartel are two of the largest in an ever-evolving list of Mexican organised crime groups. The CJNG began in 2007 as an armed wing of the Sinaloa Cartel and became independent in 2010. Led by Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes, alias "El Mencho", the CJNG is known as the most violent criminal group in Mexico.

"The CJNG and the other Mexican cartels are a global problem which needs worldwide cooperation. We are working to infiltrate these organisations and disrupt their criminal activities," SLO Jensen said.

"Meth is not a just a policing problem – it is an attack on our society, both here in Mexico and back home, which is destroying individuals, families and communities."

The global focus on meth prompted 60 Minutes reporter Tom Steinfert to travel to Mexico City in March to meet with Conrad Jensen and to see the capabilities of the Mexican Federal Police.

60 Minutes was provided rare access by the Mexican Federal Police to two facilities in Mexico City. The first was

located in the Constituyentes area where the organisation's headquarters and forensic facility is located. The compound also houses a high-tech "intelligence bunker" from where Mexican law enforcement support operational activity across the country through air and sea surveillance.

The second was the Contel Facility where the 60 Minutes/AFP film crew were provided displays from canine, riot police, tactical response and hostage rescue teams.

The Contel Facility is the largest policing facility in Mexico City. It houses a large number of specialist units from the Federal Forces and Gendarmerie Divisions. It also has a large helicopter facility, training bases and a memorial to their fallen police officers.



AFP Senior Liaison Officer Conrad Jensen in the Mexican Federal Police "intelligence bunker."



Upper:  
60 Minutes reporter Tom Steinfort interviews Mexican Federal Police Commissioner Manelich Castilla Craviotto.

Lower:  
60 Minutes reporter Tom Steinfort interviews Mexican Federal Police Anti-Drugs Head Juan Silva in Morelia.

At the Contel Facility, the Mexican Federal Police Commissioner Manelich Castilla Craviotto told 60 Minutes law enforcement has the determination to tackle the drug supply issue in Mexico.

“Every policeman feels fear. It is fear that allows us to be alert. The right fear is an ally to police work, and of course we are afraid. But our conviction in the face of this problem is much greater. Fear will never be greater than our conviction,” Commissioner Craviotto said.

60 Minutes, closely escorted by the Mexican Federal Police, also gained rare access to the cartel heartlands of Michoacán and Jalisco. They met in the picturesque main square of Morelia with Anti-Drugs Head Juan Silva who in Spanish outlined the work being done to stem the production of illicit drugs.

The film crew then moved to a former monastery in Morelia where Tom Steinfort asked SLO Jensen why the AFP feels it is important to have a presence in Mexico.

“Meth is a problem in Australia and if we’re not here we are not part of the solution. [As a police officer] I’ve seen the impact meth has on the Australian community, people overdosing and the violence that flows and I’d be surprised if there are that many people in Australia that haven’t seen the impact,” SLO Jensen said.

“It’s an insidious drug, very addictive; people become violent and commit other crimes to service their addiction.”



Zócalo, Mexico City



AFP Senior Liaison Officer Conrad Jensen speaks with 60 Minutes in a former monastery in Morelia.

### Australian drug busts from Mexico

60 Minutes also interviewed AFP Deputy Commissioner Operations Neil Gaughan on the issue of demand of these dangerous drugs.

“Meth consumption in this country is significant – the second highest in the OECD world – and unless we try and do something to stem the demand issue, regardless what we do around supply, we’re going to continue to have issues in this country,” Deputy Commissioner Gaughan said.

The AFP continues to see a significant number of seizures of meth coming to Australia from Mexico, with links to Australian outlaw motorcycle gangs and West African organised crime.

In late February, two women were arrested in Sydney for their alleged involvement in importing 24 kilograms of methamphetamine (meth) hidden inside home audio speakers. The drugs had an estimated street value of \$20.7 million and one of the women is facing offences that could see her spend her life behind bars.

Earlier in November 2017, a 34-year-old Mexican man arriving into Melbourne on a flight from Los Angeles was stopped after a small quantity of cocaine was found in his possession. He was detained and the Victorian Joint Organised Crime Taskforce began an investigation. Police enquiries led to the seizure of 300-kilograms of cocaine from a business premises in Altona, Victoria, and the arrest of another Mexican national.

# Be comfortable being uncomfortable

The inside story  
of the AFP dive  
team at Tham  
Luang Cave

Mission  
accomplished:  
The AFP  
Specialist  
Response Group  
Dive Team.





The AFP dive team moved and installed hundreds of air tanks, industrial pumps and piping along the cave.



Senior Constable Justin Bateman tunnelling through the cave with the rope.

“The initial priority was to keep the soccer boys alive, while the divers examined the various escape options with the pending monsoon always in the back of their minds”

46 kilos of dive gear and air tanks strapped to the divers' backs.

Electrocution and minimal air supply were just some of the entrapment hazards faced by the Australian Federal Police dive team at Tham Luang Cave.

The six extraordinary divers spent almost two weeks diving in the dark and murky waters of the cave system, with 46 kilos of dive gear and air tanks strapped to their backs.

“Our days always started with a one kilometre hike in the cave along steep canyons of rocky 50-metre inclines and declines, to arrive at the entry of chamber 1 which was completely flooded,” Senior Constable Matthew Fitzgerald said.

“We were responsible for managing chambers 2-4 to secure the evacuation route, but this required diving in coffee-coloured water. We were better off closing our eyes and feeling our way through because we couldn't see a thing underwater.”

Fortunately, a rope had been set up by the Thai Navy Seal divers which became a lifeline for all the divers to guide them through the water that connected 9 chambers.

“The rope guided us through the chambers walking up and down slippery rock canyons, before diving back into water and tunnelling through narrow areas including along a 9-metre zigzag descent in chamber 3,” Senior Constable Matthew Fitzgerald said.

“If we lost the rope underwater we then had to focus on finding that rope, otherwise our life was in danger.”

The initial priority was to keep the soccer boys alive, while the divers examined the various escape options with the pending monsoon always in the back of their minds.

Food supplies were passed from chamber to chamber in a daisy chain succession to reach chamber 9 where the boys were found.

“We helped carry through snack bars, army style ration packs, bottled water, cooked rice and chicken, which was tightly wrapped in plastic to keep the

water out,” Leading Senior Constable Kelly Boers said.

To manage the water levels across some of the chambers the AFP dive team worked closely with the Thai Navy Seals.

“The Thai Navy Seals were responsible for modifying the cave, and as a result it allowed the water to drain faster and provided easier access through some tighter spaces,” Detective Leading Senior Constable Ben Cox said.

“This also allowed our team to move and install hundreds of air tanks, industrial pumps and piping into the cave – further reducing the water levels in chamber 3.”

“The pumps ran on high voltage power with multiple live electrical wires running through the wet cave,” Senior Constable Justin Bateman said.

“It provided power to the pumps and also some lighting but also meant we could control the flow of gushing water, which was almost impossible to swim against.”

Being electrocuted by electrical wires wasn't the only risk the AFP divers faced. The rising carbon dioxide levels posed a constant threat.

Detective Leading Senior Constable Ben Cox felt the effects of the high carbon dioxide levels, making it three times harder for the body to function.

“We could feel the effects of the carbon dioxide, which affects the mind as well as the body,” he said. “It causes confusion, and sometimes affected my ability to swim, so regular breaks were vital.”

“We had sensors to see the O<sub>2</sub> (oxygen) levels in different chambers. We knew it was low but we just had to support each other and be aware of fatigue,” Sergeant Robert James said.

“We also had many injuries including a dislocated wrist, broken fingers, infected hands and feet, cuts and abrasions, and infected ears.

“But at the end of the day, we're police officers. Children's lives were at grave risk and we were prepared to help in any way we could.”

### The world was watching

The rescue caught the world's attention, after images of the boys found alive and well in the dark cave were televised, nine days after they went missing.

More than 500 journalists and media outlets crowded the outskirts of the cave in the Chiang Rai province eagerly waiting, and watching the collaborative effort of the Thai Navy Seals and international rescue partners.

The rescue effort became time critical with the monsoon rains threatening to flood the cave each day, destroying any chance for the soccer boys to survive.

Senior Constable Justin Bateman described the relationship with the Thai Navy Seals as ‘absolutely brilliant’, calling them ‘phenomenal warriors’.

“The Thai Navy Seals never left the cave. They would sleep in the cave along different chambers and then continue on working. It demonstrated the type of commitment and strong

work ethic they had to the mission,” he said.

“Nothing was too much work for them. They were very inspirational. We saw the way they worked and communicated with each other, which made us work even harder. It also motivated the other international parties.”

The collaborative effort of multiple countries demonstrated the practical reality that the divers were operating in – passing the boys through more than 100 pairs of hands to reach safety.

### Mission possible

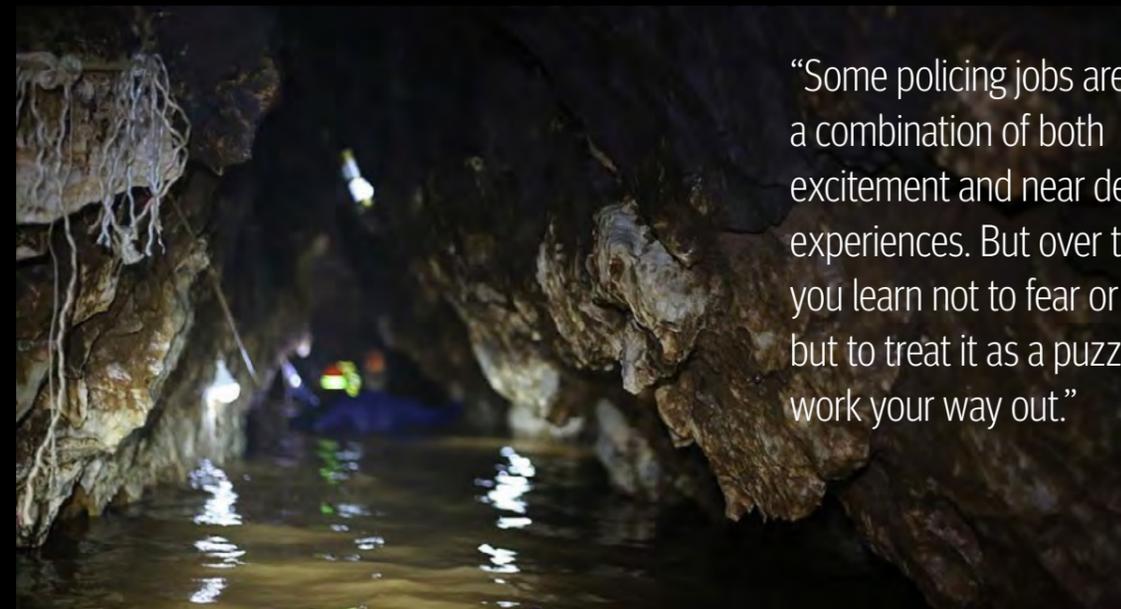
“The call came through that the first boy was on his way. We all held our breath until he surfaced within our chamber,” Senior Constable Matthew Fitzgerald said.

The water pumps had reduced the water levels in chamber 3, which meant the divers were able to move the boys above water.

“Once he was handed over to us, we were down at his face mask just listening for that breath,” Senior



Detective Leading Senior Constable Chris Markcrow climbing through the narrow descent to enter chamber 3.



“Some policing jobs are a combination of both excitement and near death experiences. But over time you learn not to fear or panic, but to treat it as a puzzle and work your way out.”

Constable Matthew Fitzgerald said. “He was breathing — there was instant relief.”

“The single biggest risk for the soccer team was drowning,” Detective Leading Senior Constable Christopher Markcrow said. “The boys wore face masks, however these were designed for adults not young boys.”

During the dive component it was crucial for the rescue divers to prevent any rocks or stalactites from dislodging the boys’ face masks.

“We kept the rescue moving, passing the first boy to the next group in the following chamber where Thai medics, rangers and ambulances were waiting,” Senior Constable Matthew Fitzgerald said.

Another vital aspect of the divers’ work was to develop and install parts of a ‘flying fox’ pulley system, used in chamber 2 which moved the boys through the evacuation route.

“It was pretty surreal. There wasn’t time to take a breath, when the next boy arrived,” Sergeant Robert James said.

“We went into work mode, and once the first four boys were through we thought ‘we’ve got this—100 percent we can pull this off.’”

Over the next 48 hours the rest of the boys slowly made their way through the cave. The soccer boys had chosen the succession of who would be evacuated first, based on who lived

the furthest away. Little did they know the whole world was tracking their remarkable rescue.

The successful mission saw the AFP dive team awarded Order of Australia and Bravery medals. The team described meeting the Prime Minister as ‘pretty awesome’ but also a humbling experience.

“Meeting the Prime Minister, Governor General, head of the armed forces, and having our own command at the medal ceremony was a very humbling experience,” Leading Senior Constable Kelly Boers said.

“I don’t think we had a true understanding of the scope and scale of the incident as it was being relayed through the media. Realising the support from home was so huge it was enough to bring a tear to your eye. It made me feel truly proud to be an Australian.”

“Detective Superintendent Thomas Hester and the AFP executive were incredibly supportive while we were in Thailand, and it made it a lot easier to focus on the mission of rescuing the boys,” Sergeant Robert James said.

The AFP dive team was the last to exit the cave on the final day of the rescue mission, ensuring everyone had safely made their way back out.

“Trust, mateship, and being comfortable being uncomfortable, will give any team strength to keep pushing on,” Senior Constable Matthew Fitzgerald said.

“Training and experience is imperative as a police diver. However, the one thing that we all have in common is the feeling of trust and reliance amongst fellow officers,” Detective Leading Senior Constable Christopher Markcrow said.

“Some policing jobs are a combination of both excitement and near death experiences. But over time you learn not to fear or panic, but to treat it as a puzzle and work your way out.”

“After we all exited the last chamber, everyone started clapping and cheering, and celebrating the success of what we thought would be mission impossible,” Sergeant Robert James said.

“It was a great moment and something that we will never forget.”

Senior Constable Matt Fitzgerald and Senior Constable Justin Bateman.



# Hope for families waiting for a loved one to come home

# MISSING PERSONS

Outdoor media profiling of Sally Cheong in Melbourne – donated by OMA for NMPW 2016.



For more than 30 years National Missing Persons Week (NMPW) has provided hope to those most impacted by missing persons in Australia.

NMPW is an annual event raising awareness of the significant issues associated with missing persons, as well as helping to reduce the incidence and impact of missing persons in Australia.

The week has evolved after originating in Townsville in 1988 following the disappearance of local resident, Tony Jones, while hitchhiking six years before.

## The beginning

According to Mark Jones, Tony's brother, their family wanted to do something to remember Tony while also giving hope to other families waiting for a loved one to come home.

"In creating the first National Missing Persons Week in 1988, my family wanted to keep hopes of a breakthrough alive – not just for our family, but for all families with a missing loved one," he said.

The inaugural week took place with a memorial service, where the Mayor of Townsville planted a tree in commemoration of Mr Jones.

From this small gathering, NMPW became an annual event to help families create public awareness of their loved-one's disappearance

long after the initial interest of their case subsided, in the hope of a breakthrough.

Mark says the day is a source of great pride for the family.

"It's a silver lining after all we've been through with Tony," he said.

30 years on and NMPW is now proudly supported by government, law enforcement, not-for-profits, and community groups around the country.

The AFP, through the National Missing Person's Coordination Centre (NMPCC), has taken the lead in driving the national campaign, meeting with families and coordinating an array of different initiatives throughout the years; all contributing to the success of NMPW.

30 years on and NMPW is now proudly supported by government, law enforcement, not-for-profits, and community groups around the country.



The Jones family founded National Missing Persons Week in 1988 after the disappearance of 20-year-old Tony Jones

## Corporate and community support

The NMPCC works with corporate supporters such as the Outdoor Media Association (OMA) and McDonalds, leveraging their networks and resources to raise awareness of missing persons Australia-wide.

Thanks to OMA's generous donation of \$1 million dollars of nationwide outdoor advertising on billboards, bus stops, digital screens, and taxi backs, the faces of missing people are everywhere during NMPW.

From 2002 to 2017 the OMA has also supported the NMPCC to run its annual poster competition for tertiary design students.

The poster competition initiative has resulted in an incredibly diverse range of posters and opportunities for winners to undertake work experience with the NMPCC team and competition partner, the OMA.

During that period, the final design was then featured in a national campaign including television commercials, merchandise, outdoor advertisement (billboards, bus stops, and train stations), posters and catalogues.

Themes and messages have mainly focused on at-risk groups and issues, including Dementia and Alzheimers sufferers, at-risk youth, mental health consumers and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Since 2016 McDonald's has profiled missing persons in its 900 in-store screens Australia-wide the hope that someone will recognise them.

Chemist Warehouse also supported the NMPCC and NMPW from 2013 to 2017 by donating space in their monthly catalogues which were distributed to more than 6 million Australian households. This was supported by Chemist Warehouse in-store and radio advertising.

Collectively, with the help of corporate supporters, the reach of NMPW and awareness missing persons is increasing each year.

## Today

To acknowledge the 30 year anniversary this year and better leverage technology, the NMPCC has produced a national digital campaign.

The aim of the digital campaign is to reach and impact on a broader audience, such as those who have never thought about a missing person, or who believe the impact of a missing person will never affect them.

## '30 for 30'

Titled '30 for 30' – this year's social media campaign profiles 30 faces of long-term missing persons cases for the 30 years of NMPW.

This is coupled with feature profiles from each State and Territory to create eight unique human interest stories

about the missing persons and the families they have left behind.

The approach was taken to show the missing as 'people' and not 'profiles', providing different perspectives on these issues.

The stories focus on different issues relating to missing persons, including financial burdens and counselling services and reasons why people go missing, including dementia, mental health issues, and suicide.

## 'Hold onto Hope' short film

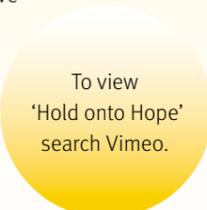
'Hold onto Hope' was inspired by the real effects of living without missing loved ones and the challenge of ambiguous loss – specifically the desire to hold onto hope and the physical ties associated with missing loved ones.

The theme resonates with Eileen Fahey – the mother of Anthony Fahey, who has been missing since 2013.

"We are endeavouring to sell our house, however, this is upsetting because what if Anthony comes home and someone else is living here, how will he find us, how will he feel, what will he do?"

"I also feel that if we sell I won't have the memories of him being in the house and I'm afraid I'll forget the image of him sitting at the end of the bench and the sound of his voice, it's all tied up in the house, how can I leave it?" she says.

Hirut's son Nazrawi (Naz) was last seen on 9 October 2016 in North Hobart, Tasmania. He was 20 years old at the time.



# Community recognition for a local hero

As a community police officer you get to experience the best and worst of people, sometimes within hours or moments on a single day. It's a challenging role, but one ACT Policing Detective Station Sergeant Harry Hains has relished for the past 28 years.

If you ask Detective Station Sergeant Hains, being part of the community is the best part of his job. "I feel a deep and enduring social contract with the people of the ACT and this is what drives me to provide the best policing service," he said.

This commitment is why he established the 'Ask a Cop' initiative, which encourages young people to ask police about different aspects of the job, or any other law enforcement issue. It's the only program of its kind in the ACT, and has been an enormously popular part of the Woden Youth Centre's monthly program.

Each month, Harry and other officers visit the youth centre to play pool and chat with anyone who's there. They also provide information on a range of topics, from what happens at search warrants to how you can join the AFP.

The success of the program, and Harry's role in bringing it to life, was recognised by the ACT Government. It awarded Detective Station Sergeant Hains the Community Protection Medal in recognition of his exceptional contribution to protecting the Canberra community.

At a ceremony at the National Arboretum, Member of the ACT Legislative Assembly Chris Steel presented the award on behalf of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. He told the audience the recipients of the award embodied the ideal of commitment and dedication to the ACT community. "We should

feel very grateful to these upstanding members of the community for their time, skill, effort and diligence," Mr Steel said.

The citation on Detective Station Sergeant Hains' award is for his sustained, distinguished and outstanding service to the ACT, particularly in the fields of front line community policing, criminal investigations and community engagement over a significant period.

This kind of recognition is not something Detective Station Sergeant Hains expected when he began his career as a City Patrol Constable in 1990. After working as a beats cop, he gained his Detective's Designation and worked on a range of criminal investigations, one of which inadvertently led him to a kind of fame.

Author Helen Garner wrote the book 'Joe Cinque's Consolation' about a murder that took place in Canberra in 1997. The book was later turned into a film. As the lead detective on the case, Harry Hains features heavily in the book's depiction of the investigation into the victim's girlfriend, Anu Singh, and her subsequent trial. Anu Singh was found guilty of manslaughter and released from prison in 2001.

Detective Station Sergeant Hains was also a lead investigator into the tragic death of Katie Bender. The young girl was with thousands of other Canberrans on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin in 1997 to watch

Detective Station Sergeant Harry Hains after receiving his award.



"...Mum and Dad would go without themselves to provide a loving home where we were encouraged to not only achieve our potential, but were provided with a solid understanding and appreciation of social justice."

the demolition of the old Canberra Hospital. The explosion did not go as planned, and Katie died when she was hit by a piece of flying debris.

These types of investigations take a toll on police. But Detective Sergeant Hains says he tries not to dwell on the difficult aspects of his job. Instead, he focuses on working with others to build a better community. He is a strong advocate for the rights and protections of vulnerable members of the community and young people.

In this role, he undertook a critical review of how ACT Policing interacts and engages with youth, resulting in a reinvigorated model of policing to address issues of recidivism. The model also helps to better apply crime reduction strategies to address systemic problems.

Detective Station Sergeant Hains also works closely with his colleagues, mentoring and guiding many young detectives through complex investigations, as he sees it as an important part of his role. "I was very lucky to have some excellent, ethical police mentors over the years," he said. "Working alongside these officers shaped me. In particular, Detective Commander Mark Johnsen, who sadly passed away in 2010, and my first Sergeant, Stephen Corrigan, had a huge influence on me."

"I was fortunate to be partnered with Mark during my first days on the job in City Crime. He was a skilled Detective who taught me the value of tenacity.

Steve taught me vital emergency management skills, and his ability to make valid, ethical decisions in time-critical situations was second to none."

Detective Station Sergeant Hains also acknowledges the role his parents, Margot and Harry Senior played in shaping his view of the world. "My parents showed me, and my four siblings, how to be honourable and just every day," he said. "We didn't have a lot of money, but Mum and Dad would go without themselves to provide a loving home where we were encouraged to not only achieve our potential, but were provided with a solid understanding and appreciation of social justice."

Detective Station Sergeant Hains' family were with him at the Canberra Arboretum when he accepted his medal, along with other policing friends and colleagues, to acknowledge his decades of service to the community. We also thank him for his dedication and commitment.

# Making sense of Srebrenica

AFP Federal Agent Dean Manning and the team of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia have ensured justice for the victims of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre.



AFP Federal Agent Dean Manning gives evidence at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.



AFP Federal Agent Dean Manning in Bosnia.

Below: Muslim men, women and children were taken away on buses by Bosnian Serb forces.

Bottom: Blindfolds – such as this one found in the Kozluk mass grave – were crucial evidence for the International Criminal Tribunal trial.



On Thursday 2 August 2001 AFP Federal Agent Dean Manning stood at the side of an open mass grave in Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It was a day he and other investigators had meticulously worked towards – and were continuing to do so – as part of a difficult investigation of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) into the July 1995 murder of more than 7500 Bosnian-Muslim men and boys in and around Srebrenica during the Bosnian War.

Initially arriving in Bosnia in August 1998 on a leave of absence from the AFP, Federal Agent Manning had already been part of the search for and exhumation of a number of large mass graves and had provided evidence in genocide trials against senior members of the Bosnian Serb military.

Now, he listened to the radio as Presiding ICTY Judge Almiro Rodrigues sentenced former Bosnian Serb Army Major General Radislav Krstic to 43 years in prison in what was the first conviction in Europe for ‘Genocide’ for the horrific crimes.

With less than 10 survivors to give witness testimony about the other accused perpetrators of the Srebrenica massacre, it would be up to Federal Agent Manning and the members of the ICTY team to continue to make the evidence count as part of ‘Operation Casper’.

Bodies are carried from the Zeleni Jadar mass grave site in Srebrenica.



### Back in The Hague

Fast forward 16 years and Federal Agent Manning finds himself back in familiar territory – Wednesday 22 November 2017 brings the sentencing of Bosnian military leader Ratko Mladic, who has been convicted of Genocide for ordering the Srebrenica massacre. He receives life imprisonment.

This time Federal Agent Manning is at ICTY headquarters in The Hague – and listening to the verdict from an annexe room within the building. Having flown there especially, he did not place himself in the main court room – leaving more space for the relatives still living in the aftermath of the massacre.

In all, he had worked at the ICTY during a six year leave of absence from the AFP from 1998 to 2004, predominantly on the Srebrenica genocide, as well as crimes committed by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in Croatia.

“Milosevic was the serving head of a country, and we took him from Serbia to The Hague to face justice,” he said.

“To try someone like that was new stuff – even Nuremberg wasn’t at that sort of level. But in the end there were too many charges brought against him.

“Trying to prove a country-wide, organised criminal enterprise to massacre people takes a lot of witnesses and evidence – and he died before the matter was dealt with.”

The ICTY trials were complex. The law had not been tested and the judges were from a mix of common and civil law backgrounds.

Late in the conflict, too, the Serbian military had moved many Srebrenica related bodies from primary mass graves to secondary ones – making the recovery of those bodies and the chain of evidence even more challenging.

It was also difficult to bring witnesses to The Hague.

“One older woman flown in from Sarejvo had never been on a plane before, never been out of the woods before. In her case she had a bag of potatoes – she didn’t know if she’d be fed.

“When I first got there my ICTY team leader was asked in an interview for a European paper ‘what would we achieve?’ This was very early on, when Krstic was arrested – and he said he didn’t know, but in the end ‘if we just made it difficult for them to sleep at night, then maybe we’d achieve something’.

“Well, I left the court after the Mladic verdict and I thought to myself ‘I’m not sure he’s not sleeping at night, but at least I know where he’s sleeping for the rest of his life. And that’s some comfort for me and hopefully some comfort for the victim’s families.’”

Giving evidence to the ICTY, while confronting, has been satisfying.

“When I gave evidence against Milosevic particularly – he was horrible – and I was of course nervous.

“It’s a big issue, a big forum and it’s being broadcast – literally millions of people in Bosnia and Serbia and in Croatia are watching you give evidence. He said to me ‘well these people committed suicide’... I got angry and turned that into a focus on the evidence I had to give.”

Mladic, too, was a difficult personality throughout his trial.

“He was an arrogant, oafish man who could do what he wanted – and we made him sit in court and listen to the witnesses and the evidence,” Federal Agent Manning said.

“Just when I finished giving evidence he got really angry – swearing and carrying on, telling his lawyers that I was an ‘f-ing’ this and f-ing that’. I got a great deal of satisfaction out of that.

“It was good to go to The Hague for the verdict – I went over by myself because my family wanted me to go – and insisted I go – because they knew how important it was to me.

“To sit there and listen to the judge say that this man who committed those crimes, who made it happen, who drove it – get life imprisonment and was shown to be guilty of those things.

“You sit there and you say to yourself ‘it doesn’t bring anyone back, it doesn’t change anything, it doesn’t stop all that pain. But the person in charge of the whole country’s military – the leader – we got him and we made him sit in the witness dock and we made him listen to all of it’.”



Verdict at the International Criminal Tribunal: Former Bosnian military leader Ratko Mladic reacts as he is convicted of genocide and sentenced to life imprisonment for ordering the July 1995 Srebrenica massacre.

### History unfolds

Until 1991, Bosnia and Herzegovina was a part of the Republic of Yugoslavia. As the break-up of Yugoslavia progressed, the three main ethnic groups of Bosnian Serbs, Croats and Muslims began a war which lasted into 1995.

In April 1993, a UN resolution saw the creation of an enclave called ‘Srebrenica’ to protect the Muslim population, with a Dutch UN battalion providing security for the area.

Eventually encompassing several hundred kilometres – including the village of Potocari – it housed up to 30,000 people, and was surrounded by Bosnian Serb Forces with entry via armed checkpoints only. Despite the UN’s mandate to demilitarise Srebrenica, Bosnian Muslim forces launched armed raids from the enclave into the surrounding Serbian villages.

Bosnian Serb forces eventually attacked, and on 11 July 1995, General Ratko Mladic and his troops entered Srebrenica. The city was largely abandoned as the women, children and some elderly men had fled to Potocari. Meanwhile, up to 15,000 men and boys gathered in the area of ‘Susanjari’ (also within the enclave) with the intention of fighting through to Muslim held territory.



The number of shoes found in mass graves gave an indication of the number of bodies in the immediate area.

Tens of thousands of those in Potocari were subsequently removed and transported by buses to other Muslim-held territories. The remaining men and boys were taken prisoner under the guise of screening them as war criminals and transported to schools, warehouses, community halls, farms and dams.

Over the next several days, all 7,500 of them were executed in a planned and coordinated military endeavour that was supported by elements of local civilian and police authorities.

To accommodate their bodies, at least ten primary mass graves were created using military and civilian earth moving equipment. At one massacre site – the Branjevo Military Farm – not only was this equipment visible from aerial view, but the tracks of the buses

used to bring the victims to their death could also be seen.

Following the public release of aerial images of the massacre sites, the offenders launched a secret operation in September and October 1995 to open the primary mass graves at night, load the bodies into trucks and relocate them to 34 smaller secondary graves in even more remote locations.

This further disassociated their bodies, leaving the remains of some victims spread across both sites. It presented a complicated evidentiary scenario for Federal Agent Manning, who used his findings and thousands of artefacts, identification documents, and other forms of evidence recovered from the graves to support the prosecution of offenders to the ICTY.

### Staying committed

“It’s very easy to stay committed to this work when you see the victim cost,” says Federal Agent Manning.

“When I went to my first mass grave and opened up the ground I saw skulls and bones – and there were shoes on the surface of the grave.

“So I’d see 4,5,6,8... 10 shoes and I’d see bodies and then look at them and go ‘that’s not just one body stuffed in a hole, that’s 100... and now there’s 1,000 bodies. They used to be people – and someone decided one day to kill them all.

“When you see that sort of stuff – when you see an individual in a grave with their hands bound and he’s blindfolded and shot in the back of the head – and his friends are the

same... you think ‘wow, I’ve got to do something about all of this.’”

“You can’t be too emotional or you can’t do your job. So you go to a mass gravesite and you think ‘how do I turn this into evidence and link it to other parts of the investigation?’”

“It’s pretty confronting, it’s very difficult and you think ‘wow, that’s a piece of evidence’, there’s a blind fold there with a bullet through it...or you can see that the configuration of the bodies means that they were thrown into the grave – whereas at another grave you see that the people were made to kneel in broken glass and were shot.

“And there was evidence of intent – Serbian Military police went and scoped out areas that would become mass graves and execution points.

“You can see that – that’s evidence and I found that very helpful in terms of dealing with it: ‘take this picture and make it real and show the court.’”

### Coming to terms

Between direct work on the ground and numerous requests to give video and in person evidence, Federal Agent Manning has lived the Srebrenica massacre – on and off – for close to 20 years.

“It’s hard to give it up and not think about it anymore,” he said.

“Every time I’d go back to give evidence – you’d think ‘I’ve got to immerse myself in this, I’ve got to learn it all again, I’ve got to know it all, I’ve got to be able to answer every single question’. So I’ve never got away from it, and I never wanted to.

“I thought that I could draw a line through all of the work that I’ve done there, but I don’t think I will, I don’t think I want to, and I don’t think I can. I was part of something that was unique and a defining moment in my policing career.



When you see that sort of stuff – when you see an individual in a grave with their hands bound and he’s blindfolded and shot in the back of the head – and his friends are the same... you think ‘wow, I’ve got to do something about all of this’

### Post Script

During his investigations Federal Agent Manning’s team assisted with the creation of two documentaries on Srebrenica – one for the BBC and the other for National Geographic.

On BBC 4’s ‘A Cry from the Grave’ they helped tell the story of the victims, even picking up the camera and filming when crew members couldn’t accompany them.

In National Geographic’s production ‘Savage Evidence in Srebrenica’, Federal Agent Manning discussed the identification of victims uncovered in the mass graves.



# Polilight:

How the AFP drove the invention that changed modern day policing

There is hardly a television crime show or movie that doesn't feature the Polilight – a crime-fighting invention created nearly three decades ago that has helped put tens of thousands of criminals before the courts.

In its nearly 40 year history, the Australian Federal Police can lay claim to many breakthroughs in its fight against crime. But it was the invention of the Polilight in the 1980s that stands alone as a ground breaking technology which has made the most significant impact in modern day policing.

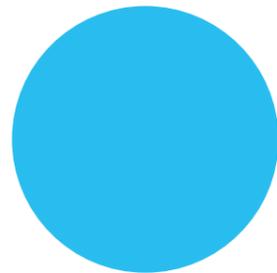
Today, the Polilight, or a variation of it, is used in 98 per cent of crime scene investigations and it has been the subject of many accolades. It is regularly listed as one of Australia's top 100 inventions and nearly three decades later, it is still used by law enforcement agencies around the world.

As well as revealing otherwise invisible fingerprints, bodily fluids, blood stains and revealing document forgeries, it can even be used to detect counterfeit artworks from the real thing to help resolve cases of disputed ownership.

The AFP's Chief Forensic Scientist, Dr Sarah Benson, said the invention of Polilight was 'revolutionary' and took forensic capability forward 'in leaps and bounds'.

"In its day it was certainly cutting edge technology...it brought a whole new dimension for how we approached crime scenes and our ability to collect fingerprints in the field.

"It certainly gave us the ability to make significantly more identifications where otherwise people wouldn't have been identified, and previously would



‘It serves as an important tool in crime scene investigations throughout the world.’ – Dr Malcolm Hall, former Director, Scientific Research Directorate (1979-1985).

have got away with the crimes they committed,” Dr Benson said.

In Australia’s national capital, where most street names recognise people who have made a significant contribution to the nation, the Polilight was selected as a street name in the suburb of Dunlop, amongst a cluster of roads recognising great Australian inventions and inventors.

Sydney’s Powerhouse Museum named Polilight as one of the top Australian inventions of the 20th century and in 2005 the Australian Export Awards acknowledged its global impact with a special award presented by then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Mark Vaile.

### The challenge

At a typical crime scene, it is often what the investigators can’t at first see with the naked eye that provides the clue to solving a crime.

When crime scene examiners find fingerprints at a crime scene, they dust the area to make the prints stand out clearly and then photograph them so they can run comparisons to see if the prints match any known offenders.

But before the invention of Polilight, some prints were so hard to detect on surfaces like paper, or where dark-coloured stains had soaked into the material, that the traditional techniques didn’t work. These hidden clues were impossible to see, let alone photograph.

### Where it began

In the 1970s researchers began the search for a new technology, an alternative to the traditional method of fingerprint detection which was in use at the time.

Dr Malcolm Hall, Director of the AFP’s Scientific Research Directorate (1979-1985) became aware of the potential use of lasers to illuminate fingerprints during his travels to forensic science laboratories in the UK, USA and Germany.

“The need for improved fingerprint practices and outcomes, along with emerging technologies, encouraged me to initiate a scientifically-based research project on fingerprint enhancement,” Dr Hall said.

In early 1980, Dr Hall approached Professor Ron Warrenner, Head of the Australian National University (ANU) Department of Chemistry to see if he would be interested in setting up a Fingerprint Research Unit with funding from the newly-created AFP.

Two new migrants who came to Australia in 1980 were quickly recruited to the team. Physicist Milutin Stoilovic, from the former Yugoslavia was joined by Dr Hilton Kobus, a specialist in spectrographic applications in forensic chemistry, who had been the Director of the Zimbabwe Police Forensic Science Laboratory for three years.

Mr Stoilovic, who had some experience working with light sources

in Belgrade, recalls Dr Hall’s vision to develop a new, portable light source to assist police in their investigations.

“No-one knew what this new light source would look like. It really was a blank canvas,” he said.

### The research work begins

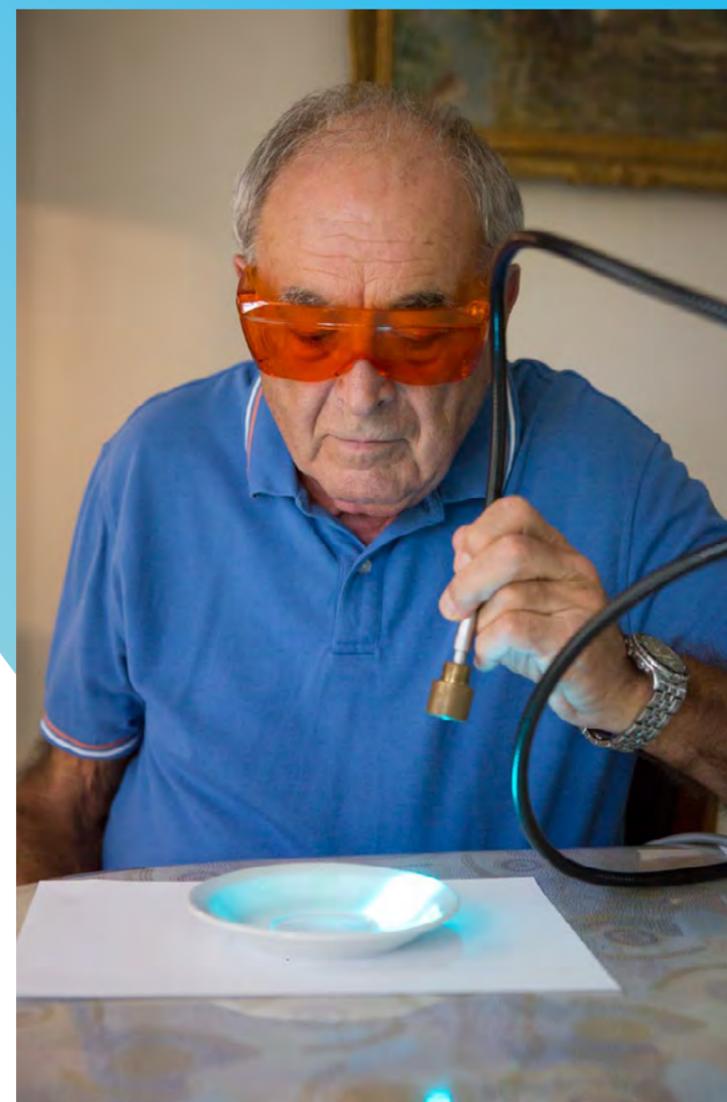
Dr Hall recalls the team of Kobus and Stoilovic beginning their important work.

“This involved comparing several high energy light sources, including a Xenon arc lamp and an argon ion laser, to see whether the laser provided better sensitivity. At the time, the laser was the technology being chosen elsewhere for fingerprint enhancement research,” Dr Hall said.

“It soon became apparent that the laser had several practical limitations, including the fact that it was large and its light source was so strong that if a fingerprint was present on a surface, the background fluorescence often swamped any light coming from the fingerprint, making it difficult to see.

“Further, the laser light was restricted to a few spectral wavelengths, whereas it was possible with the lamp, as a white-light source, along with a series of filters, to produce a wide range of spectra.”

While the lamp technology was a significant step forward, the light source was still very much a laboratory-based system, mounted on an optical bench with a lens, filter



A demonstration of a version of the Polilight.

One of the inventors of the Polilight, former AFP forensics member Milutin Stoilovic, with a prototype, which is still in good working order.



Left: The 'Unilight' – one of two prototypes of the Polilight.

Right: Over the years, Rofin Australia has continued to evolve and enhance the Polilight, developing new models using emerging technology to respond to requests from crime scene investigators.



The Polilight is recognised as one of Australia's greatest ever inventions and it even has a street named after it in Canberra's northern suburbs.

Special Agent Adam Deem, of Air Force Office of Special Investigation Detachment 219, shines light on a glass to reveal fingerprints at Barksdale Air Force Base, La. Deem dusted the glass with an orange powder that helps agents detect finger prints with ultraviolet light. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Micaiah Anthony via Wikimedia Commons)

and mirror to reflect the light onto the fingerprint. It was realised a system like this would not be easily adapted to a non-scientific environment, particularly for use by forensic police in the field at crime scenes.

"The concept of a portable light source unit evolved and it became apparent that there were particular challenges in using a Xenon arc lamp as the light source which generated considerable heat during its operation due to infra-red radiation," Dr Hall said.

"Mr Stoilovic spent considerable time investigating how to manage this issue and came up with a clever solution by devising a specific mirror/prism system which managed the infra-red heat problem."

In time, a third team member was appointed to the Unit – Mr Chris Lennard, a PhD student in chemistry. His task was to carry out research on ninhydrin and its analogues. Ninhydrin is a chemical which was widely used at that time, with very variable results for the development and visualisation of fingerprints on surfaces such as paper.

### The chemistry of fingerprints

Meanwhile, Dr Kobus and Mr Lennard were focusing on the chemistry of fingerprints themselves, resulting in the development of a range of novel techniques for making fingerprints visible, such as the application of a fluorescent dye to latent fingerprints treated with superglue. The lamp could then be used to illuminate these prints. This innovative technique is now used routinely in fingerprint bureaux throughout the world.

"Different techniques are required to make the fingerprints visible, depending on the nature of the surface and the content of the fingerprint," Dr Hall said.

"Fingerprints contain amino acids which are secreted from pores in the fingerprint ridges. In addition, fingerprints can result from other materials transferred to a surface from an individual's finger. As a result, fingerprints can result from a wide variety of materials and are deposited on a wide range of different surfaces."

In a discovery that was also a world first, Dr Kobus and Mr Lennard were able to clarify the actual chemistry involved in the ninhydrin reaction with amino acids.

"Through understanding fingerprint chemistry it was then possible to apply the lamp (by this stage christened 'The Unilight') to fingerprints which had first been treated with ninhydrin and

then with a metal heavy compound," Dr Hall said.

"If the surface of the document was then cooled in a bath of liquid nitrogen whilst being illuminated with the lamp, the level of fluorescence was increased 1,000 fold.

"The resulting fluorescence could then be either photographed or captured by a video camera. Through this method, many faint ninhydrin prints which were regarded as containing insufficient 'points of identity' could then be used as evidence in court cases.

### Going commercial

Using his knowledge of optics, Mr Stoilovic continued to work on improving the Unilight as a portable device.

"Once this reached a prototype level of sophistication, the opportunity arose to explore the possibility of commercialisation," Dr Hall said.

Recognising the potential for Unilight internationally, the ANU's commercial arm sold the concept to Rofin Australia Pty Ltd which eventually developed it into the Polilight and promoted its use internationally.

As well as being easier to use, Polilight was smaller and more portable than the original Unilight.

Over the years, Rofin has continued to evolve and enhance the Polilight, developing new models using emerging technology to respond

to requests from crime scene investigators for additional light output, and an optional infra-red output suitable for examining documents.

### Global reach

It is now in use in nearly 100 countries and while it has its competitors, Polilight is seen as an essential tool for investigative and intelligence units world-wide, including the AFP, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Criminal Intelligence Agency, Japan National Police, Bundeskriminalamt and Scotland Yard.

Managing Director of Rofin Australia, Dr Hadrian Fraval, said "it is astounding to think the Polilight has been recognised amongst the best of thousands of incredible Australian inventions of the 20th century and is ranked alongside world-changing discoveries such as WiFi, the bionic ear and the surf lifesaving reel."

"Of course much credit must go to the scientists at the ANU who first created the concept for the instrument. But over the years we have continually refined and developed it both in terms of its science and its marketability," Dr Fraval said.

Decades later, the versatility of the invention and its broad application is still breathtaking.

Dr Benson said the AFP's role in facilitating the development of the Unilight and Polilight remained a proud achievement for the organisation to this day.

"The engagement of Stoilovic and Lennard in the late 1980s and 1990s meant the AFP was recognised as world leaders in the field of fingerprint development technique research at that time," Dr Benson said.

"At the time, with Stoilovic and Lennard, the AFP provided training and support for research across Australia and internationally."

The final word, to the scientist who is credited with having the bold vision to champion the research project, secure the funding needed, and who recruited a team able to deliver this world-first technology.

"In my opinion, the resulting benefits have been outstanding and reflect positively on the AFP in its preparedness to financially support scientific research," Dr Hall said.

"Without the establishment of the Fingerprint Research Unit at the ANU, when combined with the research outcomes from the Unit as a whole, the concept of a portable light source would not have been realised.

"Today, it serves as an important tool in crime scene investigations throughout the world."



**Footnote:** Milutin Stoilovic left the ANU in 1989 to join the AFP. In 2013, he was selected as a finalist for the Senior Australian of the Year Awards for his ground breaking work and international reputation in forensics. He has travelled internationally extensively to promote the use of Polilight and recently returned to his former home land where he has donated two Polilights to assist the Serbian Police Force.





# Spotlight on security at APEC 2018

For one critically busy week in November, the eyes of the world were watching as Port Moresby put its law enforcement practice into action, welcoming leaders from 21 nations to PNG for the 2018 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting.

While the meeting of world leaders was the focus, behind the scenes the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) had prepared for their biggest operational security test in history.

The scale of the policing response was unprecedented for the RPNGC. More than 4,000 members were on duty across peak times of APEC Leaders Week, performing roles varying from bomb searches and coordinating motorcades through the streets of the city, to providing personal security for dignitaries.

At the request of the RPNGC, Australian Federal Police advisors were on hand to provide assistance

and advice in pursuit of the aims of the PNG-Australia Policing Partnership (PNG-APP) – the capacity building foundation that ties Australia with PNG.

Leaders from around the world, including Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and United States Vice President Mike Pence, all descended on Port Moresby.

It was a significant example of RPNGC planning and preparation for their largest critical event to date. With each leader came heightened security requirements for the venues – including APEC Haus - and the hotels they would be using. And with an influx of an estimated 9,000 delegates, a thorough training schedule was put to the test to ensure a safe and secure city.

**Left: The Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary canine unit contributed to motorcade security for visiting international leaders in Port Moresby.**



A Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary water policing vessel keeps APEC Haus secure from the sea.



Australian Federal Police advisors worked closely with motorcycle police officers from the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary to prepare for the arrival of APEC leaders in Port Moresby.



The complex task of multiple plane arrivals at Port Moresby's Jacksons International Airport was a key focus during APEC Leaders Week.



A PNG-Australia Policing Partnership advisor with Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary members during APEC.

### The road to APEC

In the months leading up to APEC, the need for diverse skills among sworn officers in the RPNGC spiked dramatically, opening up a suite of traditionally male-dominated areas within the force.

The PNG-APP provided a range of capacity building measures to ensure members were ready to provide a suitably proportionate response to the demands of the event. As a result, RPNGC members landed new roles as bomb appraisal and close personal protection officers, traffic and motorcade members, and as canine, water police and event security specialists.

Only 15 members-strong before APEC, the RPNGC Traffic Branch built sufficient capacity to coordinate the movements of APEC delegates, comprising more than 20 simultaneous motorcades during Leaders Week. APEC preparations saw their ranks swell to more than 80, with many female officers taking up the challenge to fill previously unavailable opportunities.

RPNGC First Constables Delma Daki and Esther Kende were the first to complete the motorcade skills enhancement training program on Yamaha XJ6SAP motorcycles, with their counterparts following close behind.

First Constable Kende said the ability and desire to ride and be part of the APEC experience was all a matter of attitude.

"Women can achieve whatever they believe they can achieve...even the more physically challenging roles such as the motorbikes," she said.

In the days leading up to APEC proper, PNG-APP advisors coordinated a number of complex exercises for RPNGC Traffic Branch to ensure things would flow smoothly at the peak of the event.

Practice motorcades were front and centre in the preparations, with practice exercises including 'Wok Wantaim Wednesday' and 'Super Sunday' the impetus to engage all capabilities in real-time practice ahead of delegate arrivals and critical international meetings.

### Traffic in the skies

It wasn't only the traffic in the streets of Port Moresby which required a major coordination effort. Across at PNG's major airport, Jacksons International, the planned record number of aircraft arrivals and movements required a new way of thinking.

With 21 APEC leaders and the thousands of delegates, staff and media descending on the city, constantly refining plans was the order of the day.

PNG-APP advisors were key in assisting their RPNGC Airport Operations counterparts prepare for the increased influx of aircraft – mapping out arrival times for leaders, adjusting the necessary policing presence, and coordinating police motorcades to meet each aircraft on arrival.

At the busiest time of leader's weekend, the Joint Airport Coordination Centre, supported by PNG-APP advisors, became the "trusted point" of coordination for visiting world economies. It became a hub for the delivery of RPNGC Close Personal Protection and traffic resources – a vital backbone of cross-disciplinary communication.

### Support on the home front

While PNG was in the spotlight during APEC, back in Australia additional AFP members were deployed domestically to provide security for transiting leaders who were passing through on their way to the leader's summit.

Only one hour by plane from Port Moresby, Cairns became an offshoot site for the transit of leaders and the parking of additional aircraft.

In response, AFP Airport Operations members from Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth deployed to join the team at AFP Cairns Office, to meet the increased demand on aviation operations and

patrols, including a higher volume of bomb appraisals and canine screening of luggage and aircraft.

It was a steady stream of high profile visitors through Cairns, including the US Vice President and the Sultan of Brunei. On the ground in far north Queensland, Close Personal Protection members provided added security to visiting leaders, with the Vice President of the United States motorcade – complete with his secure vehicle, 'The Beast' – ready and waiting on arrival as he touched down in Cairns.

Members from a number of AFP portfolios also deployed to Darwin to support the Japanese Prime Minister visit, with Brisbane Office assisting delegates from the Pacific Islands. A multi-disciplinary APEC Coordination Centre was also stood up in Canberra during the event.

The AFP's support for PNG's APEC was just one piece in the multi-layered puzzle of Australian government support to ensure our closest neighbour had the tools and training to successfully showcase their nation to the rest of the world.

"Women can achieve whatever they believe they can achieve...even the more physically challenging roles such as the motorbikes" – First Constable Esther Kende



In transit: AFP Bomb Appraisal Officers in Cairns on the tarmac ready for the Vice President of the United States to pass through far north Queensland on his way to APEC.

# Remembering the Hilton

The bomb exploded 40 years ago, but the reverberations are still felt.

Senior Constable Terry Griffiths was on duty in Sydney on 13 February 1978 when a bomb exploded outside George Street's Hilton Hotel.

The bomb was in a bin outside the hotel and when council workers operating a City of Sydney Council garbage truck tipped the bin's contents into the truck, the explosion was instantaneous. Garbage collectors Alec Carter and William Favell were killed at the scene and NSW Police Officer Paul Burmistrw died from his injuries nine days later.

The AFP was formed the following year in response to the act of terror.

Forty years on, retired Senior Constable Griffiths still carries the scars of the trauma he experienced that night. "Our love for one another is stronger than any bomb," he told a commemorative service on Tuesday 13 February.

Acting AFP Commissioner Leanne Close said that as well as the impact on individuals in the vicinity of the blast, there was a broader impact on the public's confidence in Australia's law enforcement agencies. The attack put all policing services under close review.

"This review brought about a range of important changes to State and Commonwealth policing and directly led to the creation of the Australian Federal Police in late 1979," she said.

The AFP's first commissioner, Sir Colin Woods, had experienced the IRA bombing campaigns in the UK and brought with him a practical experience to guide the AFP in counter terrorism.

"He was a strong advocate for close cooperation between law enforcement agencies," Acting Commissioner Close said. "It is often said that the fundamental duty of each individual police officer is to protect those in their community. This applies throughout the world no matter what particular badge is displayed on the officer's uniform.



AFP Deputy Commissioner Leanne Close lays a wreath at the site of the Hilton Hotel bombing.

“... one thing remains constant:  
our determined commitment to protect the  
people of Australia to the best of our ability  
against these types of heinous crimes.”

– AFP Deputy Commissioner Leanne Close



NSW Police – who  
lost member Paul  
Burmistriw in the  
bombing – lay a wreath  
at the memorial to the  
victims of the incident.

“It is perhaps some consolation that  
over the four decades of policing,  
technology, intelligence practices  
and collaboration are now quite  
significantly different to the practices  
in 1978.

“But I can assure you that one thing  
remains constant: our determined  
commitment to protect the people  
of Australia to the best of our  
ability against these types of  
heinous crimes.

“The impact on family, friends and  
colleagues of those directly affected  
by the blast clearly continues today,  
and I give my sincere condolences  
to the families and friends of all here  
present who’ve had to live through  
this experience for the last 40 years”.



AFP members and retired  
Senior Constable Terry  
Griffiths (second from right)  
during a charity walk in  
the lead-up to Hilton Hotel  
bombing commemorations.

As part of the commemorations,  
a 16km ‘AFP Sergeants Mess’  
inaugural Charity Walk took place  
through the streets of Sydney. The  
walk commenced in the evening of  
12 February and concluded at the  
George Street entrance of the Hilton  
Hotel at the time the bomb went  
off – 12.40am.

Participants raised money for  
AFP Legacy, AUSPOL and NSW  
Police Legacy.

Mess Committee President Detective  
Sergeant Vince Pannell said the walk  
was a sombre event with participants  
reflecting on the act of terror which  
sparked the formation of the AFP.

“The long walk provided an  
opportunity to quietly reflect on the  
tragedy of 40 years ago,” he said.  
“Marking that event by walking to the  
exact location at the exact time of the  
bombing was an eerie experience for  
us, but one which allowed us to think  
about where we have come from, and  
what is important to each of us as  
individuals and as police.”

### 13 February 1978

At the time of the Hilton bombing,  
the hotel was the site of the first  
Commonwealth Heads of Government  
Regional Meeting (CHOGRM), a  
regional subsidiary of the biennial  
meetings of the heads of government  
from across the Commonwealth  
of Nations.

A bomb inside a rubbish bin exploded  
when the bin was emptied into a  
garbage truck outside the hotel at  
12.40am, killing garbage collectors  
Alec Carter and William Favell.

A police officer guarding the entrance  
to the hotel lounge, Paul Birmistriw,  
died of his injuries in hospital nine  
days later.

The bomb injured 11 others. The 12  
foreign leaders staying in the hotel at  
the time were uninjured.

On the attack’s 30th anniversary in  
2008, a plaque was unveiled at the  
explosion site on George Street.

The attack was one of the first terror  
incidents on Australian soil, and was  
a catalyst for the formation of the  
Australian Federal Police.

Terrorism remains a major security  
challenge for Australia. In recent  
years, a number of plots have been  
disrupted by the coordinated efforts  
of Australia’s security and law  
enforcement agencies, as well as the  
AFP’s international partners.

The AFP’s Counter Terrorism teams  
of today contribute to safeguarding  
Australia’s national security  
through a whole of government  
approach, facilitated by national  
and international cooperation,  
coordination and collaborative  
working arrangements.





# 2018 a year in pictures

1 En route to the Police Memorial on National Police Remembrance Day in September

2 Commissioner Colvin undertook 'active armed offender' training in January

3 The AFP International Operations Gender Strategy was launched in April

4 'Recruit Rosie' has come a long way since joining the AFP in January

5 Commissioner Colvin at the Missing Youth Forum

6 HQ guest speaker: Philanthropist Andrew Forrest spoke about human trafficking

7 Commissioner Colvin launches the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation

8 After 43 years Detective Sergeant Peter Theodore became the AFP's longest

serving member in July.

9 Senior AFP members with graduate of the Federal Police Development Program, Erin Gillies

10 The AFP thanked four Dutch police officers for assisting to stop an international paedophile network

11 New AFP Constable Victoria Jones

gave the address at her graduation

12 ACT Policing's Constable Kenny kept a busy schedule in 2018

13 In May, AFP Forensics recruits were shown rare items from the Lindy

Chamberlain evidence collection

14 AFP Protective Service Officers during a recruitment photo shoot

15 A new touchstone was installed at the Police Memorial

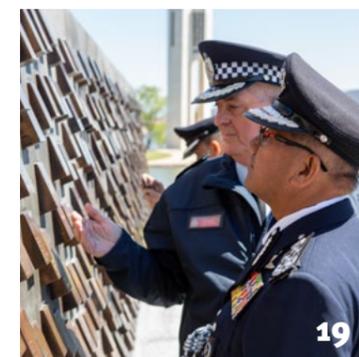
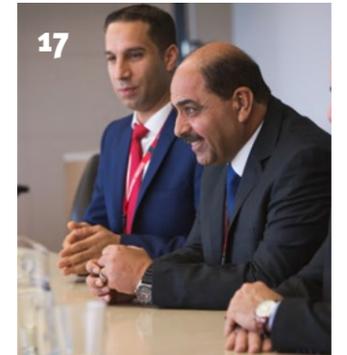
16 The AFP celebrated Harmony Day in March

17 Jordanian Police delegates visited the AFP

18 Dream come true: 85-year-old Berenice Benson finally got to meet 'real-life NYPD cop', Howard Shank

19 Malaysian Police inspected the National Police Memorial in Canberra

20 The first ever women's Australian Police Rugby Union team took on the Australian Defence Force in June



Supporting  
AFP families  
throughout  
the year.



AFP Legacy was set up to provide support including financial assistance to the families of AFP members. Should a current member, either sworn or unsworn, pass away on or off duty, whatever the circumstances (accident, injury or illness), sudden or diagnosed, then support will be offered. This support also extends in the instance where a partner of a current AFP member passes. AFP Legacy's purpose is to support the

police family and to perpetuate the memory of those fallen AFP members.

The AFP Legacy Board of Management comprises of a team of dedicated AFP employees who volunteer their time and represent a broad cross-section of the policing community. AFP Legacy is governed by a constitution and guidelines and is an Incorporated Association in the ACT.

As a not-for-profit organisation, AFP Legacy relies on the generosity of payroll deductions, sponsors, fundraising and the sale of merchandise.

AFP Legacy contributes to help meet the needs of legatee families, generously supported by police members and the wider community.



[policelegacyafp.org.au](http://policelegacyafp.org.au)



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