

Commissioner's Message



It has been said many times that policing is an unpredictable and challenging profession and this edition of *Platypus Magazine* reflects many elements of that unpredictability.

The recent assistance provided by our members in the Middle East highlighted a spirit of cooperation in efforts to help evacuate Australians from the war-torn region. Regardless of individual circumstances, the members formed part of a cooperative effort with the Australian Defence Force and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and were able to aid those Australians in need of help.

This sort of mission reminds us all of the dangers and challenges we can sometimes face in policing.

Here at home, we are focused on building a memorial to honour more than 700 Australian police who have been killed on duty or have died as a result of their duties over the past 206 years. All Australian police jurisdictions are pooling their efforts in preparation for the Dedication of the National Police Memorial, which will commemorate the service of these men and women.

Twelve members of the AFP and its predecessor agencies have lost their lives as a result of their duties:

- Frederick James Bannear
- Robert John Bishop
- Llewelyn John Thomas
- Patrick Mark Hackett
- Richard Leslie Norden DCM
- Ian Donald Ward
- John Michael Zegenhagen
- Colin Stanley Winchester APM
- David Anthony Hanswyck
- Robert Edmund Shepherd
- Stephen Richard Hill
- Adam Dunning

We will all reflect on their contributions to policing on Police Remembrance Day, September 29.

Coinciding with the dedication of the memorial is the official opening of a policing exhibition at Old Parliament House in Canberra, *In the Line of Duty*. The exhibition portrays important moments in policing history through documents, images and objects held in police archives and museums.

It is important that we, as police, reflect upon our history while looking to the future.

MJ Keelty, APM



Construction of the memorial neared completion in August.