



# *Retired and Former Police Association of N.S.W. Inc.*

*(Established 1931)*

## **Central Coast Branch** June, 2023.

Chairman: Geoff Talbot. Secretary: John Marheine Postal address: 37 Northcott Ave,  
Watanobbi, NSW, 2259. Tel: 0400 724 76

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### **GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS.**

We hope that all Members are in the best health possible, that you are doing whatever you want to within your limitations and that you are keeping in contact with loved ones and enjoying whatever benefits are available – such as beautiful autumn and winter weather for one thing. As is always said, tomorrow is another day but you have to make the most of what you can do today, whether it be playing bowls or enjoying lunch at your local club – or even a flutter on the pokies or the horses – being mindful, of course, not to become a problem gambler. (Heaven forbid!!) Just get out there and enjoy yourself while you can. Who knows what tomorrow brings.

### **SCHEDULED BRANCH MEETING.**

The Branch Meeting was held on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2023, commencing at 11 a.m., chaired by Geoff Talbot. A summary of the matters dealt with at the Meeting is set out hereunder.

### **Attendances:**

The following Members and wives were in attendance:

Neil Ashman, Peter Caddy, Ernie and Bev Carmichael, Barry and Marj Clark, John Clark, Tony and Virginia Connolly, Bill Connors, Bruce and Jan Gibson, Russell Gray, John Green, Ray Hatcher, Keith Hockley, Bede Irvine, Russ Jackson, John and Ann Kent, Brian McVicar, John Marheine, John and Noelene Nicholas, Carl and Ramona Ripphausen, Ian and Marlene Robertson, John Roger, Phillip Stubbs-Mills, Bernadette Sweeney, Geoff Talbot, I.J. Toms, Garrie Watt, Russ Whitcher.

### **Visitors.**

The Chairman, Geoff Talbot, extended a warm welcome to the three visitors, Bill Mahony, Gordon Brann and Russell Gray.

Apologies were recorded.

### **Deaths.**

The names of Members who have passed away since last Meeting were read out and a minute's silence was observed.

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The Secretary, John Marheine, read the minutes of the last Meeting held in April, 2023.

### **Correspondence.**

Inwards: Nil.

Outwards: Nil.

### **Treasurer's Report.**

The Treasurer's report was read by the Treasurer, Ray Hatcher.

Bill Connors seconded the receipt of the Treasurer's report.

The Chairman thanked the auditors, Peter Caddy and I.J.. Toms, for carrying out the audit of the Branch's accounts and both Peter and I.J. commended the Treasurer on the manner in which he had kept the Branch's account records.

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### **Our OBE Roll Call.**

#### **Gents:**

Col Joyce, Ted Aitken, Keith Rhodes, Bruce C. Doust, Russ Jackson, William Broderick, John Green, Kevin Turner, John Marheine, Noel Murphy, Edward (Mick) Arnold, Wally Maher, Ernie Carmichael, Ian Robertson, Donald Harding, Bruce Gibson, Bill Ide, Barry Clark, Neil Ashman, Tony Connolly, John Tripp, Brian Zimmerli, Lawrence Huntington, William Dent, Ernest Benson, Mervyn Lane, Graeme Williams, Brian McVicar, Tony Thorrington, Paul Dixon, Jim Donner, Dick Reid, Keith Hockley, John Nicholas, Bill Mahony, Carl Ripphausen.

#### **Ladies:**

A.Staunton, Myrlene Hauser, Adele Dale, Pauline Braithwaite, Kitty Dowse, Maureen Groch, Anne Leabeater, Bernadette Sweeney, Wilma Walsh, Bev Carmichael, Jan Gibson.

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## **WELFARE REPORT:**

Our Welfare Officer, Barry Clark, reported that Bill Ide had suffered another fall as a result of collapsing whilst getting up to put a light on. He was able to drive himself to hospital where he was admitted. He is home now but not well and his family are looking after him whilst he is still having treatment.

Barry said that Father Jim Boland is also not well suffering a serious problem involving five bulging discs in his back.

Barry also reported that Trevor Carroll is currently having treatment for a skin disorder, involving a problem with different doctors disagreeing on his diagnosis but he has been told that he has a 70% chance of making a full recovery.

Peter Drinan is currently having treatment for ulcers on one of his legs and may need a skin graft. Peter's wife, Ann, has also recently had a fall.

Barry warned Members of the dangers of plastic chairs and told of a recent incident in which the leg of a chair broke while he was sitting on it in the sunshine on his driveway. He also warned against standing on plastic milk crates because they will collapse inwards thus preventing the withdrawal of the legs and feet.

Chairman Geoff congratulated Barry on the dedicated work which he has carried out in the role of Welfare Officer over the years.

## **Social Club.**

Russ Whitcher told the Meeting that the Social group members are canvassing a new location for future social events and further information will be supplied on this subject at a later date. It is hoped that a mixed lunch can be arranged later in the year, hopefully in August or September, and that a Christmas luncheon will be arranged in November.

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## **General Business:**

Bruce Gibson told the Meeting that he had recently been talking to Ken Moroney, the retired Commissioner of Police, who sent his best wishes to all Members and wished everyone good health.

Bruce also raised the point that applicants for the Police Force are now faced with a cost of \$17,000.00 before they can gain entry to the Force, according to the methods by which entry nowadays is obtained.

The Chairman advised Members that one of our Members, Phil Stubbs-Mills, is soon to travel to America to take part in shooting competitions.

I.J. Toms spoke about her “work in progress”, conducting research into the origins and history of the Central Coast Branch. Russ Whitcher mentioned that Geoff Potter, the son of our occasional visitor, Les Potter, is the Senior Librarian and Historian at the Gosford Library. Geoff was actually our guest speaker some time ago, delivering an address on Gosford Police history back to 1921. Russ suggested that I.J. might contact Geoff in the interests of pursuing this history.

I.J. also circulated a badge amongst Members, seeking to know its origins and history. This, of course, was the Pelican badge which was introduced to the Branch by Tony Connolly some years ago, the badge having been designed by Tony’s cousin who is an artist.

I.J. was also seeking confirmation that the new title, “Retired and Former Police Association”, now used by our Association, originated from the Central Coast Branch.

John Nicholas told the Meeting of his and his wife’s recent experiences on a cruise, of 14 days and 13 nights, on which conditions and passenger benefits were vastly different compared with previous cruises. There is little doubt John’s comments would discourage Members undertaking any further cruises – at least in the foreseeable future.

The Treasurer, Ray Hatcher, advised Members to be warned about the ramifications of “The Voice to Parliament” legislation currently being introduced into the Federal Parliament. Ray suggested that Members should undertake some research into the possible – extremely serious - outcomes of the “Yes” vote.

The raffle was won by John Roger.

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The Meeting was closed at 11.45 a.m.

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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

The Annual General Meeting was conducted, immediately after the General Meeting, at the Ourimbah RSL Club, on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2023. The Meeting commenced at 11.45 a.m.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read at the General Meeting and were not repeated. There was no additional correspondence and no further General Business.

The Chairman then asked if any Members sought election to the positions of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. As none volunteered Brian McVicar moved that Geoff Talbot be re-elected as Chairman, this was seconded by John Kent and Geoff was duly returned to that position.

As Brian McVicar indicated he wished to step down from the position of Vice Chairman, Russ Whitcher agreed to accept that office and was duly elected.

The Secretary, John Marheine, had indicated that he would like to stand down from that position but, as there were no volunteers to replace him, he indicated his preparedness to remain as Secretary until such time as a replacement is found.

Ray Hatcher agreed to continue in the role of Treasurer and was duly elected.

Barry Clark agreed to remain in the role of Welfare Officer and Chairman Geoff again commended him on the work he has done in that position. Barry advised that he would appreciate assistance in such things as telephoning Members who are sick or in hospital and Brian McVicar agreed to become Barry's assistant.

Bruce Gibson agreed to continue in the role of Liaison Officer and was duly elected.

The Meeting was closed at 11.55 a.m.

## **Veterans Certificates.**

It was with great pleasure that Members were able to welcome two healthy looking guys to the selective ranks of those known by the initials, **O.B.E.**, thereby providing them with outstanding and inimitable status. Secrecy requirement prevents explanation of the meaning of the title. On page 6 the Chairman, Geoff Talbot, is seen presenting the Certificate to Bill Mahony. On page 7 Geoff is seen presenting the Certificate to Carl Ripphausen.

The editor regrets he does not understand how narrow width and wide width photographs work. You just have to be grateful for what ya gets!!

Following the AGM, the ladies joined us in the Bellbird room for a wonderful lunch arranged by Chairman Geoff, enabling much catching up. Many thanks Geoff.





**SAUSAGE SIZZLE.**

On a beautiful sunny day, Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> May, a goodly number of Members attended the Valley Tavern for the sizzle. Which, of course, was conducted by head chef, Brian McVicar, and his dedicated band of assistant entrepreneurs. There were those who assisted.....











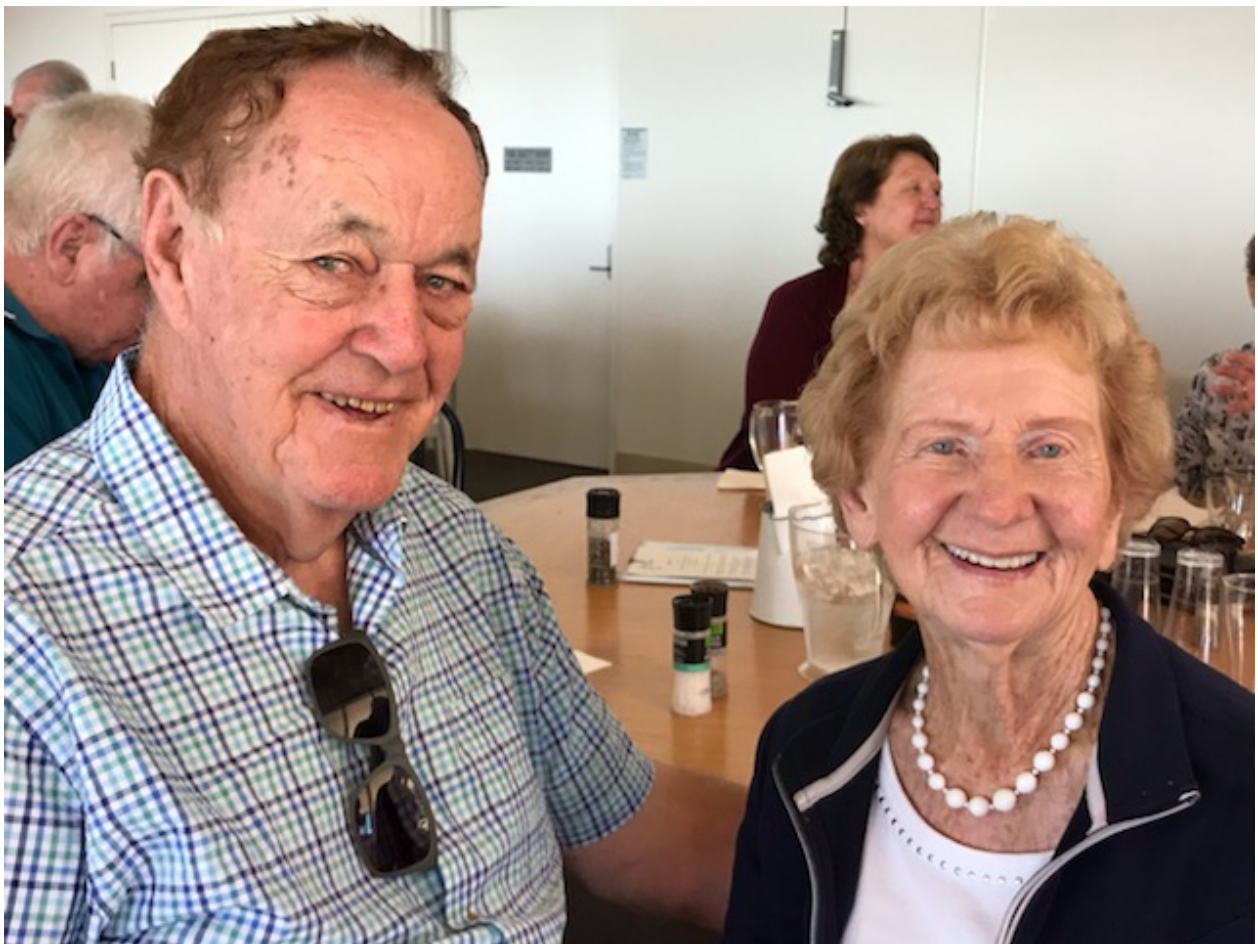


.....and those who reaped the benefits of those outstanding talents.

**The Ladies Coffee Club.**

It is with great sadness we acknowledge that the Ladies' Coffee Club has lost two of its much revered members over past months. We know that they are now comfortable in God's hands and we know He will care for them into Eternity where we will meet them again in time. But those who are left must keep up the tradition, enjoying the social element which they have created as they await the men yabbering away at the Meetings until such time as they can return and join the girls for lunch. And, yes, we do understand, that whatever is discussed out in the lounge is never revealed at the lunch table!!

**And a couple of moments in time.....**



Barry and Marj Clark.



Bev Carmichael and Marj Clark in the lounge at the Ourimbah RSL club.



And sincere thanks to Bill Connors for undertaking the roles of Branch Reporter and Newsletter editor over the past two years. Great job, well done.

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**And what does the future hold?**

Well we might ask that question. As the world seems to be steadily progressing towards utter chaos, if not progressively total destruction, we might well wonder what will be the eventual outcome of the planet. The continued development of long range rockets and nuclear armaments is not only frightening it is a dreadful reminder of an age within our collective memory which we thought we would never see again. We can only live for each day, do the best we can for our family members and hope that somewhere, some time, someone will exercise some common sense and, at least, give us some breathing space – perhaps for another century. How likely is that?

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