



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

Central Coast Branch
August, 2025.

Chairman: Geoff Talbot. Secretary: John Marheine Postal address: 37 Northcott Ave,
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GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS.

One can only look at the horrors on television and wonder what the future holds for mankind, with those in supreme power having no regard for the death and destruction they are inflicting on their neighbours. And whilst the deaths are in the hundreds of thousands, one can only imagine the extent of injury, not to mention the decimation of homes and living situations. On the Central Coast we could be forgiven for believing that we are immune from major problems. That is, until we see the incidents that are occurring in shopping centres, aged care facilities and even child minding operations. If we have not been affected by any of these situations, we must consider ourselves blessed and make the most of time we have left to enjoy the company of those closest to us and hope that the problems occurring elsewhere just do not reach us.

Vale John Arthur Gordon Tripp – 13th June, 2025.

It is with much sadness that we must report the passing of another senior Member of our Branch, John Tripp, who left us on 13th June, 2025, at 85 years of age. His date of birth was 22nd December, 1939. His funeral service was conducted at Palmdale Gardens on 29th June, 2025.

John joined the NSW Police Force on 28th October, 1963, and became registered No. 10836. Following General Duties at Parramatta, (No. 18 Division), and then at Regent Street, (No. 2 Division), he was transferred to Wallsend Police Station where he commenced Criminal Investigation duties on 29th January, 1968, and was promoted to Detective Constable 1st Class on 29th January, 1971. He continued with Criminal Investigation duties, at Newcastle Police Station, (8th October, 1973), Mayfield Police Station, (9th March, 1977), then Chatswood, (17th September, 1979), Gosford, (23rd November, 1980), Eastwood, (9th May, 1982), and Wyong, (24th April, 1983). He was promoted to the rank of Detective Senior Sergeant on 10th September, 1987, and retained that rank until his retirement on 22nd July, 1995, at

which time he was engaged, from 12th March, 1995, on investigation duties with North Region Internal Affairs.

During his service and subsequent to his retirement, John received a number of awards: National Medal (23rd December, 1980); 1st Clasp to the National Medal, (28th October, 1988); NSW Police Medal awarded with 4th Clasp, (2nd June, 2008); National Police Service Medal, (27th July, 2017);

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In May, 1961, John married Margaret Winney, the daughter of Jack Winney, a former Inspector at Newcastle. They had three children: Steven, Louise and Rodney, and now seven grandchildren. Following John's retirement, Margaret and he purchased several caravans at different times, and went travelling in Australia, the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Thailand over a period of 20 years and undertook many cruises on the South Pacific. Margaret and John moved to Narara where they lived until John moved into an aged care facility in 2022. Indeed, in those retirement years they enjoyed a wonderful life of travelling and watching their family grow. The following photos illustrate the happiness they experienced post retirement.





Our thoughts and best wishes are with wife, Margaret, and the family. May he rest in peace.

Vale Anthony Connolly.

And we've lost yet another of our senior brigade, Tony Connolly, aged 85 years, whose passing we only learned about around mid July, 2025, at which time his funeral had been conducted by his family.

In his first Newsletter, in July, 2013, in the role of editor, Carl Rippenhausen, reported on an announcement made by the then Chairman, Bruce Gibson, to the effect that

Tony had been made a life Member of the then RPA. At that time Tony had been a Member of the Association for 25 years and had acted in the role of Secretary/Treasurer of the Central Coast Branch for 21 of those years. And, of course, he continued in that role for some considerable time after that.

It is known that, in the latter part of 2018, Tony was having severe health difficulties and had spent time in Gosford Hospital, requiring many days on constant dialysis, this being the factor which led to his decision to relinquish his position as Secretary/Treasurer of the Branch.

Tony is a very relevant part of our Branch's history and we can certainly mourn his passing. Our thoughts are with his widow, Virginia, and the family. We hope he has gone to a better life.

SCHEDULED BRANCH MEETING.

The Branch Meeting was held at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah, on Tuesday, 19th August, 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. Chairman Geoff extended a welcome to new Member, Cecil Nellor, on his second visit to a Meeting.

Attendances:

The following Members, wives and partners were in attendance:

Ernie and Bev Carmichael, Barry and Marj Clark, Bill Connors, Neil Dick, Grant Harridge, Ray Hatcher, Keith Hockley, Bede Irvine, Russ Jackson, John and Anne Kent, Bryan Lowe, Brian McVicar, John Marheine, Cecil Nellor, John and Noelene Nicholas, John Roger, Phil Stubbs-Mills, Geoff Talbot, I.J. Toms, Russ Whitcher,

Apologies were recorded.

Deaths.

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

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

It was moved by Brian McVicar, seconded by John Nicholas, that the minutes be accepted.

Correspondence.

Correspondence in: Nil.

Correspondence out: The Secretary, John, said there were two matters in this category:

A letter to the Association providing a list of Members at the Central Coast Branch and their details.

A letter to the State Secretary regarding matters for the current year

Treasurer's Report.

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

It was moved by Phil Stubbs-Mills, seconded by Bill Connors, that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

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, 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 Not doing so well. Barry reported on Trevor Carroll who has suffered severe throat cancer. He said that Trevor now has to take food through a tube inserted into his stomach. Should he take food in his mouth it goes straight into his lungs. Barry said that Trevor can speak quite well now and hopes to attend some future Meetings but must be fed by the tube for the rest of his life.

Barry said that Bill Ide, now living in a retirement village at Umina, is doing as well as can be expected and is happy in his present location.

Social Club.

Russ Whitcher told the Meeting that the mixed lunch, to be held on Wednesday, 27th August, 2025, will be conducted at the Bateau Bay Hotel, where significant renovations have been carried out. Russ said that he has made reservations for 40 to 50 persons and our table has been arranged near a huge TV screen. The booking has been made for 11.30 a.m.

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

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As mentioned in the last Newsletter, the Social Committee has been considering the viability of bus trips when the weather gets a bit warmer. Russ said that he has been in contact with Palmers, at Wyong, but the lady with whom he discussed the matter has not got back to him. Russ will report on the outcome at a later date, one big feature, of course, being the availability of toilet facilities on the relevant vehicles.

Ray Hatcher said that he has recently taken a bus trip to the new Badgery's Creek airport but found the experience somewhat disappointing, principally because the information centre was on a low hill a long way from the airport, a pre-packed salad lunch was frozen, coffee was prepared from tank water taken from under the bus and, after tasting it, he tipped it out. Obviously, much more research on bus tours needs to be carried out.

General Business:

Chairman Geoff said that he had attended the AGM of the Retired and Former Police Association a couple of weeks earlier. He said that a copy of the financial statement of the State Branch was available for Members to inspect if so desired.

Geoff also related a story involving his attendance at the funeral of James Stewart Rutherford, OAM, father of our colleague, John Rutherford, held at All Saints Anglican Church on 10th July, 2025. Geoff said that, after the service he was approached by a very small man who showed interest in the RFPA badge on his coat pocket, wanting to know what it represented. The man demonstrating this interest was, in fact, the former Prime Minister John Howard.

Geoff told the Meeting that Members have been invited to the celebration of Retired Police Day to be held at the Wyong Police Station on Thursday, 4th September, 2025, with light refreshments served after the service. Geoff said that one of the features at the Station is a collage of photos, extending across an entire wall and embracing hundreds of photos covering much of the early days of policing in the region.

Brian McVicar drew attention to how far registered numbers in the Police Force have advanced in recent times. Chairman Geoff said that he has been advised that numbers from 6,500 to 7,000 have been reserved for applicants likely to come from Queensland or New Zealand.

John Nicholas told the Meeting of a recent event in which two of his sons competed in a car race with his younger son coming within less than half a car's length of defeating his brother, Peter, whom we know as a Highway Patrol Police officer..

John also mentioned a news feature relating to the matter of some 500 new settlers coming in every day, a situation which is leading to the thinning of Police ranks, with the present situation meaning those ranks are almost 7,000 short. Chairman Geoff said that we do not have the infrastructure to support these settlers who are being given benefits not given to our own people.

Bede Irvine thanked Brian McVicar for providing rissoles at the last sausage sizzle but felt it was a shame he had not been there to supervise the cooking process – or to provide instruction on the best way to cook them. It will be understood that not all tastes can be satisfied but, as photographs later in the Newsletter will show, there were those who enjoyed the outcome.

Chairman Geoff told the Meeting of the recent death of a retired Police Officer, William Low, who passed away in the previous week just short of 80 year of age. William was known to various Members at the Meeting.

Phil Stubbs-Mills told the Meeting of a recent experience in which he had travelled to Western Australia to stay with a niece. On his way back he stayed overnight at a caravan park, on a main road. On waking the next morning he could not find his mobile phone and then found that he had been robbed of his phone and wallet containing all his personal and credit cards. He then had to contact Qantas to get details of his flight and tracking number for his return flight to NSW. Subsequently he had to contact all suppliers of his credit cards, to have them replaced, and he complimented American Express who replaced his card in one day where others took a week or more for the same process. Phil said that, as a result of his experience, he well understands the feelings of victims of crime.

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The raffle was won by Keith Hockley who donated the prize back.

The Meeting closed at 11.46 a.m.

Sausage Sizzle.

On Tuesday, 15th July, 2025, a cold and rainy day amidst spectacular Winter days, a happy group of revellers gathered at the Valley Tavern, at Niagara Park, to enjoy the company and conversation... But.....more importantly.....to partake of the excellent cuisine provided, in the absence of Head Chef, Brian, by his deputy, John Roger, ably assisted by Chairman Geoff Talbot and Peter Caddy and the support team. It was yet another great day and, whilst we shivered in the cold outside the building, it was all worth it. Again, if you missed it, serves you right!

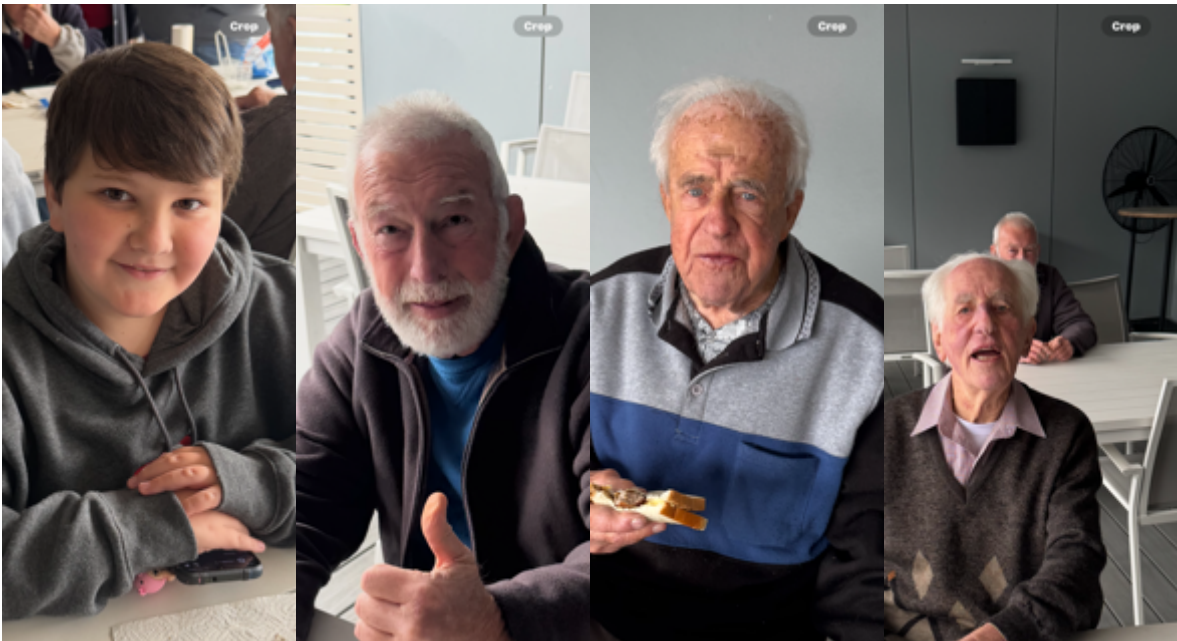
The following photos show the happy team who gathered at the Valley Tavern for yet another memorable day.



John Roger and Peter Caddy are seen here in serious discussion concerning the cooking process and how it would best be approached.



L. to R.: Les is seen holding 5 aces. Keith is seriously questioning that hand. John and John are very sceptical about it.



Ollie enjoyed his sausage sandwich, even enough to turn his mobile phone off. Bruce was happy with his outcome. John was still contemplating his and Russ thought he would give it a positive.



L. to R.: I.J. looking very elegant in her Winter outfit. Bede is looking positive as he approaches his rissole sandwich, although was that truly the picture. And Bill and Bruce seemed happy with their food.

The Ladies Coffee Club.

Isn't it great to see those girls back in force, doing what they do so well, caring for our every need, watching out for every falter and all done in the quiet way in which they specialise so graciously. Oh, how grateful we should all be for the efforts they have directed towards our necessities – and still are doing all those things. We can only wonder what we could have done without them but we must acknowledge their presence and their efforts. Mortal life alone would be a much lesser state.

THE CALENDAR.

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

27th August, 2025. Mixed lunch at the Bateau Bay Hotel, Bateau Bay.

4th September, 2025. Retired Police Day, at Wyong Police Station.

16th September, 2025. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Niagara Park.

21st October, 2025. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.

18th November, 2025. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Niagara Park.

26th November, 2025. Christmas lunch, Royal Hotel, Wyong.

16th December, 2025. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.

20th January, 2026. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Niagara Park.

17th February, 2026. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.

And what does the future hold.

Whilst there have been extremely hot temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere, there are those here who say they cannot remember a colder Winter. Well, it certainly has been cold, even with early snow in the mountain areas and some spectacular visions even in the New England and neighbouring regions. But it will all change soon. Spring is not that far away and it will be wonderful to see the plants thriving and the flowers blooming. This is the time to make the most of what abilities you've kept in reserve. Get out there and keep mobile. We must make the most of every day, treat every day as a bonus and take care of those closest to us. We must surely be grateful for the features we encounter daily on the Central Coast. Could life be any better than it is in this area of the planet.

With best wishes to everyone.

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