

# View from



# THE BRIDGE

*"Encouragement and liberty to explore possibilities are two of the greatest attractions of the IPA."*

That was the view of our Enrolment Secretary at National Council in May. She went on to say *"The IPA procedures designed to preserve the vision of the IPA, while revolutionary at the time were designed for a slower and more predictable world. The working lives of police officers are changing so fast that we need to assess how best we can provide a service through friendship for them."*

That was the theme that permeated National Council 2007, last May and was the subject of our afternoon Workshop – how do we best provide a service to our IPA membership.

Although IPA may have been 'designed' for a slower moving world we must agree that the motto of our association *Servo per Amikeco* – Service through Friendship does not date and means the same to us today as it did in 1950.

The wide-ranging Workshop submissions identified some weaknesses in our fast changing world especially in the area of communication i.e. communicating the existing benefits of IPA to our membership. Many of the advantages of IPA membership were outlined in the February edition of IPA Journal it is intended to follow this with a similar display in each Garda Station. Communication of course is a two way process so we want to hear from you – your views on

what IPA currently offers you and your experience when you availed of IPA services. Only by hearing your story will we know the true picture of how our association is addressing the needs of all in the areas of, Accommodation; Holidays; Hobbies; Youth Exchange; International Youth Gatherings; Professional Scholarships; National and International Seminars; Sporting events; Work experience; Group Travel; Local fundraising or any other activity in which you may have involved yourself.

But the world and working life of the garda *is* changing fast. Our new gardaí are evidence of that. The young men and women leave the Garda College with expectation and enthusiasm as they launch their police careers. During their time in training they have also experienced a youthful IPA and at the same time raising much needed funds for worthy causes. Their expectation and enthusiasm also translates to IPA and this should not be lost as they disperse to the Regions and Branches in this Section.

A generous mix of our newest and 'seasoned' members should ensure that IPA Ireland will hold no fear of our fast changing world and will continue to offer *"Encouragement and liberty to explore possibilities"* for all.

Yours in Friendship

Billy Saunderson  
President

Email: [presidentipairl@eircom.net](mailto:presidentipairl@eircom.net)