



by BRIAN RIX

Brian Rix
President

It is an honour to be voted onto the Executive of The Police Association and it is an even greater privilege to be elected unopposed as your President for the next two years. The office of President brings with it the responsibility to demonstrate leadership and represent the majority view of the membership and that is what I will do without fear or favour.

Senior Vice President Rod Brewer, Junior Vice President John Laird, Treasurer Phil Pearson and Assistant Treasurer Dean Thomas were elected unanimously by all Executive members present at our October meeting. Newly elected Executive members, Dermot Avon, Paul O'Connell and Mark Rose have joined the team and are looking

forward to representing the membership at Executive level. There is an air of unity and determination among the current Executive to fight hard for your rights and entitlements. We know the immediate and distant challenges facing us all and are prepared to fight for you.

Policing is not just about being warm and fuzzy. Members who have worked the streets know that confrontation is often the first reaction on the part of those with whom we deal. The art of good policing is knowing when to diffuse and when to escalate. The same principles apply to representing our members. We will take what ever action is necessary to ensure our members are fairly treated, have a safe work place and receive a fair outcome from the enterprise bargaining process.

I am proud to say that this Executive, along with our professional and hard working administration are not here for personal accolades, but will stand up and represent our members, no matter what the cost.

OPI Inquisition

We are all very aware that the Office of Police Integrity is intent on using every scintilla of the unfettered authority it has at its disposal, no matter what the consequences, even if that authority far exceeds the rule of law applied to the remainder of the community, including ourselves. As hard working, honest police officers, we can all take heart from the community support shown to us in the media and at the Rally held in Batman Park on Friday, September 22 this year. The community no doubt has empathy for police performing a difficult job, particularly those members who

day in and day out face dangerous and erratic people. We all believe in giving everyone a fair go and that is all we ask for the members of the Armed Offenders Squad who have been publicly vilified by the OPI. Procedural fairness and natural justice are the cornerstones on which our judicial system is built. These principles need to be imposed on the OPI and recognised as not negotiable by the Government.

National Police Memorial – Canberra

National Police Remembrance Day 2006 was very special with the dedication of the "Wall of Remembrance" in Canberra. The 150 police officers killed in the line of duty in Victoria will always be remembered in our national capital along with the 719 police officers from the other states and territories. The Police Federation of Australia was instrumental in establishing this memorial on the banks of Lake Burly Griffen.

All Police Associations/Unions in Australia contributed one third of the cost with our total contribution being in excess of \$400,000. All the pomp and ceremony on the day was impressive with the Prime Minister opening the memorial and AFP Commissioner Keelty speaking on behalf of all Commissioners. Passing reference was made to the Associations'/Unions' contributions. The Police Associations/Unions willingly contributed to the memorial to ensure that those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defending the community are never forgotten. It should however, also be remembered that police officers throughout the country contributed through their Associations/Unions to remember their fallen colleagues and that contribution should not be overlooked.