



FROM COMMISSIONER ATKINSON

Enhancing effective relationships

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) is dedicated to enhancing effective relationships within culturally diverse communities throughout Queensland.

We as a police service are committed to policing in diverse communities and environments, promoting effective relationships based on inclusiveness, open communication, mutual understanding, respect and trust.

This issue of the *Police Bulletin* focuses on a number of QPS initiatives aimed at developing and maintaining effective relationships with Indigenous and ethnic communities.

Travel to China

Recently I was fortunate enough to be able to travel to China with Inspector Mark Plath and Senior Sergeant Daniel Bragg from the Leadership and Management Development Unit, Human Resource Development Branch.

The purpose of the visit was to strengthen the existing relationships with policing agencies in Hong Kong, Guangdong and Shanghai.

Those relationships have developed through the attendance of representatives of those three police agencies at the three-week Management Development Program, a residential program held at the Queensland Police Service Academy in Oxley.

Inspector Plath and Senior Sergeant Bragg continued on after I returned to Australia to hold negotiations in Beijing and Macau for the potential future involvement of police officers from those cities.

Since 2002, police officers from across the Asia Pacific Region have attended the three-week residential component of the Management Development Program.

The inclusion of external police in the program, funded by their own organisations, allows the development of strong cross-agency relationships and enhances the opportunities for information sharing and networking.

Apart from the benefits already mentioned, the inclusion of external police in the program also provides an opportunity for the re-investment of tuition fees into

improvements in the program that benefits our members, who are destined to be our future senior managers.

New stations and PCYC

Last month I was able, along with Sport and Recreation Minister Tom Barton, to attend the Goondiwindi Indoor Sports Centre opening celebrations.

Minister Barton was asked to officially open the complex, which includes the Goondiwindi Police-Citizens Youth Club and provides a modern facility which offers a range of activities for the local community.

This was only one of a number of new facilities that were opened recently. Others included new stations at Tin Can Bay, Sarina and Mackay Northern Beaches, along with a police beat at Seaforth in the Mackay District.

The Police Service is also undertaking a number of refurbishments to existing stations across the state and exploring the purchase or lease of other new facilities.

Mornington Island visit

Recently I visited Mornington Island as part my government appointed role as Community Champion.

An article in this issue outlines the visit and the meetings we were able to have with members of the community to discuss local issues of concern.

The article (on page 22) also highlights the excellent work being undertaken by members of the QPS to support the community in this remote part of our state.

That work is being replicated in many other Indigenous communities in Queensland, often under challenging and arduous circumstances, and my thanks to all involved for their effort, work and contribution in this regard.