



# Strengthening our capabilities

## Conference for service dogs a first

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) proudly hosted the K9-09 Service Dog Conference at Ipswich in September. This was the first time a conference of this nature had been held within Australia or New Zealand.

The theme of the conference was *Developing best dogs and best practice*, with speakers presenting on a variety of topics including genetics, cancer, operational response and deployment, and organisational risk.

More than 140 delegates attended from law enforcement and federal and state government departments and agencies. They included the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, Australian Army, Royal Australian Air Force and corrective services from throughout the country. A trade exhibition was held in conjunction with the conference, with 15 companies displaying their products.

The conference commenced with a medal presentation to service dogs that have served a minimum of five years. I congratulate QPS dogs Wulf, Justice, Bodee and Cyrus, RAAF dog Bea and their dedicated handlers. My thanks also extend to the patron sponsor, Ipswich City Council, and all other sponsors and trade exhibitors. I would also like to thank all those who planned, prepared and participated in the conference.

## Police vessel *Brett T Handran* launched

On September 4, Police Minister Neil Roberts and I attended the official launch of a new police vessel the *Brett T Handran* at the Water Police Complex, Lytton.

The launch was an opportunity to highlight the acquisition of a new vessel and to honour the career and life of the officer after which it was named. Plain Clothes Constable Brett Timothy Handran was tragically killed in the line of duty on June 29, 1989, after responding to a domestic disturbance in Wynnum West.

The launch was attended by Brett's parents, brother, family and friends, as well as a number of Service members and stakeholders who have worked on the project. The vessel will be used for patrol work, search and rescue, and as a command operations centre for major incidents. This vessel, which is one of three new catamarans, along with plans to expand the current Sunshine Coast Water Police facilities, will enhance our Water Police capacity.

## Recruits inducted

On August 28, the Minister and I attended an induction parade at the Oxley Police Academy for 84 recruits who were sworn in as Constables in front of families, friends and colleagues. I wish our new officers well as they commence duties in their stations throughout Queensland. I would also like to thank those who organised the Induction ceremony.

## Commissioned officers' mess dinner

On August 21, a mess dinner was held and attended by more than 100 people

including commissioned officers, representatives of the Sergeants' Mess and members of the community who had provided support to the QPS over the past year. Guests included the Police Minister, the Chief Justice of Queensland, The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, the Chief Magistrate, the State Coroner, the Chair of the Crime and Misconduct Commission, and other judicial figures.

An auction to raise money for charity Community Supporting Police-Helping Hand was a huge success. Among the items auctioned was a California Highway Patrol officer's jacket which sold for \$5,500. This jacket was donated by Deputy Division Commander Troy Abney, California Highway Patrol, who was attending the Management Development Program. I would like to extend my thanks to those who organised and attended this outstanding evening.