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## ICPRA Chairman's Welcome

Tom Stamatakis

December 2016

Dear Colleagues,

As 2016 comes to a close, I wanted to take this opportunity to reach out to wish you and your members all the best during this busy holiday season, and to certainly offer my very best wishes for a happy and, most importantly, safe 2017 for front-line law enforcement personnel around the world.

Unfortunately, 2016 was a turbulent year for many of our colleagues. From our friends at the Fraternal Order of Police, in the United States, we know that 240 police personnel have been shot in the line of duty, with 64 having made the ultimate sacrifice. We know that our colleagues in South Africa continue to face heartbreaking numbers of assaults and murders against police officers, both on and off-duty. We all witnessed the tragedy in June, where a French police officer, and his wife, also a police secretary, were stabbed and killed in Magnanville, two July attacks in Germany, made by radicalized persons, intent on inciting terror amongst citizens, and the September shooting of two Danish police officers, all incidents that put our colleagues directly into harms' way as they react and address these events.

From a Canadian perspective, the issue of police oversight has been a key concern of our national association this year. High-profile incidents in a number of cities across Canada have been seized on by activists to push an anti-policing agenda that is similar to what we've seen in the United States over the past couple of years. While there's no question that these activists have been successful in persuading the media to provide extensive coverage, I should note that there isn't much evidence to suggest their message has broad public support. For example, one of our jurisdictions, the Province of Ontario, recently conducted an online consultation regarding changes to their provincial Police Services Act. Despite widespread media coverage, a total of 1,700 responses were submitted, in a province of almost 14 million people.

This isn't to suggest there aren't significant problems with the current oversight regime. I'm sure every ICPRA association has at least one example of a flawed police accountability system that has failed both police officers, and the communities they serve where vital oversight agencies are simply unable to accomplish their important work within reasonable time limits. Even when front-line police and civilian witnesses cooperate fully with investigators, these processes now drag out over months, which leads to the public questioning their confidence in their police services, and can have a significant negative effect on our officers and their families. For any accountability system to be effective it requires both the confidence of the public and the officers who are being investigated, and we're obviously not seeing that at the moment.

In September, the CPA hosted our biennial meeting in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. I just want to take a moment to thank friends from as far away as South Africa, Australia, and Northern

Ireland, as well as colleagues with the Federal Law Enforcement Association in the United States, for their participation. I've heard from a number of conference attendees who appreciated the new perspectives we were able to hear, and it was clear to everyone of the very practical benefits ICPRA provides to our member associations.

There is certainly a lot for us to be thankful for and a lot of hard work for us ahead in the New Year. From a personal standpoint, I'd like to thank you all for your continued support of the ICPRA and our efforts, and would encourage you to reach out to us anytime you might think we can help. I'd also like to wish you and your members, once again, a very Merry Christmas, and a safe and happy New Year. I look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible in 2017.

Regards,

Tom Stamatakis  
Chairman

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## **Farewell to Greg O'Connor**

Calum Steele, General Secretary, ICPRA and the Scottish Police Federation

The following message was delivered on behalf of Calum Steele at the retirement function of Greg O'Connor on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016

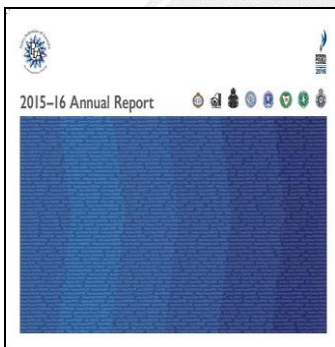
[Click here](#) to read the farewell message

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## **Police Federation of Australia Annual Report 2015-2016**

Mark Burgess, CEO, Police Federation of Australia

Click on the image below to view the PFA 2015-2016 Annual Report



## **Serious Questions about the Supply of Alcohol**

Paul McCue, President, Northern Territory Police Association

The Northern Territory's domestic and family violence (DFV) rates are at epidemic levels. Despite its small population, the Territory's DFV incidents lead the rest of Australia by a long way, and its Police Officers – servicing an area bigger than some European countries – respond to tens of thousands of calls a year.

Paul McCue provided an opinion piece, published in the Territory's daily newspaper, *NT News*.

[Click here](#) to read the article

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## **Goodwill Stretched Too Far in Under-strength Police Service**

Mark Lindsay, Chairman, Police Federation for Northern Ireland

The Police Federation for Northern Ireland decided to measure just how much extra paid and unpaid work officers do to keep the Service ticking over. The *Goodwill Survey*, will form part of the latest pay discussions, reveals some quite shocking facts.

[Click here](#) to view the article

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## **Brexit and European Policing Cooperation**

Calum Steele, General Secretary, ICPRA and the Scottish Police Federation

The impact of Brexit and how my European peers and colleagues react whenever policing and justice is discussed is palpable. What started as bewilderment expressed through whimsical head shaking, ironic raising of eyebrows, and accompanying joking comments has become a progressive hardening of positions that the UK has made its bed and must lie in it.

[Click here](#) to view the article

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## **Holding the Line**

Chris Cahill, President, New Zealand Police Association

Detective Inspector Chris Cahill is back at the New Zealand Police Association's board table for the third time – but now he's at the helm as president.

Chris was elected at the Association's 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference in October. He was the pick of four candidates, two of whom are the current vice-presidents.

Notable, because he holds the rank of Inspector, he is the first commissioned officer to be elected to the position of president in the history of the Association.

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## Body Worn Cameras: Technology meets Complexity

Alex Sutherland (RAND Europe) & Barak Ariel (University of Cambridge)

Police body worn cameras have become the newest addition to the policing toolbox and they are endorsed by policing unions, civil liberties groups, the public to frontline officers themselves. The growth of body-worn cameras has been so rapid that it is estimated that it is now a billion dollar business globally. But should they be used and what do we know about their effectiveness when they are used? Is there evidence about *how* they should be used?

[Click here](#) to read a brief commentary of the results from three papers published this year.

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## Terrorism – Are We Ready? 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016 EuroCOP Conference Report

Angels Bosch, President, EuroCOP

Delegates from the member organisations of EuroCOP and other guest police unions from across Europe gathered in Barcelona in order to discuss the highly important topic of terrorism.

Significant contributions from internationally recognised experts (including prosecutors, academics, law enforcement professionals, police union officials, and politicians) delivered over a number of separate panel sessions resulted in one of the most comprehensive discussions ever held by police unions on this subject.

[Click here](#) to read the report

The End

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