



Celebrating International Women's Day 2019

Detective Sergeant Sarah Marshall **Australia Federal Police**



Being a member of the Papua New Guinea - Australia Policing Partnership (PNG-APP) with the Australian Federal Police (AFP), especially during 2018 when PNG hosted the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, was one of the most interesting and challenging times of Sarah Marshall's policing career.

The AFP have worked with the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) since 2008 as capacity development partners. Like all police organisations, the RPNGC face many obstacles including funding constraints, staffing numbers, resource allocation, as well as increasing media scrutiny. The addition of the logistical and security requirements associated with the safe delivery of APEC PNG 2018, the hosting of events throughout the year and that of APEC Leaders' Week, was a demanding prospect for the RPNGC.

Sarah joined the AFP in 2006 and worked within ACT Policing in General Duties and Criminal Investigations. In 2015, she transferred to National Operations to work within the Criminal Asset Confiscation Taskforce. Sarah had previously deployed to the Solomon Islands with the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI), working in capacity development and understood the difficulties inherent in the role when deploying to PNG. The significant difference between the two Pacific missions that Sarah has deployed to, is that the AFP in PNG work in a purely advisory context, without any police powers. This means effective and influential communication is key to achieving results and cultural sensitivity is paramount.

Sarah's primary focus during her time in PNG-APP has been on Custody Management practices, encouraging and promoting training and protocols relating to dealing with persons in custody. Her passion for human rights and the rights of women and children formed the basis for the work she undertook in rolling out the Custody Management Refresher syllabus to the wider and more remote parts of PNG.

This month, Sarah returns to Australia after two years in PNG; an experience she will never forget.