



*Retired and Former Police  
Association of N.S.W. Inc.*  
(Established 1931)

**Central Coast Branch**  
**June, 2025.**

Chairman: Geoff Talbot. Secretary: John Marheine Postal address: 37 Northcott Ave,  
Watanobbi, NSW, 2259. Tel: 0400 724 768

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**GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS.**

One can only look at the world stage and wonder what incredible horrors the participating actors will inflict on their neighbours next. The numbers of dead and injured are mounting beyond imagination yet those powers who could intervene seem loathe to take any action. We tend to think that, in our little corner of the world, we are far from the decimation of European countries but then, we have our own horrors in the form of floods and bush fires. Perhaps, in our small pocket on the Central Coast, we can feel a little at ease – but only a little – and we need to be vigilant, take care of ourselves and those dearest to us and hope that tumultuous events will pass us by. We must make the most of every day and see each day as a blessing.

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**SCHEDULED BRANCH MEETING.**

The Branch Meeting was held at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah, on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2025, commencing at 11 a.m., chaired by current Chairman, Geoff Talbot. A summary of the matters dealt with at the Meeting is set out hereunder.

**Attendances:**

The following Members, wives and partners were in attendance:

Father Jim Boland and Carmen, Peter Caddy, Ernie and Bev Carmichael, Barry and Marj Clark, Bill Connors, John and Joan Corbett, Neil Dick, Peter and Anne Drinan, Bruce and Jan Gibson, Grant Harridge, Ray Hatcher, Keith Hockley, Bede Irvine, Russ Jackson, John and Anne Kent, Bryan Lowe, Brian McVicar, John Marheine, Steve Martlew, Cecil Neller, John and Noelene Nicholas, Chris Olen, Ron Richmond, John Roger, Geoff Talbot, Russ Whitcher,

Apologies were recorded.

### **New Member:**

The Chairman, Geoff, welcomed new Member, Cecil Neller, and he was invited to provide a brief summary of his service. Cecil told the Meeting that he joined the Police Force in 1957. In his early service he was stationed at Paramatta, then transferred to Bankstown. In his last couple of years, he became a relieving sergeant in the Licensing Section in the city.

Geoff also welcomed Steve Martlew who has been an absent Member for some years. Steve said that he had joined the Branch in 2011 after he retired from the Police Force in 2010, but has not been back since. Steve said that he had been stationed at Wee Waa during his service but was stationed at Hornsby when he retired and then subsequently just travelled around.

### **Deaths.**

The names of Members who have passed away since the last Meeting were read out and a minute's silence was observed. Chairman Geoff paid a tribute to the Police officer killed in Tasmania during the week.

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The minutes of the last Meeting held in April, 2025, were read by the Secretary, John Marheine.

It was moved by Brian McVicar, seconded by John Kent, that the minutes be accepted. The Chairman thanked Russ Whitcher, the Branch's Vice Chairman, for conducting the April Meeting during his absence in hospital.

### **Correspondence.**

There was no correspondence in or out.

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

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

Chairman Geoff said that the Branch's financial records had been audited by the appointed auditors, Peter Caddy and I.J. Toms. In I.J.'s absence, Peter was invited to comment on their inspection of the financial records. Peter said that the records maintained by our Treasurer are the best set of records he has seen and were a credit to the man doing the job and to the effort he has put in to maintain those records. The Branch responded by acclamation.

It was moved by John Nicholas, seconded by Bruce Gibson, that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

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## **Our OBE Roll Call.**

### **Gents:**

Ted Aitken, Keith Rhodes, Bruce C. Doust, Russ Jackson, John Green, Kevin Turner, John Marheine, Noel Murphy, Edward (Mick) Arnold, Wally Maher, Ernie Carmichael, Donald Harding, Bruce Gibson, Bill Ide, Barry Clark, Neil Ashman, Tony Connolly, John Tripp, Brian Zimmerli, Lawrence Huntington, William Dent, Ernest Benson, Mervyn Lane, Brian McVicar, Tony Thorrington, Paul Dixon, Jim Bonner, Dick Reid, Keith Hockley, John Nicholas, Carl Ripphausen, Bede Irvine, Father Jim Boland, Bryan Lowe.

### **Ladies:**

A.Staunton, Myrlene Hauser, Adele Dale, Pauline Braithwaite, Kitty Dowse, Maureen Groch, Marj Clark, Wilma Walsh, Bev Carmichael, Jan Gibson, Virginia Connolly.

## **WELFARE REPORT:**

Our Welfare Officer, Barry Clark, presented details to the Meeting of those Members who are not travelling so well.

Barry said that he has been in contact with Trevor Carroll who has suffered throat cancer for a long while. He said that Trevor is now speaking a lot better although still having ongoing treatment but, currently, when he is speaking, you would not think there had been anything wrong with him. Surely good news.

Barry said that Neil Ashman is currently not well, has lost all confidence in driving and is virtually tied down at home. Barry said he told Neil we would endeavour to arrange a lunch with him in his area.

Barry has also been in contact with Bill Ide, currently in a retirement village in the Umina area. He said Bill is happy in his present location and is doing as well as can be expected. Apparently Bill attended an Anzac Day function at the retirement village and he said he was proud to wear the Retired Police retirement cap presented to him some time back.

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## **Social Club.**

Russ Whitcher told the Meeting that a mixed lunch will be held on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2025, (a delayed Christmas in July event), at a location to be announced at a later date. Russ said that the Social Committee have been to about five different venues, have narrowed their preferences down to two but a final selection has not yet been made.

Russ said that the pre-Christmas mixed lunch will be held at the Royal Hotel, Wyong, on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2025, commencing at 11.30 a.m.

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The Social Committee has been considering the viability of bus trips when the weather gets a bit warmer. Among the trips being considered are Fort Scratchley, in the Newcastle region, tour of the Sydney area and a journey to the new airport at Badgerys Creek. There was some discussion about the size of buses, qualifications of drivers, etc., and availability of relevant toilet facilities. Further information will be supplied at a later date.

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### **General Business:**

Peter Drinan told the Meeting that Mr Dick Whitaker, who has been guest speaker at two of our Meetings, delivered his address on "Bumper" Farrell at the Hunter Branch Meeting recently and apparently was received very cordially. This is indeed very pleasing as he was recommended to the Hunter Branch by our Branch.

Peter then told the Meeting of a matter personal to him. He said that, in the last few years, he has had trouble with his blood, a matter of such concern that he has recently changed doctors and undergone tests at the Wyong Hospital. He now has a diagnosis of a condition known as Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia, (CLL). He said that, whilst he was disturbed when he received the diagnosis, he is still reasonably well and has no knowledge of his eventual outcome or the time line associated with it. We wish Peter all the best for the future and look forward to him being with us for a long while yet.

Bruce Gibson said that he has recently read the book written by Nick Kaldos, the former Deputy Commissioner of Police in NSW. Bruce said that the book is well worth reading and he highly recommended it. Chairman Geoff said that he has read the Commission report by Nick Kaldos into Veteran Suicide and said he found it very interesting.

Chris Olen told the Meeting that he had recently visited the newly renovated Newcastle airport and underwent a tour of the new additions. He said that customs officers conducted a tour of their area and explained their operations. The extensions are scheduled to open on 21st October, 2025, and the first flights will be to Bali. Chris said that some 500 flight vouchers were being given away, by way of raffle, but he did not win any of them. He said that the new building has been constructed next to the existing one.

Father Jim said that he has found out.....that the Pope is a Catholic. (We hope he's kidding.....don't we??!!)

Our new Member, Cecil Nellor, thanked Members for inviting him to the Meeting. He said he will try to remember everyone's name.....but he thinks he may have some difficulty with that requirement!

Our Secretary, John Marheine, said that he has recently received notice from the head office of the RFPA indicating that some Members of our Branch are not financial and it will become necessary to speak to them about paying relevant dues. He said that there are some 272 Members on the Central Coast yet we do not see anything like these numbers at Meetings. Brian McVicar said that there are about 900 retired Police now living on the Central Coast but it seems they are just not interested in joining the Branch.

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The raffle was won by Neil Dick..

The Meeting closed at 11.39 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, 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2025, The Meeting commenced at 11.42 a.m. and Barry Clark occupied the chair to conduct the Meeting.

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 Secretary read the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and the list of apologies. Barry Clark then declared all positions vacant and invited nominations for personnel to occupy those positions.

Geoff Talbot was nominated to be returned as Chairman. Brian McVicar moved a motion, seconded by John Nicholas, that all previous office holders be returned to those positions. This motion was then supported unanimously by all Members present. Barry Clark then returned the chair to Geoff Talbot.

Chairman Geoff then congratulated the various office holders on the work carried out during the previous year, including Brian McVicar for his work involving the sausage sizzles. He also thanked the Members for the re-election of the office holders for the coming year and thanked all Members for their attendance at the Meeting.

The Meeting was declared closed at 11.48 a.m.

### **Sausage Sizzle.**

Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, was a fine but very dull day in a period of drenching rain and severe flooding on the North Coast. Who could blame them for going to the sizzle rather than walking around soggy golf courses or playing bare foot bowls. And, after all, this was May and you really did need your warm woolies on. But the dedicated team, under the supervision of head chef, Brian McVicar, prepared their usual outstanding meal which was welcomed by all those who ventured out that day, armed with their umbrellas and stories of bygone days. And, again, if you missed out.....well, serves you right!!

The following photos show the happy team who gathered at the Valley Tavern for yet another memorable day.





Left to Right: Brian, Geoff, Grant and Phil



Jock, Les and Russ, Peter and Phil.





Bruce and Barry,

Grant,

Bede,

John.

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### **The Ladies Coffee Club.**

How wonderful to see those great girls back doing what they do best: talking about us while we're at the Meeting! But would we have it any other way. We so gratefully acknowledge the effort with which they have looked after us for so long, pandied to our every need and treated our shortcomings with the greatest patience and care. And the remarkable thing about it is: They're still doing it. So why would we not acknowledge the work they have done, very often behind the scenes – sometimes even without our knowledge – but always with the best intended outcome. If only we had realised this earlier in our lives, we may have become much smarter at an earlier age.

At this time of year it seems appropriate to acknowledge the part that the ladies have played in all our lives, no matter how old or young we may be. We just hope that they can understand that, in reflection, their efforts have not been in vain.

To ensure that the ladies understand that their efforts have not been in vain the following photos have been included to record how wonderful they look and the extent of dignity with which they conduct themselves. Indeed, this is a record of a moment in time.







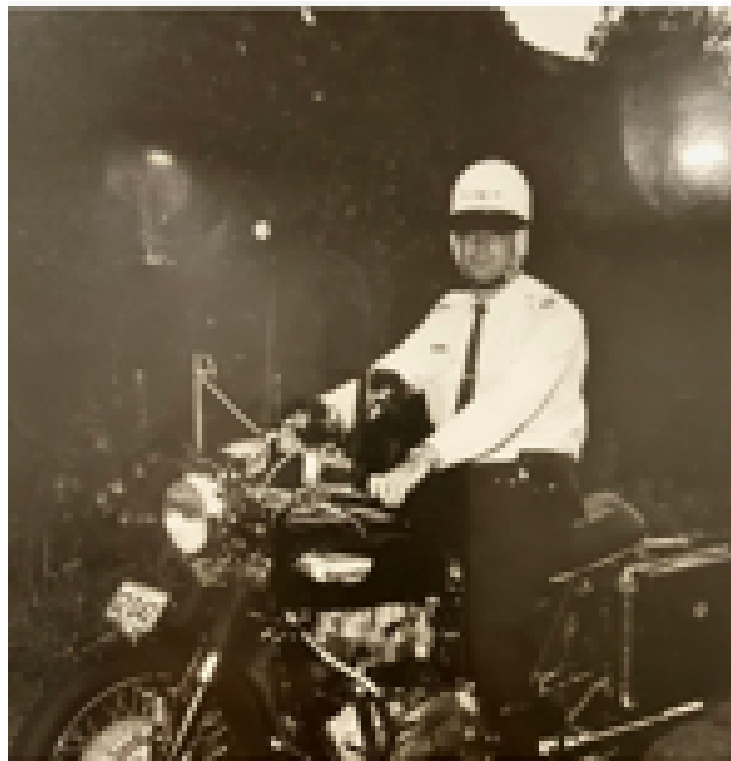
Oh, Glory be! Whoever is this??

20:19



< New South Wales Historic Police Museu... \*\*\*

**Command - NSW Police Force**, Edward John Nicholas  
Regd# 13077 Class 113  
sitting on his Triumph STP  
motorcycle at the Redfern  
Police Academy 1st April  
1969. Courtesy Ed Nicholas  
**NSW Police Force**



Write a commen... 🗨️ 📧 😊

## **THE CALENDAR.**

Members might note the following dates and perhaps include them in your diaries:

15<sup>th</sup> July, 2025. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Niagara Park.

19<sup>th</sup> August, 2025. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.

27<sup>th</sup> August, 2025. Mixed lunch. Venue to be announced.

16<sup>th</sup> September, 2025. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Niagara Park.

21<sup>st</sup> October, 2025. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.

18<sup>th</sup> November, 2025. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Niagara Park.

26<sup>th</sup> November, 2025. Christmas lunch, Royal Hotel, Wyong.

16<sup>th</sup> December, 2025. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.

20<sup>th</sup> January, 2026. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Niagara Park.

17<sup>th</sup> February, 2026. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.

## **And what does the future hold.**

When we watch world events it is difficult to hold positive views about the future of the world – even the future of mankind. In such a modern age, one which has embraced such a high degree of technology, one can only wonder why one greatly developed country would want to invade another. Yet we are seeing it on the television every day, every night. And that's in other parts of the planet. In our own small part of the world, we are seeing violent attacks by teenagers, attacks with machetes, car theft and then there is the rapidly increasing feature of domestic violence. In our little corner of the world we need to see every day as a blessing, we need to care for ourselves and those dear to us and just hope that the problems so prominent in the big cities just do not come our way. And let us pray that this is not a forlorn hope.

With best wishes to everyone.

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