

POLICE

Down Under



Email: boardpub@bigpond.com

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International Meeting 2011

The 37th International Executive Committee Conference

The 37th International Executive Committee Conference was hosted by the Romanian Section from 20th to 25th September, 2011. The venue was a hotel 15 minutes from the city centre of Bucharest, the Capital city of Romania, which has approximately two million residents.

The opening ceremony was held at the national parliament building with addresses from the Police Minister, International President and National President Romania Section.

Australians in attendance at the event included **Michelle Harris** as the delegate, **Paul Kelly** as the observer and **Dana RUSU** (Queensland Region) as a Visitor. **Paul's** wife **Wendy** and son **Dion** were also in attendance. As per usual **Paul** managed to end up with an additional job that he did not nominate himself for and was kept busy acting as one of the three tellers for the entirety of the meeting.

The Australian Section marketed the upcoming Sydney Friendship Week and received a large number of enquiries from meeting attendees and persons attending the visitors program. Australia also secured the financial assistance of the International Treasury with a guarantee to assist with the 2nd World Police Conference to be held in Brisbane in 2013.

In lieu of the usual professional lecture, a workshop was conducted with the topic being *'What is the most effective way to use new technology to promote IPA?'* The delegates and observers were divided in to nine groups with **Michelle** being nominated as one of the workshop leaders. At the end of the workshop the leaders made presentations to the conference in relation to the group findings. Generally it appeared that the Sections who had embraced modern technology were experiencing membership growth.

At the last IEC approval was gained to rebuild the international website. This has now been completed and the new site website has been launched. You can check it out at www.ipa-iac.org

One of the highlights of the business conducted was the acceptance of Macau as a Section.

Next year is an election year with the World Congress being held in Israel from 4 to 9 September 2012. Israel is also hosting a Friendship Week immediately following the meeting and it promises to be a very special event. Registration closes in March 2012. Go directly to the Israel Section website for further details.

The meeting agenda, motions on notice and outcomes are detailed the Delegate's Report. If you require further details please contact the Secretary General who can forward a copy of the report electronically.

***pictured right:**
Dana Rusu, Paul Kelly and
Michelle Harris*



Impressions at Cross Roads

by Dana Rusu - QPS

The 37th International Executive Committee Conference

It has been 20 years since I left my country of birth Romania; 12 years since I have joined the QPS; and almost 5 years since I became a member of the IPA. Hence, finding myself here, writing, and sharing my thoughts and experiences on the 37th Conference of IEC of the IPA in Bucharest in September 2011. The visit to this event has been one of the highlights of my personal and professional life. Now looking back, it definitely confirmed (to me) why I joined the IPA in the first place, and why I want to be part of such great organisation (the largest friendship association in the world).

In Australia, the IPA membership numbers are comparatively small to Europe and America. I believe that is because the majority of police officers in Australia were born here; most have young families, financial commitments and/or cannot afford to travel so far, compared to members who do have ties/family links across the world.

Although I am currently more involved with the QLD IPA and organise regular social gatherings for our members where they can enjoy the IPA fellowship, in Romania I felt that the International IPA family has more to it. I felt that all the differences in language, culture, age group, gender are assets of the IPA, and not as obstructions as unfortunately I notice in Australia. These differences allow the members to relate to each other and to contribute to the group with their uniqueness. The members actually feel as they have something to offer.

My 42 years of life experience have taught me a lot; in the first half (in Iasi, Romania) I lived and learnt all that I needed to take away into this big world. Despite all the hardship in the Communist Romania, there I received very good education, and enough personal strength and resilience to protect me from what I had to confront later in my personal and professional life. Even more, as a young girl, I had learnt to enjoy the simple things in life, which helped me immensely in bringing up my gorgeous 19 year old daughter in the same way.

In the last 20 years, mostly here in Australia, I have learnt that coming from a communist country with low standard of living and an authoritarian economic, social and political leadership, and a hard working family, should not be an obstacle in creating the best opportunities in life (for me and my daughter). The Australian society is one of the most tolerant and accepting societies, where the rights of the citizens are recognized. These rights come also with the responsibility that one has to live and to behave responsibly not only for him or herself but for those around them.

In Romania, after centuries of oppression (Austro-Hungarian/German imperialism and then Russian influenced communism), this life concept is in its infancy but it has started to appear. And this is one of the most important and positive impressions that I left this conference with. I also left with the hope that my new friendships with IPA members from Romania and from almost 60 other countries could bring about great opportunities for future projects and cooperation.

PS: This article has also been published in IPA Romania Journal which appeared in September/October edition - on the 15th anniversary of IPA in Romania.

FYI: Romania IPA Section was born on 25th October 1996 in Brisbane and now has the second largest membership in IPA.

