

# The R.F.P.A. GAZETTE



(Established 1931)  
Registered office  
PO Box 212  
TEA GARDENS NSW 2324  
[www.retiredpolice.com.au](http://www.retiredpolice.com.au)

**“RFPA NSW PATRON – FORMER COMMISSIONER KAREN WEBB APM”**

## TRAGIC IRONY



**Peter Meagher Retired Detective Sergeant – See story inside**

### HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

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- New Members Welcomed
- Reunions
- Members Benefits scheme info



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# RFPA Member Benefits Scheme now active

## DISCOUNTS NOW AVAILABLE

**The RFPA Member Benefits Scheme** has officially launched, offering an array of exclusive deals tailored for our financial members.

For full details of the Scheme visit the RFPA website at **retiredpolice.com.au**, click on **Membership** and then click on **RFPA Member Discounts and Benefits**.

For any questions or queries about the Scheme, please contact RFPA Benefits Scheme coordinator, **David Drew** on 0426 818 177.

### FRONT COVER STORY

One of our Own Blue Family - Ironically **Peter Meagher** spent almost 40 years in the NSW Police Force retiring as a Detective Sergeant, only to lose his life in retirement while pursuing his passion as a photographer.

Peter was working as a freelance photographer at the ill-fated Hanukkah event at Bondi on 14th December 2025 and like all victims it was simply a catastrophic case of being in the wrong place and at the wrong time.

He was a stoic member of Randwick Rugby where he volunteered and was a first-grade team manager. Peter offered to be our photographer for the recent 2025 Eastern Suburbs Memorial dedication which was arranged by **Chief Inspector Tracey Ford** and our **President Paul Wynne**.

**The RFPA made two donations** in respect of the police injured at Bondi on 14 December: **Constable Scott DYSON and Probationary Constable Jack HIBBERT** are certainly deserving of our collective support, and arrangements made by Police Legacy enabled us to do that.

RIP from your Blue Family



### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On Saturday 30 August by invitation I attended the Formal Dining Night of 1 MP Battalion & The City of Blacktown RSL Sub-Branch in the Ball Room of Blacktown Workers Club. Another enjoyable evening where I mixed and spoke with both Former & Serving Police who also have Military background.

The 4 September was Retired Police Day and I along with 30+ Retired Police attended Castle Hill RSL at the invitation of Castle Hill Command. This was a joint event involving Castle Hill, Riverstone and Parramatta Police Commands.

On Monday 15 September I attended the **Woronora Cemetery Police Wall of Remembrance Service**. There are 24 fallen Police Officer and 2 Colonial Troopers interred within those grounds. As usual it was well organized and there were about 150 in attendance made up of Senior Police, Politicians, Family Members of those interred and members of the public. I laid a Wreath on behalf of the Retired & Former Police Assn.

On Friday 26 September along with **George Weissel, Paul Smith and Gary Raymond** I attended the Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park to participate in the Police Memorial Service at the Wall of Remembrance situated at that location.

There are 31 Fallen NSW Police and 4 Colonial Troopers interred in the grounds of the Memorial Park.

Each year at this Ceremony whilst remembering all those whose names are on the Wall we especially remember one or two individuals. This year those persons were **Constable 1st Class Wayne Allen Rixon and Probationary Constable Themitis (Tim) Arthur Macarounas**.

The Ceremony was well attended by Senior Police, Politicians, Family Members and many local Community Members. The Police Band Quartet, the Mounted Police, Local HWP and serving Police were also in attendance. The Police Association was represented as was the Police Bank.

A moving Service was conducted and Acting Asst Commissioner **Despa Fitzgerald APM** read the tributes relating to Constable I/C **Rixon and P/Const Macarounas**.

A special mention must be made to C/Insp **Tracey Ford** who is also on our Organising Committee and she gives so much in ensuring the Ceremony is a success each year.

On Monday 29 September I attended and participated in the Police Memorial Service in Sydney Domain. Snr Vice President **George Weissel** and Committee

member **Paul Smith APM** along with 10 members of Parramatta the Hills Branch were also in attendance.

After the Ceremony Commissioner **Mal Lanyon APM** pulled me aside and spoke on having a meeting with him in the near future.

On Friday 17 October I met with **John Carroll** from Macarthur Branch at Narellan to deliver an Award Shield for **Roger Ford**. We spoke on a number of matters including the Department's decision to remove Defibrillators from Police vehicles. Their Branch had raised significant funds and had provided these Life Saving Devices for Police vehicles in their area. Likewise the Parramatta – The Hills Branch had raised funds and provided 2 Defibrillators for Police vehicles at Blacktown. The Macarthur Branch has raised this matter with their Local Member.

On Friday 31 by invitation of the Commissioner I attended a Memorial Service at the Sydney Police Centre.



**L to R Craig Partridge Paul Wynne, Raff Delvecchio, Edmund Atella**

On 11 November at the invitation of Seven Hills RSL Sub Branch I attended their Remembrance Day Service where I laid a Wreath.

Along with Senior Vice President **George Weissel** we represented RFFPA at the Police Bank AGM on Thursday 27 November.

By invitation of Police Legacy I attended the Police Legacy Christmas Lunch at Doltone House on Friday 29 November at which **Irene (Ij) Juergens** was the MC. A big thank you to **Dick Smith** for his benevolence in donating \$1 Million to Police Legacy.

God Bless

**Paul Wynne**

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## SECRETARY'S REPORT

We have all witnessed the horror of terrorism recently. Hopefully, we can process what we've seen and heard and put it behind us, knowing that our Police and other first responders have done the job as well as could be expected in such overwhelming circumstances.

It's now up to those who must plan for addressing such events in the future; the prevention of them as a first priority. We all know we live in a great country, and everyone in the community should be aware of how important real policing is. All our Members have done it, and we salute you. Many of our Associates have been partners of police who played a significant role in making sure we are all as safe as we could be. Power and respect to those who will police us into the future, and many thanks to those who have contributed to the same effort in times gone by.

I won't name anyone, but we are all hearing of lives lost or permanently diminished. We pray for them all and hope to strengthen our support as we go.

Something more mundane, but pleasing to note, is that our numbers

have increased as more retired and former police turn to the RFFPA for Friendship, Fellowship and Welfare. As Objects of our Association, these are important concepts. Recent research has also shown that those who become involved in such things as our Objects are significantly more likely to retain memory and dilute the known causes of memory-related illnesses. Come along to a Branch meeting. Join a Branch if you aren't already a Member, and visit other Branches when you feel like catching up. Or just come for a meal and refreshments.

It's the time of year for many to take a good break, and Glenda and I are doing just that. No office work for a couple of weeks will recharge the batteries.

Looking a little ahead, a number of us are intending to repeat the visit to Jim and Joanne at Palm Cove in the middle of 2026. Any enquiries to the secretary (after 5 January please).

Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous 2026 to all our RFFPA Members, Associates and friends.

**Ian Lovell**

E: [secretary@retiredpolice.com.au](mailto:secretary@retiredpolice.com.au)

## CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS?

Email to [secretary@retiredpolice.com.au](mailto:secretary@retiredpolice.com.au) or Phone: **0425 336 801** – with any changes



## EDITOR'S REPORT

This Gazette is only one of the ways we are communicating with our members. Many prefer the written gazette, as do I. I did try E-books but I still prefer turning the pages. But as the RFFPA moves with the times, learns "new tricks" and adapts to technology, we also have the following:

**Web** [www.retiredpolice.com.au](http://www.retiredpolice.com.au)

**Facebook** Pages for NSW – RFFPA NSW and for individual branches

**RFFPA News** from [webmaster@retiredpolice.com.au](mailto:webmaster@retiredpolice.com.au) – emailed directly to members

**Email & Phone** contact any branch secretary, see back page of the Gazette

**And if all else fails** ring the State Secretary Ian Lovell on 0425 336 801 who is across the lot!!

**Deadline** for news and articles for the Autumn Gazette is 15th March 2026

Cheers,

**Sandy Benson**

E: [Editor@retiredpolice.com.au](mailto:Editor@retiredpolice.com.au)

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## DID YOU KNOW – FACT NO.1

**Most Bunnings outlets will let you have the use of a trailer for 2 hours FREE! You don't have to buy anything, just pay a fully refundable deposit and its yours for 2 hours!!**

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## WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT

For those of you who have illness, I hope things improve for you throughout the year. Don't be afraid to talk to those who you know are ill. Many of us travel this time of the year. I hope you enjoy your travel and enjoy your holidays.

An Ex Police Cadet Lunch will be held on Wednesday 25th February, 2026 at Club York, commencing at 11am \$100 per head. Names and payment to Police Bank Acct. 241807s1 or if drawn from outside Police Bank Account No. 100220578.

I wish everyone to have a safe and happy New Year. Take care and look after each other.

**Ian Moore**

## ARTICLES OF INTEREST

### THE PARADOX OF OUR TIME (ABRIDGED)

**By George Carlin**

The Paradox of man's time in history is that

We have taller buildings, but shorter tempers

Wider highways but narrower viewpoints

We spend more but have less

We buy more but enjoy less

We have bigger houses and smaller families

More convenience but less time

We have more education but less sense

More knowledge but less judgement

More experts, yet more problems

More medicine but less wellness

We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly

Laugh too little, Read too little, watch TV too much & pray too seldom

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values

We talk too much, love too seldom and hate too often

We've learned how to make a living, but not a life

We've added years to life but not life to years

We've done larger things but not better things

We've cleaned up the air but polluted the soul

We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudice

We write more but learn less

We plan more but accomplish less

We've learned to rush but not to wait

We build more computers to hold more information

They produce more than ever, but we communicate less and less

There are the times of fast foods and slow digestion

Of big men and small character

Make time for solace and peace within your families

Make time to think your precious thoughts and learn how to meld with nature

Make time to speak and to listen to others, young and old alike

For someday those around you will not be there ever again

Food for thought!!

**Sandy Benson**

## WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

SURNAME	CHRISTIAN NAME	BRANCH
BULLOW	SHANE	MACARTHUR
BUTTROSE	Charles Robert	Northern Beaches
CHRISTENSEN	GRANT JAMES	Mid North Coast
COOK	Barry Victor	Brisbane & Northern Suburbs
DE BRITT	ROHAN	Brisbane & Northern Suburbs
DOMINISH	Troy	Hunter Region
ENGLERT	JILLIAN	Coffs Harbour
HAMMERSLEY	Margaret	Hunter Region
HAMMERSLEY	RONALD	Hunter Region
KELLY	HARRIET	Northern Suburbs
KELLY	John William	Northern Suburbs
LINDSAY	RONALD WILLIAM	Dubbo District
MALONEY	Gary Richard	Coffs Harbour
MCDONALD	CASEY JAMES	New England
MEREDITH	Lynnette	Sydney
MOY	MICHAEL JAMES	Peel
SHEPHERD	Bradley	Sydney
SILVESTER	CLIVE ALEXANDER	Northern Beaches
URQUHART	Catherine	Parramatta-The Hills
WIGG	IAN BRETT	Penrith Blue Mountains

## BRANCH REPORTS

### BRISBANE AND NORTHERN SUBURBS

Hi Everyone,

At the time of writing this report summer is well and truly here. Hopefully, those who were worst affected by the storms have recovered.

It was a privilege for **Lynell** and I to attend a Sunshine Coast Retirement village on Monday 15.9.25 to present Retired Police Pins and cap to **Bob White** and his son **Troy** both of whom were Senior Prosecutors that I had worked with and of course Brisbane and Northern Suburbs RFFA members. I also managed to show Bob photos of various Retired Police Days at the Prosecutors HQ and other Prosecutors gatherings and he really enjoyed this. We also had a nice lunch at the RSL with Troy and his lovely fiancée **Celina** before returning home.



On the 29th of September **Troy White & Celina Diefenbach, Michael White, Lesley & Peter Robinson, Lynell** and I attended the **Service Police Remembrance Day at Kippa Ring** to lay wreaths on behalf of the Brisbane and Northern Suburbs RFFA and QLD IPA.

Our Oct was a great meeting and lunch with a very good turnout considering it was a long weekend and we had a few away but funny story was that we were having such a great time that without **Ken** (our very amateur photographer) being there to take them, it completely slipped our minds to take any photos. However, it was nice to have some new pending members being **Barry & Isobel Cook** and a guest appearance from **Ward & George Turner** and QLD IPA members **Adrian & Sharon Bensted**.

## ATTENDEES

**Sally Matheson, Steve & Lynell Turner, Michael White, Garry Weaver, Penny & Pieter Strik, Dale De Martino, Merv Mellings, Ian and Di Todd, Barry & Isobel Cook, Julie Newman, Adrian & Sharon Bensted, Ward & George Turner, Bob Leebruggen.**

Brisbane and Northern Suburbs RFFA members **Nellie, Dave, Sally, Rohan, Leslie & Peter** also attended with us for a great QLD International Police Association (IPA) Christmas Party on Saturday 22.11.25 on the Lady Brisbane for a three & ½ hour Cruise. We then kicked on to the Hamilton Hotel for after party drinks and dinner. Lady Brisbane River Cruises are also one of our RFFA QLD based preferred business partners who give financial members a discount.



Our Biggest Party of the year so thanks to all those who attended our Brisbane and Northern Suburbs RFFA Christmas Party on Saturday 29th at the Bribie Island Surf Club, who did a fantastic effort considering that they only opened on the Thursday morning after that huge storm that caused some much damage and power outages in the area, it was shame that some like **Marelene Beggs & Barry Cook** couldn't attend due to some health issues, as they were sadly missed.

Also, thanks to our Christmas Party sponsors, Brendan & Tara at Harvey Norman Furniture Everton Park, Traditional Funerals, Hello World Travel Burpengary & a mystery RFFA member.

## ATTENDEES

**Steve & Lynell Turner Sally Matheson Ken & Ingrid Fogarty Marilyn and Gerald Fiddis Kerry Beggs Bob Leembruggen Colin & Caroline Dorber Ron & Margaret Everingham Carol & Mev Melling's Donald McKeating Bev & Russell Gray Garry & Liz Weaver Lesley & Peter Robinson Penny & Pieter Strix Graham & Dawn Devaney Julie Newman Graham & Teresa Power Jeff & Jan Watt Chris & Anne Long Leonie & David Keith, Dave Rogan.**

I would also like to thank all members and their partners and friends who supported all our functions and also importantly my loyal, hard-working and dedicated committee who have supported me and our members all year, as what we have achieved and enjoyed would not have been possible without them and looking forward to 2026 and all the fun we will have.

Lastly, our branch cannot survive without continued growth, so members are encouraged to bring along and join up new members and you do NOT need to have been a Former NSW Police Officer to join. We give discounts to financial members and their partners for our main functions during the year and importantly also with many businesses including those based in SE QLD which are listed under Members Discounts on the NSW Retired and Former Police Association Website.

Regards

**Steve Turner**

Chairman and Secretary

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## CENTRAL COAST

### 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.

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.

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.**

**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.

Chairman Geoff informed the Meeting of having attended several recent functions in his capacity as representative of the Central Coast Branch.

Our Welfare Officer, **Barry Clark**, advised the Meeting of those Members coming within the scope of his portfolio. Barry mentioned **Trevor Carroll, John Nicholas, Peter Caddy, Bill Ide** is now residing in a nursing home at Umina, is progressing well. **Chairman Geoff** said that he went to see Bill recently at his accommodation. **Chairman Geoff** told the Meeting consideration is being given to conducting instruction classes in the use of CPA and defibrillators 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.

### 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.



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



Our Member, **Phil Stubbs-Mills**, 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, Forrester's 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**.



**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.**

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.

## MEDAL PRESENTATION.

**Chairman Geoff** represented the Central Coast Branch of the RFPA, on 16th October, 2025, when he attended a medal presentation conducted at the Davistown RSL Club to which he had been invited.

**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 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.

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

Who's that there advparramaertising 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.

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 finesse. 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 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.

## And what does the future hold.

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.

**John E. (Ernie) Carmichael.**

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## CENTRAL TABLELANDS

*We look forward to your contributions for our next gazette*

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## COFFS HARBOUR

*We look forward to your contributions for our next gazette*

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## DUBBO

*We look forward to your contributions for our next gazette.*

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## HUNTER REGION

On Tuesday, 18 November 2025, twenty-four enthusiastic and very sociable members of the Hunter Region Branch gathered at the centrally located MEX Club (Mayfield Ex-Services Club), 58 Hanbury Street, Mayfield. It turned out to be another great day of friendship, camaraderie and fellowship while enjoying the facilities of a recently renovated, and recommended, venue. However, on the 'downside', due to circumstances beyond their control, there were also twenty-five apologies from members whose company and conversations were noticeably absent and sadly missed.

The attending members, in no particular order, were **Garry TUCKWOOD (ACT/AFP), Bob & Maureen GRAY, Cyril & Di HUTCHESSON,**

**Al McCUDDEN & Denise SMITH, Rob & Chris BARTLETT, Ted & Beth OLDFIELD, Lee RANKIN, Keith RUTHERFORD, Murray SAIT, Chris WOOD, Brian & Margaret REITH, Nigel PRICE (ACT/AFP), Roy & Anita WORTH, Col & Gael CURRY, John WILLSON, and Alan THOMPSON.**

On Tuesday 25 November 2025 I had the pleasure of a 1 ½ hour catch up with Veteran RFPA member (number 4363) **John URE** at his Mount Hutton home. While there I also took the opportunity to present John with his replacement Veteran Member certificate which he gracefully accepted.

Following on from this visit, on Thursday 27 November I found my way to the Charlestown home of Veteran RFPA member (number 1260) **Heniz Juergen MOELLER APM** and his wife (and carer) Jill. Before leaving I had the pleasure of being able to present Heinz (and 'carer' Jill) with his long overdue (mainly due the Covid years of isolation) Veteran Member certificate: which he accepted with an 'air of grace' and an 'element of emotion'.

Days like these are one of the main reasons why the RFPA exists and why we do what we do!!!!

The Branch ventured back to Club Macquarie for our annual Christmas function on Tuesday, 16 December 2025. Branch Committee member **Rob Bartlett**, in his own inimitable style, describes the function as he saw it:

"Friends... Well your intrepid Photo and Publicity Officer at the Hunter/Newcastle RFPA branch along with 47 members (and 14 apologies) attended Christmas Lunch at Club Macquarie.

We were treated to nibbles and then to a beautiful buffet with a choice of desserts along with coffee and tea. The lunch was opened by **Bob Gray** with a heartfelt acknowledgement to the terrible Bondi incident

**Al Crumpton** read the Police Ode and asked for a minute's silence. **Bob** then presented **Lance Hopkins** his Veterans award then Al presented **Bob** with a **Significant Voluntary Award by the RFPA** for all of his hard work. Our Patron and RFPA COM secretary **Ian Lovell** gave a short speech as well. A great time was had by all, and on behalf of all of our Branch members to all other Branch members: Merry Christmas to you and yours Cheers Bob Gray Vice Chair."

**Ian Lovell**

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## ILLAWARRA (WOLLONGONG) AND KIAMA BRANCHES

The branch met for our annual Christmas lunch at the Corrimal RSL on Monday 15 December, with 21 members in attendance, where we were treated to an enjoyable three course meal with all the trimmings. Chairman **Dave Routledge** presented outgoing secretary **Neil Harris** with the 'Chairman's Cup' in recognition of his seven years dedicated service.



**Newest member Mark Luchetti, pictured catching up with Alan Hodge.**



**Neil Harris receiving the 'Chairman's Cup' from Dave Routledge.**

On behalf of the Illawarra branch wishing all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year

**Dave Routledge**

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## MACARTHUR

On Wednesday 10th December, Ron and I officially handed over the KanMed Baby Bed Warmer System to **Dr Catherine Allgood** and **Nurse Unit Manager Fiona Kite** at the Neonatal Department of Campbelltown Hospital, who expressed their thanks and gratitude for the much needed equipment.



Many Thanks to the Sponsors, Supporters, and participants of the Macarthur RFPA Charity Golf Day that made this important donation possible.

**Roger Ford**

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## MANNING – GREAT LAKES

*We look forward to your contributions for our next Gazette.*

## MID NORTH COAST

Our October meeting saw a good turnout of members to hear our Guest Speaker **Jessica (Jess) Messina**. Jess is the granddaughter of our members **Bob and Helen Hanlon**. She won the National welterweight boxing crown earlier this year and successfully defending it a fortnight before our meeting. She was still on a 'high' from that victory. She gave us a really good insight into the difficult road a female faces to take up and succeed in the ancient art of pugilism. Notwithstanding those difficulties Jess has taken up the challenge and is now the No 1 female welterweight

in Australia, a wonderful effort. Once she has signed for a fight she trains hard, often twice a day, until the scheduled date of the fight. She told us all that she loves the fight game, it's a great challenge for her and that her ambition now is to move forward looking for a world title fight. She realizes to achieve that she will probably have to travel overseas to fight so she and her team are in the process of seeking sponsors to help her try and realize her dreams. All in all Jess gave us a very interesting talk which was much enjoyed by all those present. We wish her all the best in her chosen sport.



**Proud grandparents Helen and Bob Hanlon flank their granddaughter Jess Messina, the Australian Female National welterweight Boxing Champion. Good reason to be proud.**

November saw our Branch have an excellent BBQ at **McInherney Park** on the banks of the beautiful Hastings River. Among those present were **Jeff & Margaret Elliott, Jim & Sandra Cranna, Graham & Maree Rea, Marlene Brown, Val Ivlev, Jennett Hunt, Bruce Saunders & Denise Huntley, Rick & Marilyn Walton, Pal Egge, Ron Nunn, Fay Hope & Kath Cooper, Ian & Dawn Campbell, Bob & Helen Hanlon, George & Jan McCleery & John & Robyn Baker.** There were several apologies including **Grant and Helen Christensen, Sid & Kerry Crane, Mickey Foster & Graham Williams.** Thank you to all those who attended. Special thanks to **Rick Walton** who jumped in to help on the BBQ and to **Paul Egge, Sandra Cranna, Marlene Brown and Jennett Hunt** who all contributed in some way to the success of the day. Our Chairman **Laurie McGrath** and **Marcia** were apologies on the day as they were wending their way home from a wedding in WA. We look forward to our next BBQ day which will be sometime in the New Year.

Our Christmas luncheon as held on 2nd December at the Wauchope RSL. Always an excellent meal and this year was no exception. Those present included **Sid Crane and Kerry Bolsover, Betty Hartnett & Peter Wilms, Keith and Mary Rule, Rick & Marilyn Walton, Jim & Sandra Cranna, Laurie and Marcia McGrath, Grant & Helen Christensen, Robert & Helen Hanlon, Ron & Desley Nunn, Jennett Hunt, Garry & Anne Jennings, Graham & Maree Rea, Ian & Dawn Campbell, George & Jan McCleery, Jeff & Margaret Elliott, Paul Egge, Kath Cooper and Fay Hope and Bruce Saunders & Denise Huntley.** We all feasted on Ham, Turkey, Pork, roasted vegetables, Christmas puddings and Pavlova's, washed down with your choice of an Ale or a good Red or White. Again **Jennett Hunt and Marlene Brown** did an exceptional job with the lucky door prizes, so much so everyone walked away with some type of prize. We thank the Wauchope RSL management again for their welcome and their donation of wine for our lunch. Another really good day with much laughter and great chatter between many friends.



**Part of the crowd who attended our Christmas lunch, in the foreground L to R Anne & Garry Jennings, Desley Nunn, Betty Hartnett, Keith & Mary Rule and Marcia & Chairman Laurie McGrath.**

Many thanks to all members for your support over the year. On behalf of all members of the Mid North Coast Branch I would like to wish all members of the RFLPA Executive and committee a very happy New Year and may you continue to take our Association forward during 2026. Our members also wish members from all Branches a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

**Jim Cranna, MNC Publicity.**

## MURRAY RIVER

As usual it has been a very busy time for the Murray River RFLPA with many events on the calendar. A couple of the big ones were the National Police Remembrance Day & The Great Ballarat Break where a number of us went away for the weekend in icy cold Ballarat, Victoria.

Firstly, National Police Remembrance Day was this year conducted on the NSW side of the border as it swaps each year. On Monday 29th September 2025, a joint service was conducted with Murray River Police District & Wodonga Police in Albury at St Matthews Church. It was hosted by Albury Police **A/Supt Owen Hill** and conducted jointly with **A/Insp Sarah Keegan** Wodonga Police. There was a very large attendance with the church being 3/4 full with many former members, family & friends. The service was conducted by **Father Peter MacLeod-Miller**, Albury Police Chaplain **Reverend Canon Alan Kelb**, and Wodonga Police **Chaplain Reverend Andrew Fewings.** A lovely service with many police from both sides of the border addressing the assembly during the service.



**National Police Remembrance Day Albury**

We paused to remember the three police throughout Australia who have died while performing their duties in the previous 12 months. Two of these being close to the heart of the Victorian Police, **Detective Leading Senior Constable Neal Thompson & Senior Constable Vadim De Waart-Hottart** who died on 26 August 2025. Further Tasmanian Police Officer **Constable Keith Smith** passed on 16 June 2025. The Honour Roll of NSW Police was read with 8 historic additions to the honour roll.

We remembered 12 NSW Police who passed away whilst serving since 19 September 2024 & we remembered the 13 Victorian Police officers, protective services officer, police custody officer, Victorian Public Service employees and police chaplains who passed away since 19 September 2024. May they all rest in peace. After the service we had morning tea and caught up with many serving, retired & former police members and family.

### OBE PRESENTATIONS

On 30.9.25 **Vice Chair Phil Eddes & Social Secretary Chris Eddes** attended the home of Roger Morrison in Carlton Melbourne, to present his OBE certificate to him. Unfortunately, he was in hospital however his wife **Sue Morrison** accepted the OBE on his behalf and advised that he should be out on rehab soon. **Sue** was sure he would be really pleased and would take it to him tomorrow when she visits.

On 13.10.25 at Meraki Kitchen, Albury, it was a big presentation day of **Robyn Pollards OBE Certificate** and our new MR RFPA Medallion with checkered ribbon, 2 retired police pins to **Graeme Stephens & Colleen Honeysett**, and a welcome to our new members **Paul Leddy, Anne Dwyer, Helen Benham, & Rosie Aitken**. **Robyn** proudly wore her medallion the whole time. A nice little memento.



**Beth Docksey Retired Police Pin to Graeme Stephens**

Our other events included on 13.9.25 a very enjoyable dinner at the Newmarket Hotel, Albury. On 5 November 2025, the Murray River Branch of the RFPA met for a coffee and chat at the Close Collective in Wodonga. This great cafe is run by Junction Support Services and all the profits from the cafe go towards supporting Junction's programs including alleviating youth homelessness and hospitality training. The food, coffee and service was excellent. On 26 November 2025, the RFPA Murray River Branch travelled to Yackandandah for a coffee and chat at Gum Tree Pies. Our member at Yack, **Allan Grogan**, organised the open-air seating. It was a lovely day together.



**Robyn Pollard OBE**



**Beth Docksey Retired Police Pin to Colleen Honeysett**



**L-R Ken & Paula Zegiel, Colleen Honeysett, Rosie Aitken, Christine McEwan, Christine Bentley, Louise Stephens, Helen Benham, Allan Grogan, Brian & Cheryl Rosewarne, & Roland Kubank.**

On 14th December 2025, the Murray River RFPA branch held their Christmas Party at the Commercial Golf Club, Albury. Some dressed up for the Christmas season. The food was great, the view great, the atmosphere and chatting with the members and friends that attended was amazing. It happened to be one of our founding members **Brian Rosewarne's** birthday, so he had a little cake and candle to blow out, and we wished him many more birthdays. We all had a good time with some staying late in the day catching up.



Christmas Party F & B - Val & John Clarkson, Ken Zegiel & Lisa Ride

### THE GREAT BALLARAT BREAK

From Friday 7th November to Monday 10th November, 11 members of the Murray River RFPA headed both south from Albury & Wahgunyah NSW and north from Melbourne and Armstrong Creek for The Great Ballarat Break. ....maybe it should have been called The Great Ballarat Ice Break as it was freezing but luckily the secretary brought along a bag of 10 MR RFPA Beanies and they were all snapped up in a flash. We all knew that it was going to be cold, but it was exacerbated by the wind which made it feel like -10 below zero.

We met up on Friday 7th November 2025 at The Australian Ex-Prisoner of War Memorial which honours over 36,000 prisoners of war over WW1, WW2, and the Korean War. Vietnamese had no prisoners of war, just in case you were wondering. We had two of the trustees of the memorial, **Bill Barr & Ray Mende** who were part of the original group to establish it over 12 months in 2003, opening in 2004. They provided us with a tour and commentary in relation to the memorial. **Chris Bentley** found her uncles name, he was a **Molony** on there and **Graeme Stephens** found his grandfather's name on it. Amazing.



Ballarat War Memorial in background. L-R Beth Docksey, Chris Bentley, Phil & Chrissy Eddes, Margaret Westaway, Louise & Graeme Stephens, Katie & Graeme Morris, Ray Mende & Bill Barr.

The plan for Saturday 8th November 2025 was to go to Sovereign Hill for the day but as it was super-duper freezing it was put off for the day and we went for indoor things. The first port of call was the Eureka Stockade Museum to have a look at the history of Ballarat and how & why this revolt by the miners took place. The actual flag from the Eureka Stockade was also on display. We then went and had a look at the Eureka Stockade Memorial which had 4 cannons around it, all originals.

The Eureka Stockade was about the licenses that were being charged for the miners and the expense of them, even if they hadn't found any gold. The enforcement of the licenses was delegated to the police who were super into it as for each unlicensed person they found and fined they received half of the fine so there was a bit of heavy handedness going on.



Eureka Stockade L-R Beth Docksey, Linda Medway, Phill Eddes, Margaret Westaway, Ken Medway, Graeme Stephens, in the building at back are Chrissy Eddes, Louise Stephens.

On Sunday 9th November, 2025, our first early morning stop was at Victorian Police Triple Zero Centre, at Mount Helen about 10km out of Ballarat Central. We were met by **Sgt Rod McDonald** who provided a great explanation of how the combined radio room works for VicPol as well as Ambulance Paramedics, Fire Brigade, SES etc. It was a very large room where all of the desks and operators were. Each operator had at least 3 computer screens, some more. I didn't count but there would have been 40 or so individual desks. It was big and it was busy even for a Sunday morning. Remarkably interesting the way they can ID exact locations of people calling in etc either via mobile or home phone.



VicPol 000 Centre Ballarat L-R Beth Docksey, Sgt Rod McDonald, Ken Medway, Phil Eddes, Graeme Stephens, Louise Stephens, Linda Medway, Chrissy Eddes, Edna, Margaret Westaway & Chris Bentley. Edna was an earlier workmate of Margaret Westaway when she joined VicPol in 1965 and was later transferred to Ballarat where Margaret worked with Edna and both went and visited their now 92 year old boss Jan who still lives in Ballarat.

Next, we went off to Sovereign Hill for a wander around and a bit of lunch. Interesting old town with people still there gold panning. There were elegantly dressed locals in the old style clothing wandering around and chatting. So lovely and it made you feel like you were back in the early 1800's when Gold was discovered here. Some troops marched up the street and stood guard at the 'United States Hotel' balcony and we had to cover our ears when one of them let off a shot out of his rifle...very loud.



**Sovereign Hill L-R Beth Docksey, Graeme & Louise Stephens, Ken & Linda Medway.**

After a couple of hours wandering about, we left and moved onto the Military Museum at Alfredton. **Graeme**, our guide showed us through the original museum and a large container that held the new museum it was very interesting. On the way there we drove through a big memorial arch, and it turned out that the arch was the beginning of the Ballarat Avenue of Honour which stretched for 22km with trees planted to commemorate local soldiers from World War I. Our final time in Ballarat being Monday morning we decided to have brunch together and said farewell to each other. We had a great time, so much to see and do in Ballarat and thanks to our Social Secretary **Chrissy Eddes** for arranging it all.

**Beth Docksey, APM**

E: murrayriverrfpa@retiredpolice.com.au

## NEW ENGLAND

*We look forward to your contributions for our next Gazette.*

## NORTHERN BEACHES

It has been a busy and engaging couple of months for our Branch, with strong attendance and a variety of informative and enjoyable events.

### Retired Police Officers Day – Mona Vale Police Station

On Wednesday 24 September 2025, **Superintendent John Duncan** and the staff at Mona Vale Police Station warmly welcomed us for Retired Police Officers Day. We were pleased to have an excellent turnout of over 60 retired and former police officers.

Staff from the Police Technology Section provided a fascinating insight into the future of policing, showcasing cutting-edge innovations and the latest technology currently in use by NSW Police. Of particular interest was a striking wall display of hundreds of black-and-white press photographs spanning more than 40 years, featuring officers from the former 14 and 29 Divisions. Many members spent time reminiscing while searching for familiar faces from "back in the day."



### Branch Meeting – Artificial Intelligence Presentation

Our regular Branch meeting was held on Thursday 25 September, with nearly 50 members and guests in attendance. We were delighted to welcome newly **retired Charlie Buttrose**, now officially part of our Branch, along with new member **Jenni Choat**.

The highlight of the meeting was an engaging and informative presentation on Artificial Intelligence (AI), delivered by our Chairman **Dave Whiteman, and Ian Finlayson**. Supported by a dynamic multimedia display, members were shown practical examples of how AI can be safely and easily used to enhance everyday life. The presentation generated lively discussion, with many questions asked and thoughtfully answered, helping to demystify this rapidly emerging technology and demonstrate how it can provide accessible and relevant information.

Members were also entertained by a light-hearted display of AI-generated caricatures of some of our Branch members and were shown how to create their own images using AI tools.



## NSW Police Force Dog Unit Visit – Menai

On Thursday 30 October, 22 members and guests from the Northern Beaches RFFA visited the NSW Police Force Dog Unit at Menai. The staff at the Dog Unit, which was established in 1932, provided us with a warm welcome and an informative overview of its history and operations.



We were then taken to the enclosed training yard, where a handler demonstrated a Malinois attack dog apprehending an offender. This was followed by a field demonstration in which an explosives detection Springer Spaniel named Jimmy successfully located hidden bullet casings and was duly rewarded with his favourite toy.

The same handler then introduced Luca, a red Labrador trained as a Drug Detection Dog (DDD), who quickly located hidden drugs and was rewarded with food. We learned that the Unit employs a variety of breeds, including German Shepherds, Labradors, Rottweilers and Malinois, and is currently introducing English Springer Spaniels into service.

Our visit continued with a tour of the new kennels, used when handlers are on leave, and a moving remembrance wall honouring police dogs killed in the line of duty. The tour concluded with a demonstration of a black German Shepherd undergoing training with its handler.

### November Branch Meeting

Our final Branch meeting for the year was held on Thursday 20 November. The Branch warmly welcomed new members **Charlie Buttrose, Steve Haste and Clive Silvester.**

### Christmas Party

The Branch Christmas Lunch on Thursday 11 December was a great success, with 44 members and guests in attendance. The staff at Manly Leagues did an excellent job looking after us all. We were also honoured by the presence of **State RFFA Secretary Ian Lovell and his wife Glenda,** who made the trip from Hawks Nest to join the celebrations.



Stay safe over the Christmas New Year period,

**Ian Finlayson and Julie Bertoldo**

E:northernbeachesrffa@retiredpolice.com.au

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## NORTHERN RIVERS

Greetings from the Northern Rivers Branch. A lot of areas in Australia including the Northern Rivers have been experiencing some very hot weather of late. Thunderstorms have been a concern with large hail.

Since our last report our branch has attended the following three events.

1. Retired Police day held at Lismore Police Station. We thank **Superintendent Dave Roptell** for the invite and cost of food provided for lunch. A number of our members attended and we appreciated the talk given on latest trends in Policing and Rescue equipment. An enjoyable lunch was then held in the meal room of the Station.
2. Remembrance day service in Lismore.
3. Christmas meeting and lunch at Cherry Street Sports Club Ballina in late November 2025.

Members that attended for our Christmas meeting were: **Glenn Taylor, Ron Maher, Bill Nugent, Doug Townsend, Barry Hurren, Chris Wallace, Peter Watt, Naomi Watt, John Woodlands, Mal Towers, Ron Marriott and Con Venardos.** Some of these members attended with their partners. Thanks to Cherry Street Sports club for providing facilities for our meeting and lunch.



Northern Rivers Retired Police Day Lismore



Northern Rivers RFFA Christmas luncheon

Our next meeting will be held at Yamba in early February 2026.

Our Branch would like to wish all members of RFFA a Merry Christmas and a safe New year.

**Glenn Taylor, Branch reporter**

E:niversrffa@retiredpolice.com.au

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## NORTHERN SUBURBS (FORMERLY HORNSBY & DISTRICTS)

We look forward to your contributions for our next Gazette.

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## PARRAMATTA - THE HILLS

In June and after enjoying coffee and camaraderie in the glorious winter An excellent attendance for our Parramatta/The Hills RFPA coffee gathering at Gillies Cafe, Kellyville Grove in October:

In November we had a good roll up for our coffee catch up today at Chef's Café, Kings Langley which included an interesting guest in the form of actor **Ted Hamilton**. Ted enthralled us over coffee with tales of his life in the USA and his appearances in Division 4 and Homicide.



Eric Etienne (L) & Barbara Lindsay



John Rand, Naomi Baldwin & Ted Hamilton.

### 29 November 2025

An enthusiastic number of our Parramatta/The Hills Branch members gathered to celebrate Christmas 2025 and remember the many outings and events of the past year which served to enhance the camaraderie and friendship for which our Branch is renowned.



Parra Hills Christmas Dinner 2025



L – R: Elaine Bennett, Naomi Baldwin, Darlene Reynolds & Janis McKinnon



Weekly coffee morning

## 11 December 2025

The weather gods were kind enough to hold back for our last B-B-Q of 2025 held yesterday at The Precinct, Blacktown. Looking forward to another great year of friendship and welfare in 2026. Best wishes and a Merry Christmas to all.

**Nick Pavlov, Branch Reporter**

E: parrahillsrfpa@retiredpolice.com.au

## PEEL

*We look forward to your contributions for our next Gazette.*

## PENRITH BLUE MOUNTAINS

At our September meeting member **Peter Kirk** organized a very interesting and informative talk by **Deb Anderson** from Northern Beaches Branch on Bereavement Protocols and End of life Therapy, members were most appreciative of her expertise.



The Branch organized a Certificate of appreciation which was presented to **Bev** by **Peter Kirk** and **Alby Graham**

Cheers

**Dick Hurst**

Branch Chairman

## RIVERINA

*We look forward to your contributions for our next Gazette.*

## SOUTH COAST

*We look forward to your contributions for our next Gazette.*

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

*The Southern Highlands Branch Charter remains current and in place however the Branch is taking a break*

## SOUTHERN TABLELANDS

*We look forward to our contributions for our next Gazette.*

## SYDNEY

Our coffee catchup on 21st October 2025 at Pennant Hills Hotel may have been small but mighty in conversation. Thanks for your wonderful company from left to right; **Greg Thane, Kent Vild, Belinda Dunn-Toemoe and Allan Simpson.**



Our meeting held at the York Club on 18th November 2025 had many of our Branch stalwarts in attendance. After the meeting we enjoyed Christmas lunch, a few beverages and some story telling. The winner of our Christmas lucky door prize was **Phil Budge**. We had a lengthy list of members unable to attend due to holidaying overseas, clashes with their social calendars and members who are on both short and long term "sick report". To all our members who are having health issues we wish you a quick and speedy recovery and look forward to seeing you soon.



**Left to right – Suzanne Avery, Kent Vild, Peter Hamer, Allan Simpson, Phil Budge, Vaughn Rei, Ian Moore, Alan Randall, Keith & Margaret Thornell.**

**DATES FOR THE DIARY 2026 - YORK CLUB, SYDNEY commencing at 11am**

19th May – General Meeting

18th August – Annual General Meeting

17TH November – General meeting & Christmas Lunch

**Roaming Coffee Catchups TCHUPS from 11am**

17th March – Revesby Workers Club

21st April – Easts Club, Bondi Junction

16th June – Pennant Hills Hotel

21st July – The Juniors Kingsford

15th September – Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club

20th October – Dooleys, Lidcombe

To our members we look forward to seeing you in 2026. Stay safe and keep in touch.

**Belinda Dunn-Toemoe**

Secretary/Treasurer/Social Secretary.

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## WATER POLICE (SUB BRANCH) (FORMED 21 MARCH 2013)

*We look forward to our contributions for our next Gazette.*

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### TWEED/GOLD COAST

Our branch meeting held on Tuesday 14th October, 2025 was a normal bi-monthly meeting.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

**Garry JARDINE, Terry and Betty PERKINS, Geoff CHESTER, Jeff FOWLER, John BEACHAM, Bruce and Dora THOMSON, Les ZAHN, Ken and Esther JENKINS, Patrick MEDWAY, Russell ROBERTSON Jim MATHEWS, Steve HUBBARD, Geoff and Vicki MAXWORTHY, Max ROBERTS, John COOKE, Garry WILLIAMS.**

Apologies were received from 12 members unable to attend.

Our Welfare Officers have been busy with a few members suffering various ailments. Notably our Deputy Chairman **Gary MATTHEWS** having solved his long term issues then suffering a fall while out with family and friends celebrating, then requiring a stint in rehab. Happy days. On the road to recovery.

Sadly, our esteemed long term former Chairman **Malcolm COX** has been admitted to the new Dementia Ward at Gold Coast Hospital suffering from dementia and Parkinson's Disease whilst waiting for a long term placement. Our thoughts are with him and partner **Brenda**.

Information was discussed at the meeting about the importance of wills, powers of attorney and provision for a Health Advance Care Directive. Aging is creeping up on all of us.

#### SOCIAL:

Our November Social was held at the Coolangatta Surf Club and was well attended, with a beautiful view and great food to boot. A thoroughly enjoyable get together.



### Lunch at the Coolangatta Surf Club

#### GUEST SPEAKER:

Our guest speaker for our meeting was **Sergeant Andrew PARKER**, Section Co-Ordinator (O.I.C.) of Tweed Water Police. **Andrew** provided a visual presentation on various duties and functions of the Water Police. He spoke of his own personal experiences having more than 20 years' service in the Water Police at various locations. He spoke of the large patrol area of his unit, which covers 70 nautical miles from the border to Yamba and extends to over 200 nautical miles east of Lord Howe Island. Collaboration with other services such as Queensland Water Police, Maritime Search and Rescue and the Royal Australian Navy and other Commonwealth agencies quite often takes place in coastal waters and international waters.

There were many and varied questions asked by members present in what was an absorbing and interesting discussion, covering such matters as drug importation, re-branding of stolen water craft and everything in between. Enjoyed by everyone. Thank you **Andrew** for wonderful presentation and your valuable time.

#### CHRISTMAS LUNCH:

On Tuesday 9th December, more than 30 members attending our Annual Christmas Lunch, this year held at Club Tweed, Tweed Heads where all were served with a delicious two course baked dinner lunch and dessert. All the trimmings were supplied by the Club for a wonderful festive time and many old faces returned to share in our celebrations. It was a great way to end 2025 for our members and we look forward to having a wonderful and prosperous 2026.

Our next bi-monthly meeting is set down for Tuesday, 10th February, 2026, where a guest speaker is already booked, detailing the horrors of the Granville Train Disaster in 1974.

Our Branch would sincerely like to thank State Secretary **Ian LOVELL** for all of his assistance and knowledge over the past 12 months with various issues including member queries.

#### Bruce THOMSON

Tweed/Gold Coast Branch  
E: Tweedgcrfpa@retiredpolice.com.au

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### WIDE BAY

*We look forward to your contribution in our next edition.*

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## NOTICEBOARD



#### NSW Police Legacy BLUE RIBBON BALL 21/03/2026

Many are not aware that regardless of whether a police officer was serving or retired, or the circumstances of their death, Police Legacy support family members left behind and ensure those who have protected the community will be remembered.

**What:** Blue Ribbon Ball

**When:** Sat, 21 Mar, 2026, 6pm - 11:55pm AEDT

**Where:** International Convention Centre Sydney, Grand Ballroom  
14 Darling Dr, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia  
Sydney NSW, Australia

#### Hosted by NSW Police Legacy

It is an uplifting experience and the organisation undertaken by **Det Supt Donna McARTHUR** and her team culminates in a wonderful social event, in hundreds of Legatees benefitting from the night, and a web of activities, scholarships and well supervised holidays being made available for young ones.

They employ (volunteers in most cases) mentors and life coaches who are outstanding human beings and give their all to their young charges. Well done NSW Police Legacy.

The whole organisation is a magnificent concept and needs our support to keep on going. You can donate to Police Legacy through our website with the link to Police Legacy.

Give thought to attending or if you cannot be there in person, then donating in some way – cash donation, purchase of raffle prizes on line, donation of services or goods for the auction and/or raffle – are ways you can help.

**For more information, you can contact Andrew Wilcox, Fundraising Manager, at 02 9060 0704.**

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## UPUPCOMING REUNIONS

**GO TO YOUR RFPA WEBSITE FOR THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION. [www.retiredpolice.com.au](http://www.retiredpolice.com.au) AND LOOK UP "CLASS REUNIONS AND EVENTS"**

**What:** N.S.W. Ex Police Cadets Function  
**Where:** Club York, 95-99 York Street, Sydney.  
**When:** Wednesday 25th February, 2026. 11am – 3.30pm  
**Meal:** 3 course sit down lunch. Cost \$100 pp  
**Drinks:** Drinks supplied.  
**Payment:** On or before 30th January, 2026.  
Electronically: Ex Police Cadets Assn of NSW,  
BSB: 815-000. Police Bank Acct No. 241807,  
Payment by cheques not accepted.  
Payable to Ex Police Cadets Assn, of NSW.  
(Include Your name with payment).  
**Contact:** Ian Moore, Secretary / Treasurer.  
Ex Police Cadets Assn of NSW.  
E; [expolicecadets@hotmail.com](mailto:expolicecadets@hotmail.com)  
(M) 0404 88 1513. (LL): 02 4443 1007.  
P.O. Box 3317 Vincentia, NSW 2540.

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**What:** Friendship Week 2026.  
**Where:** Belmont Lakeside Holiday Park, 24 Paley Crescent Belmont South 2280  
**When:** 7 March to the 14 March 2026.  
**Contact:** Phone number for bookings **1800626438** or **(02) 49454750**.

When making a booking mention the Retired Police week. Look forward to seeing you there in 2026. One event scheduled for Tuesday 10 March is not to be missed. Call Charlie to book your place on the 'Lady Mac' for a cruise around Lake Macquarie with a great lunch included. [lakemacholidayparks.com.au](http://lakemacholidayparks.com.au) Charles Halloran APM mobile **0418198532**.

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**What:** 45 Year Reunion of Class 171  
**When:** Friday 26th June 2026  
**Time:** 2pm to 6pm  
**Venue:** Club York 99 York St Sydney  
**Interested:** Contact **Sue Whitfield**  
E: [suewhitfield@bigpond.com](mailto:suewhitfield@bigpond.com)  
or Join our Facebook page  
Class 171-45 year reunion 26 June 2026

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**What:** 60 Year Reunion -Class 107  
Calling all Class 107 who graduated on 16th May 1966 from the Redfern Academy  
**When:** TBA  
**Where:** TBA possible Mercantil Hotel The Rocks, Sydney or other  
**Cost:** Buy your own food and drink  
**Contact:** **Ron Smith (0412 226 135)** or  
**Cec Noakes (0474 752 901)** for info

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**What:** 62ND YEAR REUNION – CLASS 101A/1964  
**When:** Wednesday 28 October 2026.  
**Where:** Club 88 Burwood NSW  
**Enquiries:** [john.newington@bigpond.com](mailto:john.newington@bigpond.com)

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### ANY PLANS FOR REUNION OF CLASS 105A?

**Bob Cunningham**, 86 is asking if there is any plans for a reunion of Class 105A graduated 1st November 1965. Bob was a former Police Cadet and in his career he worked at Eastwood, Ryde, Moree, Clarence Town, Coffs Harbour, Broken Hill etc. Some of his classmates were **Warren Chambers** and **Peter Walsh** from Port Macquarie. On his discharge he purchased the Mungani Hotel in Dalby Qld.

His request was to find out if a 60 x year reunion of his class 105A was being planned. Bob now lives in Coffs Harbour now, contact on ) 02-66536478.

**Ed Note: Charlie D'Agostino (0411 177 067) and Ian Moore (0404 881 513) regularly run Cadets Reunions**

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## REUNIONS HELD

The members of class 101A/1964 recently held their 61 year reunion at club 88 at Burwood. Members travelled from Queensland, Newcastle and Wollongong for the reunion as well as our Sydney residents. Apologies were received from **Lindsay Tritton, Col Graham and Norm (big fella) Deen**. We were honoured to have in our presence **Superintendent Chrissie McDonald** (Burwood commander) as an invited guest.

We maybe aging but the wits are still there with some great reminiscing about the past achievements as well as comparisons between our era of policing and modern day policing.

God willing our 62 year reunion will be at the same venue on Wednesday 28 October 2026. Enquiries to [john.newington@bigpond.com](mailto:john.newington@bigpond.com)

Photo attached left side Ray House, Andy Southall, Terry Psarakis, John Connah, Bill Snow. Right side John Seward, Bob Warland, Superintendent Chrissie McDonald, Clarrie Lemme, Ike Ellis, Peter (hwp) Beacroft.

John Seward



61 year reunion of Class 101A of 1964



## VALE



All relevant information regarding the passing of Members and former Police will be posted on the Retired Police Website [www.retiredpolice.com.au](http://www.retiredpolice.com.au) under the category of 'VALE'.

Then go to 'Death and Funeral Notices'. You will note that the latest posts contain funeral detail. This will be removed when no longer needed and the VALE list updated accordingly. To access the website, go to [www.retiredpolice.com.au](http://www.retiredpolice.com.au)

*We will remember them.*

\* Denotes Serving Member

SURNAME	CHRISTIAN/KNOWN NAME	AGE	REG.NO	BRANCH	DECEASED
ARMANASCO	Frank Anthony	86	12229	Tweed/Gold Coast	12/9/2025
BARBER	Kevin Patrick	82	13736	Riverina	17/9/2025
BLACK	Ruth Mary	100		Northern Beaches	2/11/2025
BRIDGE	Larry William	78	18169	Mid North Coast	11/9/2025
CONNERTON	Thomas Henderson	87	11113	Hunter Region	1/10/2025
COUGHLIN	Michael	87	8677	Sydney	8/12/2025
DALEY	Susan Olive	79		Hunter Region	6/10/2025
DENNIS	Arnold Trevor	86	9405	Penrith Blue Mountains	20/10/2025
DUNN	Barry Wentworth	89	7987	Unattached	4/12/2025
EDWARDS	Leonard Roy 'Len'	82	14742	Dubbo District	10/11/2025
FLOOD	John Murray 'Jack'	96	9137	Hunter Region	13/10/2025
GOLLAN	Roderick George	83	15035	Riverina	8/10/2025
HANCOCK	David Andrew	68	18369	Unattached	7/09/2025
HYDE	Gregory	82	11330	Unattached	20/11/2025
JONES	Trevor Maxwell	83	12945	Northern Rivers	24/10/2025
KEEN	Helen Elizabeth	79		Unattached	19/9/2025
SHEAVES	Stephen Bruce	79	11500	Unattached	27/9/2025

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