



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

Central Coast Branch

October, 2025.

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

Could we have ever imagined the world would descend into the chaos now existing in places we thought would never want to see warfare again. But the human race seems to know no boundaries in the supply of weaponry and the development of bigger and better ways to provide terror to its neighbours – and always at the direction of a single authoritarian and dictatorial figure. Here in Australia, particularly on the Central Coast, life is good and we must make the most of it, while time permits, remembering that everything comes to an end sooner or later. Modern medicine and modern science may well delay the outcome a little but it all catches up. Make the most of it while you can and enjoy whatever is available.

SCHEDULED BRANCH MEETING.

The Branch Meeting was held at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah, on Tuesday, 21st October, 2025, commencing at 11 a.m., chaired by Chairman, Geoff Talbot.

In his opening statement, Geoff welcomed Wilma Walsh, whom we have not seen for some time. Also Bruce Mohr, a long time Member whom we have also not seen for a while, and Trevor Carroll who has suffered throat cancer over a long period. It was great to see Trevor back with us and we hope he is able to attend regularly again.

A summary of the matters dealt with at the Meeting is set out hereunder.

Attendances:

The following Members, wives and partners were in attendance:

Geoff Bown, Peter Caddy, Ernie and Bev Carmichael, Trevor Carroll, Barry and Marj Clark, Bill Connors, John and Joan Corbett, Peter and Anne Drinan, Bruce and Jan Gibson, Ray Hatcher, Keith Hockley, Bede Irvine, Russ Jackson, John and Anne Kent, Bryan Lowe, Brian McVicar, John Marheine, Bruce Mohr, Ron Richmond,

John and Noelene Nicholas, John Roger, Geoff Talbot, Paul Thomas, Russ Whitcher and Wilma Walsh.

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.

Peter Drinan advised the Meeting of the death, on the Saturday before the Meeting, of Kitty Dowse, the widow of a retired Police Officer who passed away some years ago. Kitty was 95 at the time of her passing.

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

Correspondence.

Correspondence in: Nil.

Correspondence out: Nil.

Chairman Geoff advised the Meeting that the arrangement for the free hire of the room used for Meetings at the Ourimbah RSL Club has been extended for another year.

Geoff also advised of receiving a phone call from our Member, Neil Dick, on the previous Saturday afternoon, indicating that he intends to leave his current location at Lake Macquarie and move to Beaudesert in Queensland. We wish him well.

Geoff also told the Meeting of the recent passing of another retired Police Officer, Billy Lowe, known to numerous Members.

Chairman Geoff informed the Meeting of having attended several recent functions in his capacity as representative of the Central Coast Branch. More information and photographs of these events are shown later in the Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report.

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

It was moved by John Nicholas, seconded by Peter Drinan, 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 Thorington, 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, Maureen Groch, Marj Clark, Wilma Walsh, Bev Carmichael, Jan Gibson, Virginia Connolly.

WELFARE REPORT:

Our Welfare Officer, Barry Clark, advised the Meeting of those Members coming within the scope of his portfolio. Barry mentioned that Trevor Carroll was in attendance at the Meeting and how good it was to see him back with us. Whilst Trevor certainly has had his problems he appears to be recovering well and Trevor assured the Meeting that his progress has been good.

Barry mentioned that a few of the Members have recently undergone surgery. John Nicholas has undergone operations on both shoulders, the latest on his left shoulder and he was wearing an arm support at the Meeting.

Barry said that Peter Caddy has had additional surgery on his back, virtually to "bolt his spine back together". And Barry well understands Peter's problems having a few back problems himself.

Barry said that Bill Ide, now residing in a nursing home at Umina, is progressing well. Chairman Geoff said that he went to see Bill recently at his accommodation. He said that, on his arrival, Bill called the staff in, introduced Geoff to everyone but, most of all, he wanted a photo with his Retired Police cap on. The photo is included later in the Newsletter.

Social Club.

Russ Whitcher reminded Members 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. Russ said that renovations carried out in the Canoe Room at the back of the hotel have now been completed, now including a bar at the back, and he anticipates we will have a most enjoyable time that day. Russ pointed out that Members' friends are welcome.

Chairman Geoff encouraged Members to attend the lunch because a special presentation will take place.

On the subject of possible bus trips, brought up in previous Meetings, Russ said that he has been in touch with a couple of companies, one being Palmers, now a well known name in the region. Russ outlined some of the features of trips offered, most wanting a minimum number of passengers, some including guided tours and lunch at one of the RSL clubs. Russ said that he used to organize such trips some years ago for the social branch of the RSL and is familiar with the operations.

General Business:

Peter Drinan said that he had been at Gosford Hospital several days before the Meeting to see a haematologist and, as he walked up the ramp, he met a young man in a wheel chair going in the opposite direction. Peter said that he received good news in his consultation – that his problems are “not going anywhere”.

Bruce Mohr, who hasn't been to a Meeting in a long time, said that it was good to be back again.

John Nicholas said that his son, Peter, a member of the NSW Highway Patrol had been in Brisbane in the previous week in conjunction with an instructional course for Highway Patrol Police. John said that forces from other States were most impressed with what is being done in NSW. It was mentioned that, during October, 27 truck drivers have been caught under the influence of drugs. John said that, during the last 5 to 6 weeks, Peter has been in various places around the country, spending 4 to 5 days in each location, one of the places being Dubbo where he has recently returned.

John said that, during the next month, he and his family will be attending a presentation of awards that his son, Peter, and his associates have achieved.

John Corbett said that he has a mobility scooter which he wants to sell. He said it is a quality machine and is in good condition. His selling price is \$5,000.00. His mobile number is 0429 301 159. A photo of the machine appears on page 12.

Chairman Geoff told the Meeting consideration is being given to conducting instruction classes in the use of CPA and fibrillators to assist in the event of heart attacks or cardiac arrests. He said that he is qualified to provide such instruction and encouraged Members to take part.

The raffle was won by John Corbett who donated the prize back.

The Meeting closed at 11.56 a.m.

RETIRED POLICE DAY.

Retired Police Day was celebrated at Wyong Police Station on 4th September, 2025. Chairman Geoff told the Meeting that he had attended this function. He said there was a good presentation by the Police who conducted the event, following which those attending were taken to another room where one wall was devoted to a collage of historic photos and a great amount of food was provided for the guests after the displays.

On the following page is a photo of those who attended including Members of the Central Coast Branch of the RFPA.





The above photo shows our Member, Phil Stubbs-Mills, being presented with a Retired Police Badge.



And this photo shows our Member, Grant Harridge, also being presented with a Retired Police Badge.

NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY.

National Police Remembrance Day was celebrated on the Central Coast at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, a beautiful church, at Kyte Place, Forresters Beach, on Monday, 29th September, 2025. And outstanding food was provided by the hosts after the service. The following photo shows those in attendance.

Chairman Geoff told the Meeting that the Remembrance Day service was conducted by a new Police Chaplain, he said that the service was very good, a tremendous amount of food was provided at the completion of the service and Geoff said that he had expressed his thanks to the organizers of the occasion.



RESTORATION OF A GRAVE.

At the old Gosford Police Station, on Retired Police Day in September, 2024, Inspector Rob McDonald spoke about the restoration of a grave in the Point Clare Cemetery. And over the last 12 months a great deal of work has been carried out, including research about the Henry Kelly grave site. Gosford RSL Sub-Branch was involved financially in the venture and special thanks should be directed to that unit. Former Senior Constable Mick Oates carried out extensive research which resulted in finding current relatives of Henry Kelly.

On Wednesday, 24th September, 2025, a large group of senior Police and other dignitaries, including Police Minister Yasmin Catley, and our Father Jim, attended the official unveiling of the Henry Kelly grave site. And former Senior Constable Mick Oates delivered a eulogy dedicated to Henry Kelly. Henry Kelly served in the Boar War, which lasted from 1899 to 1902, in a Mounted Rifles unit, No. 1407. Following his return from that war he joined the NSW Police and his grave shows his registered Police number as 8121. He passed away on 19th April, 1919.





Above is a photo of our Chairman, Geoff Talbot, together with Former Senior Constable Mick Oates, at the Point Clare Cemetery. Geoff and Mick were work colleagues many long years ago.

MEDAL PRESENTATION.

Chairman Geoff told the Meeting that, on 16th October, 2025, he attended a medal presentation conducted at the Davistown RSL Club to which he had been invited as a representative of the Central Coast Branch of the RFPA.

Geoff said that, at the completion of the service he was invited – indeed instructed – to accompany the protocol officers to march out of the Club to the music of the Police Band. The two officers concerned were Assistant Commissioner David Waddell, Northern Region Commander, who commands the area from Sydney Harbour Bridge to Tweed Heads, and Superintendent Darryl Jobson, the Commander of of the Brisbane Water Local Area Command.

Geoff said that he was grateful for the respect shown to him in his capacity as a retired Police Officer.



Above is a photo of John Corbett's mobility scooter.

Oh Glory Be! Who's this????

Who's that there advertising the Royal Flying Doctor Service? Well, of course, we know. It's our old mate, Bill Ide, seen in this new abode in Umina - and looking pretty happy. And, oh yes, that's Chairman Geoff with him providing for the photo opportunity. Geoff told us that, following his arrival, Bill called in the staff to introduce him and insisted the photo be taken whilst he was wearing his Retired Police cap – and looking very elegant in it.



Sausage Sizzle.

Oh, Spring is certainly here! What a beautiful day it was at the Valley Tavern, at Niagara Park, on Tuesday, 16th September, 2025, when a happy group visited there and immediately became involved in pleasant conversation, which soon gravitated into merriment when recalling earlier years and the personalities so well known to most of those who attended. And that's not to mention the brilliant efforts of Head Chef, Brian McVicar, and his able team of supporters. It's now difficult to understand how they coped previously in his absence but, clearly, he taught them well because the cuisine they produced was well worthy of praise.....but it was great to have him back in charge and - it was obvious - he has lost none of his finnesse. We even had a couple of newbies there: Mick Banfield and Barry Beavis – and it was great to see them. We hope they will become future regulars. And, as said often before: 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.



And, here above, is Head Chef Brian, seen testing the product for quality.



And there are other satisfied customers: Top, L. to R. Les, Russ, Russ, John.
 Botom L. to R.: Barry, Geoff, Peter, Jock.



L. to R. : John, John, Paul, Peter.



L. to R. : The “newbies” Mick and Barry.

A couple of good friends.

May they have many happy years together.



Our much revered Secretary, John Marheine, and his new best friend, “Ruby”.



And “Ruby” is happy to spend her waking moments with her new best friend.

The Ladies Coffee Club.

Isn't it great to see the girls back in force, ably displaying the qualities which so attracted us in the beginning: their calm display of patience, their wonderful talents at direction and their complete understanding of our limitations. How could we ever have survived thus far without their guidance. Oh, how we must be grateful for the paths that led us to them. And, as they wait patiently for our Meetings to finish, we can only wonder at the plans being made for our future direction and the benefits which will result.

THE CALENDAR.

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

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.

17th March, 2026. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Niagara Park

And what does the future hold.

How wonderful it is to see Spring here and the onset of warmer weather, most welcome on the Central Coast. And the way of life here is such that we can only be grateful for it and wonder at how people in distant lands can ever survive the terrible deeds being carried out by their neighbours. The world waits in limbo wondering if it will ever stop. Here, in our tiny neck of the woods, we can only enjoy life one day at a time and hope that those nearest to us will never have to see things such as those on the other side of the world. Each day is a gift, even more blessed if our health is good. Those of us old enough to remember ration books after the Second World War and doctors of that generation who often tell us that our health was better in those days because we had restricted diets and the times necessitated significant physical activity and personal sacrifices. If only we would listen today. And so we must make the most of all benefits that come our way, weather, good health and the love and care of those nearest to us. Let us hope that our future contains all those things most desired.

With best wishes to everyone.

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