



by DEAN THOMAS

Dean Thomas

Senior Vice-President

Before delivering my annual report I ask that you pause with me to remember those of our members who have passed away since the last Annual General Meeting:-

- Kristy Olsen
- George Panayiotis
- Robert Balkwell
- Paul Hiriart
- Michael Harrison
- Warwick Cook
- Shane O'neill
- Graham Elliott
- Trevor Jones
- Ann Brimblecombe

Outside members: Stephen Quinsee
Peter Hulse
Graeme Blencowe
Raymond Welsh

Life member: Bill Snell

I ask you now to stand with me and observe one minutes silence in memory of our recently departed colleagues.

I remind all members that the National Remembrance Day for police who have died in the performance of their duty is 29 September, 2006. A remembrance service will be conducted on that day at the Police Remembrance Memorial, St. Kilda Road, Melbourne. The ceremony will be conducted by the Senior Police Chaplain and Police Association Life Member, the Reverend Jim Pilmer. Other services will also be held at Bairnsdale, Bendigo, Hamilton, Kerang, Mildura, Moe, Sale, Shepparton, Stawell, Swan Hill and Wodonga.

This year we also look forward to the opening of the National Police Memorial in Canberra, which will also take place on National Police Remembrance Day. The Police Association in Victoria has contributed to this project to

commemorate police officers who have lost their lives at work. The construction of the memorial commenced shortly after a groundbreaking ceremony which occurred in Canberra on 9 February 2006. Since that time the construction has proceeded well and the memorial is expected to be a place where the families of those who have lost their lives in the policing profession can remember their loved ones. It is also a fitting place for former colleagues and past and present police officers to remember the sacrifices of their fallen colleagues.

During the past year The Police Association has been committed, as always, to focusing on the collective and individual needs of our membership. The dispute between the emergency service unions and the government over the merging of Emergency Services Super with the Government Superannuation Office was resolved in our favour. The emergency services unions have worked effectively together to ensure that current, former and future members' superannuation rights and entitlements have not only been preserved, but actually enhanced. There remain some issues that need to be dealt with which include having our Protective Service Officers on full superannuation entitlements. This is a work in progress, which we anticipate will soon culminate in a successful outcome.

The joint work undertaken by the emergency service unions in the superannuation dispute led to a meeting taking place on 23 February 2006 between the respective executives of The Police Association, United Firefighters' Union and Ambulance Employees Australia. This led to the formation of the Emergency Services Federation. The objective of the Federation is to examine

opportunities for emergency service unions to again work together under a more formalised structure, to influence the government and others of the importance and relevance of the terms and conditions of employment of emergency service workers in Victoria.

Whilst discussions on amendments to the *Police Regulation Act* have been postponed, it is expected that further talks will resume after the state election in November this year. We expect that 2007 will bring about further opportunities for discussions on a revised Police Regulation Act. These discussions will be important because it is the legislation that governs our profession. It is equally important that the Association strongly represents its members to ensure that there is no diminishing of individual rights and that our profession will continue to be enhanced under proposed legislation affecting the employment rights of police officers.

We are currently in dispute with the Victoria Police Force about our 2006 Enterprise Agreement. The Association will continue to push our case as hard and as far as possible, to ensure that our members receive a fair and reasonable outcome. The Victoria Police Force has been particularly strident in its endeavours to prevent our members from receiving the recognition that they deserve. The rigours of policing is difficult enough, particularly in a chronically under-resourced environment, without having the employer fight us in our efforts to have our members recognised in the form of a fair and reasonable pay outcome.

I again congratulate our delegates for the work that they do on behalf

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