

The R.F.P.A. GAZETTE



(Established 1931)

Registered office
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www.retiredpolice.com.au

“RFPA NSW PATRON – FORMER COMMISSIONER KAREN WEBB APM”

RFPA Friendship Week 2026



Some of the Friendship Week group heading out onto Lake Macquarie for a cruise and lunch.

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- Committee Report
- Branch Reports
- Notice Board
- Vale
- Articles of Interest
- 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

Charlie Halloran, APM and his "wing man" **Phil Knight** have been organising Friendship Week (was earlier called Fishing Week) for the benefit of RFPA members for many years. The 2026 event was at Belmont in NSW. A lovely spot on the water at Lake Macquarie. The front page shows many of the group getting to board the "Lady Mac" for a cruise and lunch. A beautiful day and some great company.

HOT OFF THE PRESS – **2027 Friendship Week** will be at Reflections, Urunga Holiday Park from Saturday 6th March to Saturday 13th March. See Notice Board in this edition for further details.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On 25 February I attended the Police Cadet Reunion Lunch at Club York. A most delightful event with many former Cadets. The Guest Presenters with **Insp Tina Davies APM** who gave an audio-visual presentation of the New Cadet Pilot program. The attendees found this most interesting and enjoyable. There was also an audio-visual presentation by the Police Media

Unit's **S/Con Ash Bold** relating to the murder of Cst I/c **Cyril Howe** at Oaklands in 1963. The group enjoyed this presentation and one of the Former Cadets mentioned that he was stationed in that area at the time and was involved in the search of the murderer.

I travelled to Wollongong with **Sandy Benson** on the evening of Thursday 26 for a most informative and interesting Presentation at the Wollongong Builders Club from RFPA travel partners **Wendy Wu Travel**. Met with both **Wendy Wu** and her marketing manager **Angela Briscoe**.



On Sunday 8 March I travelled with **Sandy Benson** to Police Friendship Week being conducted at Belmont Caravan Park. Although the weather was atrocious the camaraderie overcame the conditions with BBQ assisting. A presentation of a plaque was conducted with Senior Vice President **George Weissel** the presenting officer to **Phil Knight** from Dubbo Branch who assists **Charlie Halloran** in the Friendship Weeks.



Sandy and I returned to Friendship Week on Tuesday 10 March and went on the arranged lunch cruise on Lake Macquarie. Another wonderful day was had by all.

Wednesday 11 March saw me at the Police Cadet Coffee Crunch at Wests Leagues Club, Leumeah.

Sadly on 17 March I attended the funeral of the late **Jim Bostock** who had been a Foundation Member of the Parramatta the Hills Branch. The Chapel was full to capacity with our own RFPA Chaplain **Gary Raymond APM OAM** conducting the service.

Saturday 21 March was the Police Legacy Ball at the ICC. The attendance was 900 which is a record. Special Guest **Dick Smith** and wife **Pip** were there, with **Dick** speaking about his and Pip's common goal from early in life to help others. They donated \$1 million to Police Legacy recently.



By invitation **Ian Lovell** and I attended the Newcastle City Police District Awards Ceremony at Fort Scratchley on Wednesday 25 March. The Host Officer was **A/Supt Lisa Jones** and also attending were **Asst Commissioner Dave Waddell & A/Asst Comm Kylie Endemi**.

There were National Police Medals, National Medals, NSW Police Medals and Commissioner of Police Emergency Commendations awarded. There were other Awards for the professional manner in which investigations had been conducted and Awards for Acts of Courage in the face of personal danger. Both Ian and I were impressed of the calibre of the recipients when hearing of the incidents for which the Awards were given. The Police involved were from GDs, Plain Clothes and HWP. They certainly performed their duties in the proud traditions of the NSW Police.

On Friday 27 March again with **Ian Lovell** we drove to **Bendemeer** where members from **Peel & New England Branches** were meeting for lunch. Whilst there I presented the inaugural **Carer of the Year Award to Gael Drew** for her outstanding care of **Bob Drew** following his injuries which left him a quadriplegic when thrown from his horse.

God Bless

Paul Wynne

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

The highlight of the past three months was the presentation by our President to **Gael DREW** for '**Carer of the Year**'.

Bob DREW's catastrophic fall from his best horse in March 2003 was an unlikely event. He has been a life-long horseman and steward at iconic events such as the Royal Easter Show for more than 40 years. Since Bob's retirement from the position of Crime Manager at Armidale, he maintained his work as Clerk of the

Course at country racetracks, especially at Tamworth and Muswellbrook. **Bob** would normally stick like glue, but on the fateful day a car horn was carelessly sounded and it startled his horse, throwing **Bob** and then rolling on him. Broken bones and damaged nerves had Bob in treatment and rehabilitation in Royal North Shore, then at the Royal Rehabilitation Hospital at Putney/Ryde for around two years. **Gael** had stayed by **Bob's** side during that time, travelling the almost 1,000 kms round trip from their farm at Daruka to look after stock and then returning to Bob. After the long haul of rehabilitation **Bob** was able to control an astonishing vehicle ('wheelchair' does not do it justice) and return under close care to their newly-renovated and adapted home in Tamworth. **Gael** had sold the farm and found their new house, made it **Bob-proof** and all the time had been Bob's carer with little or no financial or human assistance to that point.



As time moved on, the various authorities were able to be persuaded that the **DREW** family had been tragically affected. Early in the timeframe, The Police Benevolent Fund was contacted in the hope of financial assistance, and thanks to **Donna McCarthy (Chair)** and **Ken MORONEY (Patron)** Gael was able to obtain emergency assistance with some assistance from **Member Matt LYNCH**. The **NDIS doesn't apply** if you are over 65 and iCare only helps if you can identify the offending vehicle. Bob hadn't seen the rego number. Eventually, with some assistance from the political classes, further financial help was forthcoming, and **Bob and Gael** are now mobile in a VW van (BOB51D) into which Bob's chair can be driven.

During this life-changing period of almost three years, **Gael** has been by **Bob's** side. In my monthly visits to RNS and RHH Gael was there every time. The best occasion was towards the end of Bob's stay at RNS, when I walked past the two of them in the ground floor coffee lounge, and **Gael** ran over to the lift to tell me **Bob** was in the coffee shop. That was the start of his re-emergence into the world. At Putney, **Bob** began to drive around and was able to cause the coffee shop there to reopen after closing, so that he could entertain his visitor. Another memorable moment was when the (40 or so) mounted stewards for the Royal Agricultural Show took time off to hold **Bob's** birthday party at the Rehab hospital. **Gael's** part in this was amazing.

On returning home, and still without assistance, **Gael** suffered a fall and broke her hip. That made her work almost impossible, and then help arrived. When just about mended, **Gael** suffered another serious problem, with her Achilles tendon separated and needing a 'moon boot' to get around. That's how we found her at Bendemeer last Friday.

President Paul gave Gael her award, and no words were needed when we looked at Bob's reaction. Congratulations **Gael DREW**, our inaugural recipient of the RPPA 'Carer of the Year' award.

The Committee of Management has been busy over the past quarter. Our Member Benefits man **David DREW** (no relation to Bob, he says) has been dealing with numerous tourism operators, the vice consuls of Thailand and Vietnam, old age persons' medical assistance practitioners, golf bag manufacturers/distributors, legal assistance professionals and university (U3A) campus operators. The results of his dedicated efforts can be found on our Member Discounts menu. **David** is currently enjoying a couple of weeks off on the Mid North Coast. We reckon he deserves the break.

We have found, through several unfortunate experiences, that the Constitution requires some tweaking to confront emerging issues. There is also an advantage to converting to Federal legislation and becoming a registered charity, which is being explored. The main advantage to this is that we will be spared much of the \$20,000.00 (estimated) cost of posting the Gazette to Members. Last Quarter the bill was over \$4,800.00 and the standard letter rate is rising again in June. All this requires some change to the Constitution, but it is minor, and will be the main business of the 2026 AGM (on 27 July tentatively).

The policy of 'Look Down, Step Up, No Ladders' has been embraced by nearly all who have read the statistics. Please emphasise this with your Branch Members at the earliest opportunity. Wristbands are a reminder, and from personal experience, I recommend obtaining and wearing one. We have expanded interest in this policy through several service clubs and over 55s villages. If you need more, we can obtain them for you.

We now maintain a register of guest speakers and events. Call CoM Member **Belinda DUNN-TOEMOE** if you are searching for such a person or event.

The social event of the year was held at the International Convention Centre on 21 March. **The Police Legacy Ball** is a great experience. **Donna McCARTHY** and her amazing people have this event operating like clockwork. Raffles, silent auctions, noisy auctions, great music and hilarious comedy acts are the trademark of the Ball. My personal high point was hearing the very short and succinct history of the **Dick and Pip SMITH** technology empire, followed by their donation of one million dollars to Police Legacy. They are great friends of the Police, and realise the risky nature of our work and the fact that families are occasionally fractured by work-based tragedy. There are more than 1,400 Police legatees.



The **SMITHS** show philanthropy at its greatest! Police Bank then made another enormous donation of \$100,000.00 as well. **Peter REMFREY**, Police Bank Chair, did the honours with a maxi-check. I hope we all realise

what a huge benefit the Police Bank is to all of us, and that it is Member-owned and operates for the greater good of our RPPA Members.

Yours in Friendship

Ian Lovell

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CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS?

Email to secretary@retiredpolice.com.au or Phone: **0425 336 801** – with any changes



EDITOR'S REPORT

Not sure where this AI is going but if any member knows which one might make my job easier I would be grateful for the information!! For the time being we will continue as is and many thanks for your photos and articles. It is pleasing to see that there are many more stories and photos

than can fit into our 20 page Gazette but you can always send photos or articles to Dave Whiteman who can include them on the website. www.webmaster@retiredpolice.com.au;

Deadline for the Winter (April May June) Gazette is 15th June.

Cheers ,

Sandy Benson

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DID YOU KNOW – FACT NO.2

There is an offer from FIRST TABLE (at selected restaurants) to get 50% off your table's food bill (up to 4 at a table) by just booking the "First Table" at either lunch and/or dinner. In some cases you can book 14 days in advance. Great if you don't mind eating early for half price!!!

Get further details from www.firsttable.com.au; and see if any of your favourite restaurants are listed.



WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT

The autumn season is upon us and it's necessary to have our vaccinations to try and avoid 'flu and the like. We need to take care with our dress when out and about. I have had contact with many of our members who are suffering from various types of illnesses which have slowed them down a bit, but you must make sure you receive medical attention to keep on top of the problem. A few of our Members have been placed in Nursing Homes because it has become too difficult to care for them at home. We keep in touch with these people and their partners to check on them from time to time. Should any of our members become ill, don't hesitate to contact me so I can make contact with them and their families.

Kind regards.

Ian Moore

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ARTICLES OF INTEREST

NSW POLICE – 100 YEARS OF ROAD SAFETY

(by RFPA of NSWVP John Crockett 2025)

Generations of NSW Police have proudly and diligently served and protected the NSW community on foot, horseback, train, boat, motor vehicles, powered boats, aeroplanes, helicopters, pushbikes and yes, even motorcycles.

Whilst throughout these generations emerging technology has seen vast changes, albeit argued 'improvements' in the conduct of Policing, one of the most significant changes occurred in 1926 with the formation of "The Public Safety Bureau (PSB)".

Equipped with 'high powered' cars and motorcycles this small unit was tasked with implementing Road Safety strategies to address the increasing number of motor vehicle related accidents in the Sydney area, extending to Wollongong, Brooklyn and Katoomba over weekends and holiday periods.

This area of operation was extended in 1936 to include Goulburn, Bathurst, Newcastle and Tamworth after the PSB staff levels were doubled.

Severely curtailed during WWII, the PSB didn't fully resume until late 1947 which saw 58 PSB personnel using 6 solo motorcycles, 10 motor vehicles and 31 motorcycle outfits for Road Safety duties.

Post war popularity of motor vehicle ownership saw a substantial rise in the number of registered vehicles and driver licence holders in NSW and aligned Road Safety concerns.

This saw the Government authorise an increase of the PSB strength to 80 personnel with an Inspector appointed as 'Officer in Charge'.

By 1962, recognising that Road Safety Policing in NSW required more '**Specialist Traffic Police**', the '**Public Safety Bureau (PSB)**' name was changed to the '**Special Traffic Patrol (STP)**'.

Later that year work commenced on building the NSW Police Driver Training Centre at St. Ives to provide driver training to all Police and 'Specialist' high speed driver and rider training to STP personnel.

The effectiveness of Road Safety Strategies in reducing the road toll throughout NSW was further enhanced from 1971 with the introduction and use of more modern technology like Radar speed measuring device.

However a significant change occurred in 1975.

This change was directly related to a friendship between NSW Police STP **Senior Constable John Lovatt** and his '**Pen Pal**' **Police Officer Randy Pappas** from the California Highway Patrol (CHP) based in Los Angeles.

In 1974 Officer Pappas had arranged for **Senior Constable John Lovatt** and STP colleague, **Sergeant Keith Burwood**, to visit the California Highway Patrol Academy in Sacramento, USA and while there, meet Police from both the Los Angeles and San Francisco Police Departments. This venture came to the ears of the then **NSW Police Commissioner Fred Hanson** who 'summoned' John to his office and gave him a personal 'Letter of Introduction' and the instruction that "if you find anything we could apply to NSW, ship it back" (sic).

John and Keith did exactly that, shipping 'back' a new style of windscreen for the STP Kawasaki 900 motorcycles, an electronic siren and light bar. Subsequent trips to the USA saw **John** return with many CHP items that would eventually become standard issue to NSW Police such as the leather jacket, long baton, basket weave patterned leather belts, holster and handcuff pouch.

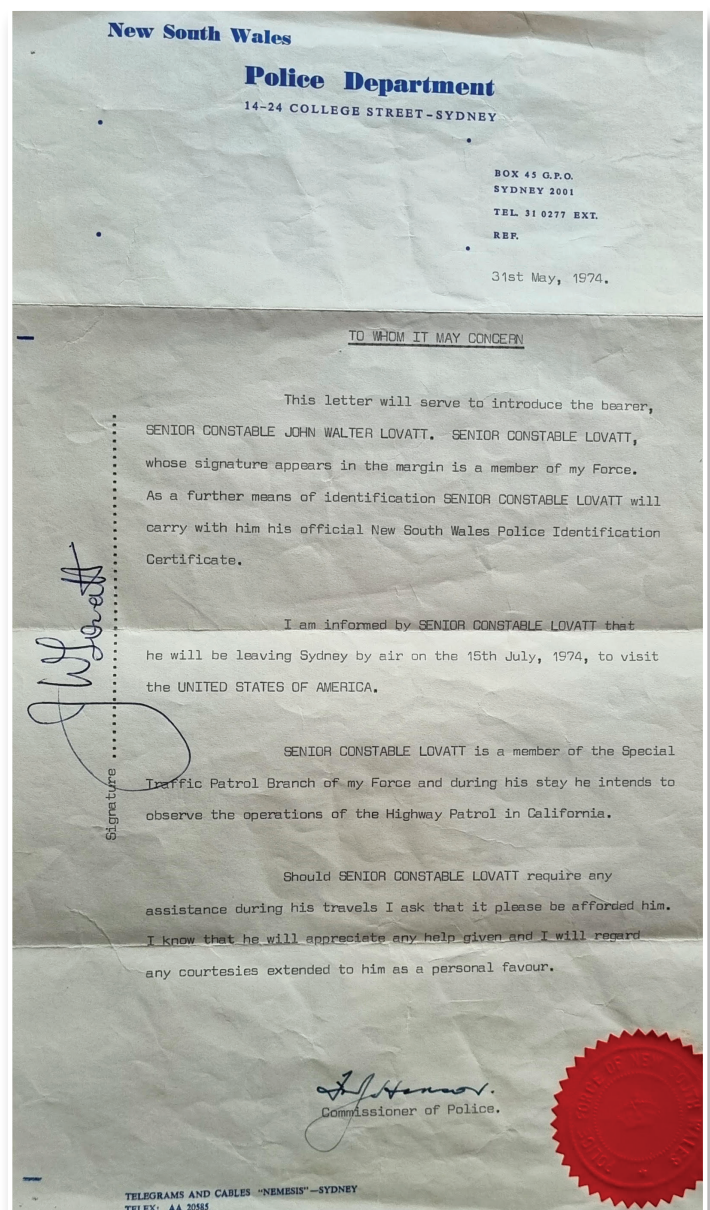
Whilst at the CHP Academy **John and Keith** attended their 'CHP Officer Training Program' noting their curriculum and methodology.

On 17 March 1975 the **NSW Police Minister John Waddy** and **NSW Police Commissioner Fred Hanson** officially announced the introduction of the **NSW Police Highway Patrol (HWP)** to replace the STP.



Minister Waddy, Commissioner Hanson & Sen. Const. Lovatt

The NSW Police Highway Patrol uniform shoulder patch and vehicle door 'badge' were designed by **John** and approved for use by the Minister and Commissioner at that time.



Letter of Introduction from Comm. Hanson

1977 saw the approval and introduction at HWP HQ North Sydney of a 'new' NSW Police HWP Officer 10 day training curriculum formulated **Sen. Const. John Lovatt** (Officer in Charge of Training) assisted by **Sen. Const. Cliff Lonsdale**.

HWP applicants were required to attend and successfully complete motorcycle rider and/or driver training at the NSW Police Driver Training Centre, St. Ives before attending HWP Officer induction training at North Sydney.



Sen. Const. Lovatt in HWP uniform

Whilst implementing Road Safety Strategies is a HWP Officer's primary function, history has shown that HWP Officer's are most likely to be the first responders to an endless variety of events including traffic accidents, shootings, armed holdups, sieges, domestics, overdoses, brawls, fires, floods, thefts and most likely to have contact with criminals using motor vehicles during their criminal enterprise.

In concert with Road Traffic Legislation, HWP Officer training addresses these Policing issues to ensure patrolling Officers are at all times able to safely fulfil their 'Oath of Office'.

Retiring after a 35 year career in the NSW Police, the contribution to Road Safety in NSW by **Senior Sergeant John Lovatt**, will not be forgotten easily given his 'recent' involvement, with the help of his daughter **Verneen**, in the design and manufacture of a special "HWP – 1975" commemorative ring for HWP Officers, the sale of which supports NSW Police Legacy.



Assistant Commissioner David Driver, Commissioner Mal Lanyon, Senior Sergeant John Lovatt (Retired), Deputy Commissioner Paul Pisanos – Pictured at 100 Years of Road Safety in the NSW Police Celebration 2025.



HWP 1975 - Commemorative Ring

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

SURNAME	CHRISTIAN NAME	BRANCH
BERTACCO	FRANK	ILLAWARRA
BLACKSHAW	KARLA MAREE	SOUTHERN TABLELANDS
BOOG	GERALD 'FRED'	CENTRAL TABLELANDS
CURTIN	CHRISTOPHER	NEW ENGLAND
DAVIS	JEFFREY SHANE	SYDNEY
DOHERTY	JAYNE E	MACARTHUR
GALLANT	JOANNE	MURRAY RIVER
GREENROD	JOHN SIMPSON	MACARTHUR
GRIMES	ROBERT LEEUWIN	SOUTHERN TABLELANDS
HALES	MICHAEL ANTHONY 'MICK'	PARRAMATTA-THE HILLS
HERING	JULIE KATHLEEN	HUNTER REGION
HILE	VIOLET GRACE 'GRACE'	MACARTHUR
JONES	MELANI	HUNTER REGION
KELB	ALAN	MURRAY RIVER
LUCHETTI	MARK ANDREW	ILLAWARRA
MCDONNELL	RENE ANNE	RIVERINA
MCKEE	STEPHANIE ALLISON	MURRAY RIVER
MEDWAY	SUZANNE	TWEED/GOLD COAST
MOORE	KEVIN	HUNTER REGION
MURPHY	DAVID JOHN	PENRITH BLUE MOUNTAINS
O'HARE	CAROLINE	SYDNEY
OAKLEY	LEIGH GEOFFREY	MURRAY RIVER
POWELL	GERARD ANTHONY	CENTRAL TABLELANDS
PRATLEY	KERRI-ANN	SOUTHERN TABLELANDS
ROLPH	GREG	MACARTHUR
SHEEAN	WAYNE	MURRAY RIVER
SMITH-CAMERON	JEFFREY ANDREW	MACARTHUR
SNOWDON	NEIL JAMES	BRISBANE & NORTHERN SUB
THOMAS	PAUL WYNNE	SYDNEY
THORPE	TOM	NORTHERN RIVERS
WHITMORE	CRAIG JOHN	ILLAWARRA

BRANCH REPORTS

BRISBANE AND NORTHERN SUBURBS

Hope everyone had a great Christmas with Family, friends and survived the storms.

Brisbane and Northern Suburbs RFPA Christmas in July luncheon this year will be at the Pacific Harbour Golf and Country Club, Banksia Beach (Bribie Island) details are on the RFPA NSW Website under our Branch but have also been emailed to our members and posted on our Brisbane and Northern Suburbs Facebook page. Hope we get a great roll up, as the committee has found a great place with our own room, bar staff and restaurant quality 3 course meal.

Tuesday the 6th January was our first Brisbane and Northern Suburbs RFPA Lunch for 2026 was at the Moreton Bay Boat Club, Scarborough. It was a great venue and great company which also included some of our QLD IPA members which was a really great addition to our group as everyone really seemed to enjoy our first outing for the year.



Attendees: Steve & Lynell Turner, Lesley & Peter Robinson, Sally Matheson, John Penissi (Qld IPA), Dave Walsh (Qld IPA), Michael White, Penny & Pieter Strik, Ken Fogarty, Barry Cook, Debra Melton, Merv & Carol Mellings, Donald McKeating, Marilyn & Gerald Fiddis, Gloria & David Weight, Paddy De Mezieres, Lou Hartwig, Dale De Martino, Sandy Brightbell (Qld IPA)

Saturday the 7th February we had a great roll up for our 1st Meeting for and Lunch for 2026 at Norths Leagues and Services Club at Kallangur which also included some new members **Steve & Chris from Hervey Bay**. Afterwards when we adjourned to the sports Bar and even got a visit from **Nigel Turney** who is the Licensing Sgt at Wagga Wagga which was much appreciated.

Attendees were Steve & Lynell Turner, Penny & Pieter Strik, Lesley & Peter Robinson, Marilyn & Gerald Fiddis, Dale De Martino, Ken Fogarty, Sally Matheson, Donald McKeating, Bob Leembruggen, Merv & Carol Mellings, Steve & Chris Jordan, Graham & Teresa Power, Clint Halloran, Gary Weaver.

Tuesday 3rd of March Thanks we attended our Mid-Week Lunch at Bribie Island Golf Club.

All seemed to have a great meal and great time with friends, including our 2 new guests being **Jan and Geoff Fort (friends of Marilyn and Gerald)**.

Lynell, myself and Don then had 9 holes of golf afterwards which was very enjoyable followed by a debriefing back at the 19th hole prior to returning home.



Those in attendance were **Steve & Lynell Turner, Troy & Celina White, Bev & Russell Gray, Marilyn & Gerald Fiddis, Janice & Geoff Fort, Kerry Beggs, Jeff & Jan Watts, , Ken Fogarty, Don McKeating, Dale De Martino, Graeme Power, Ross Konowalenko, Penny & Pieter Strik.**

Regards

Steve Turner

Chairman and Secretary

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CENTRAL COAST

With the world in a state of utter chaos it is clear that man has not learned the lessons of the past and we are now seeing appalling incidents of terrorism on our very doorstep. One can only wonder what terrible events we will see on the next television news bulletin. Here on the Central Coast we are living in a wonderful area which so far has avoided the terrible calamities of the cities though no doubt we wonder when our turn will come. However, while we are living in such great circumstances we must be mindful of our limited time on earth and cherish those who are nearest and dearest. The wonder of life will not last forever and we must make the most of the time we have available.

VALE MARLENE ROBERTSON.

It was with much sadness that we heard of the passing of one of our dear friends, **Marlene Robertson**, the wife of the late former **Sergeant Ian Robertson**, who left us in 2024. Marlene was an iconic lady who has left an indelible mark on our Branch's history and she will be sadly missed by the ladies of the Ladies Coffee Club as well as all Members of the Central Coast Branch. **Ian and Marlene** had joined us in their various activities in the past few years and they will be seriously missed by all who knew them.

The Branch Meeting was held at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah, on Tuesday, 17th February, 2026, commencing at 11 a.m., chaired by Vice Chairman, **Russ Whitcher**.

Attending were: **Father Jim Boland, and Carmen, Geoff Bown, Peter Caddy, Ernie and Bev Carmichael, Barry and Marj Clark, Bill Connors, John and Joan Corbett, Peter and Anne Drinan, Bruce and Jan Gibson, Ray Hatcher, Russ Jackson, John and Anne Kent, John Marheine, John and Noelene Nicholas, Ron Richmond, John Roger, Phil Stubbs-Mills, I.J. Toms, Russ Whitcher.**

Our Welfare Officer, **Barry Clark**, informed the Meeting of those Members coming under notice by reason of their health and include **Trevor Carroll, Peter Caddy, Neil Ashman Father Jim and Bill Ide.** If any member has a few minutes, a call to our above members would be appreciated. Ring **John Marheine** for contact details **0400 724 768.**

On the social front, Russ Whitcher, recalling the success of the pre-Christmas lunch at the Royal Hotel, at Wyong, (which was enjoyed by everyone present), said that renovations at the hotel have now been completed and there is even greater space available for group gatherings. **Peter Caddy** told the Meeting that members of the Social Club have yet to visit a couple of proposed locations for future events.

John Nicholas advised that his son, **Peter**, together with some other Highway Patrol officers, went to Queensland with similar groups from Queensland, Victoria and South Australia, to engage in presentations with a view to obtaining consistency in the policing of trucks and truck drivers in those States. **John** said that **Peter** was invited to South Australia and has been made an honorary Constable in that State. He said it is expected that the Highway Patrol group will be invited back in about 12 months to observe the progress of the system. **John** said that this is all very good from a Police point of view, to see consistency in inter-State trucking regulations.

Bruce Gibson informed the Meeting that he is relinquishing the position of the Branch's Liaison Officer:

I.J. Toms told the Meeting that it is now 60 years since she became a Police Officer. She said that she remained in the Police Force for 44 years and is now involved in Police Legacy.

Sausage Sizzle. And they were back to their best at the start of the New Year. On a beautiful day, Tuesday, 20th January, 2026, they gathered at the Valley Tavern where Head Chef, **Brian McVicar**, supervised his very capable team, **John Roger and Geoff Bown**, now outfitted with aprons supplied by **Bill Connors**, in the production of yet another outstanding meal. Why would you want to go anywhere else on sizzle day. But, for those who did not come, well, that's your problem, (and it meant more food available for those who did). At a time when so many people in the world can't get a feed, it's nice to know we're so fortunate. Oh yes, and apart from the food there was some companionship and conversation.

Members are advised that they should check the **Central Coast web site** from time to time to see what messages may be displayed. The connection may be made as follows: www.retiredpolice.com.au; Then click on "Branches" seen in the top right hand corner. Then click on "Central Coast" and scroll down. Apart from messages advising of up coming events, the latest Newsletters can also be seen on the site.

The question of the future is certainly a vexed one. Here on the Central Coast we can only enjoy the gifts we have been given: the sheer beauty of the region, the extent to which it has been developed and the friendship of the communities which inhabit it. Make the most of it. Nothing lasts forever. Keep those closest to us in our thoughts constantly.

John E. (Ernie) Carmichael.

Email: centralcoastrfpa@retiredpolice.com.au

CENTRAL TABLELANDS

We look forward to your contributions for our next gazette

COFFS HARBOUR

Editor's Note – Sincere apologies for missing your December Branch report in the Gazette. Below is an abridged report together with photos.

SUMMER REPORT SUMMARY

Over the past year, our RFFPA has continued to play an important role in keeping our members connected. For example, regular catchups, welfare, support and commemorative activities, remind us all, of the strong bonds formed during our years of service. In my opinion the connections are just as important in retirement or medical discharge as they were during active duty in our day. The feedback from everyone was that everyone enjoyed our Coffs/Clarence RFFPA members Christmas Luncheon at the Sawtell RSL. Everyone stayed around and chatted, which was great to witness.



Christmas Luncheon

At 10.30am on Tuesday/16th December 2025 we gathered at the Sawtell RSL Club for our RFFPA Annual Christmas Function. We had 36 attending and 12 apologies. **ATTENDING** Garry Heskett JP/Suzanne, John Hartley APM, Ian Hodges OAM. JP, Sue Harley/Rhonda Toms, Muz/Jude Smith, Anthony/Jan Lawler, Greg/Annette Field, Ron/Marion Braun, George/Jane Williams, Alan/Lois Elworthy, Doug/Jan Tysoe, John Reid, Sandra Fellows, Hedley Gleave, Tony Brown, David Morris, Nat Salter, Deirdre McLeod, Betty Lynne, Bev Clancy, Gary Maloney, Heather Moore, Craig Campbell, Lloyd Deaver.



Craig Campbell aka 'Tack - Proactive in the Cronulla Riots many years ago

Another wonderful surprise which I kept secret from you members attending were our Guest Speakers, **Jacki James and twin sister Kylie Fisher**, formally known as the Dickinson Twins. They were sworn-in as **the first NSW Police female twins**. They both were stationed in the City, establishing separate careers in Policing whilst confusing criminals in the darker side of Sydney. I remember Kylie at the Sth/West Major Crime Squad at Flemington as a Detective where I was stationed, but not Jacki. Both Jacki and Kylie have suffered serious health issues, regardless though, they co-authored a memoir called "REEF and BEEF". I highly recommend that you get a copy. It's a great read.



Jacki James on my right and Kylie Fisher on my left. I am the thorn between the two roses!! Book titled REEF and BEEF

AUTUMN REPORT.

Autumn is upon us, but it's hard to experience it here on the Coffs Coast. With all the Hay Fever about, one would think we are still in Spring. I have experienced Autumn in the New England a lot, and it's quite beautiful. You all should be aware that Suzanne and I are heading over to the USA State of Tennessee in May and doing a bit of a float around the Mediterranean to celebrate our 50 years of marriage. We'll be staying with an American Vietnam Veteran mate of mine in Dover Tennessee, and visiting Memphis, Nashville, and Washington etc for Memorial Day. In Washington I'll be catching up with 3 x former Vietnam Veterans that I served with in my Battalion many moons ago.

At 11.30am on Tuesday/17th February 2026: Our Coffs/Clarence RFFPA members gathered at our BBQ area on the beach front at the Coffs Jetty Beach. **ATTENDING** Garry Heskett JP Barry Walker JP Harley/Rhonda Toms Muz/Jude Smith Doug Tysoe John Reid Hedley Gleave Deirdre McLeod **APOLOGIES:** Peter Chilton (Not Well) Superintendent Ma'am Schultz APM Commander Coffs/Clarence Police District (Other commitments) John Hartley APM Ian Hodges OAM. JP. and Sue Barbara Gleave Bev Clancy Sandra Fellows Heather Moore Nat Salter 2 Betty Lynne Gary Maloney and Ringo (Dog). **John Sonter Jarrod French** I cooked up a beautiful sausage sizzle, with onions and it tasted great even if I say so myself. It was also an important day as we introduced a new member to our group namely **Jarrod Russell French**. Thank you for your service, Jarrod to the Victims and Witnesses of the NSW Community. May the rest of your life be one of peace and tranquility brother.



BBQ Social

Our thoughts also go out to the following members who are suffering varying forms of health issues - **Hedley/Barbara Gleave, Harley Toms, Ronny Braun and Peter Chilton.**

May I remind you all again why we formed the RFPA. It's because the key aspects are welfare camaraderie and social connections etc. It's about maintaining a sense of belonging in retirement.

Thanks once more for the great work you are all doing and remember that **Carers** all appreciate the call and deserve great credit for providing comfort for our ailing Members.

Garry Heskett JP

President/Secretary (M) 0414 512 302 22

E: coffsharbourrfa@retiredpolice.com.au

DUBBO

We look forward to your contributions for our next gazette.

HUNTER REGION

On Tuesday, 13 January 2026, in the aftermath of the Bondi Beach terrorist attack and having completed the 2025 festive season, 37 enthusiastic and very sociable members of the Hunter Region Branch members ventured back to Harrigan's (Cameron Park) Irish Pub for another great day of friendship, camaraderie and fellowship while enjoying the facilities of a recommended venue.

Chairman AI CRUMPTON opened the proceedings by recognising the heroic actions of Constable **Scott DYSON** and Probationary **Constable Jack HIBBERT** during the 14 December 2025 Bondi massacre and the significant community support for both officers and their families: followed by the Police Ode and a period of silence in memory of the recently deceased members identified the Branch Vale list.

The attending members, in no particular order, were **AI CRUMPTON, Bob & Maureen GRAY, Cyril & Di HUTCHESSON, AI McCUDDEN & Denise SMITH, Lee & Vickie RANKIN, Keith RUTHERFORD, Brian & Margaret REITH, Bob & Fay MacFARLANE, Roy & Anita WORTH, Alan THOMPSON, Dave SWILKS, Ian & Glenda LOVELL, Lance & Barbara HOPKINS, Rene & Chrissy MARKERINK, Ron BENDER, AI & Ellie BUSH, Brian & Chris CARR, Brian PLEWS, Mary SCAYSBROOK, Coleen SHAW, Ron McSPORREN and Ian & Clelia PARK .**

Bob Gray (Vice Chair)

Ian Lovell

E: hunterrfa@retiredpolice.com.au

ILLAWARRA (WOLLONGONG) AND KIAMA BRANCHES

We look forward to your contributions for our next gazette.

MACARTHUR

We look forward to your contributions for our next gazette.

MANNING – GREAT LAKES

We look forward to your contributions for our next Gazette.

MID NORTH COAST

Our first meeting for 2026 was on 3rd February at the Port City Bowling Club. We welcomed our State President **Paul Wynne** and our State Secretary **Ian Lovell** and his wife **Glenda** who joined us for the day. Others in attendance were **Jim & Sandra Cranna, Ian Campbell, Bob and Helen Hanlon, Bruce Saunders, Garry Jennings, Laurie and Marcia McGrath, Jennette Hunt, Val Ivlev, Marlene Brown, Deb Murray and her mother Charmaine, John Baker, Wayne Evans, Grant Christianson, Keith Willott, Maree Rea, Kath Cooper, Fay Hope, Sid Crane and Paul Egge and his brother Phillip.** We also invited Mr Jason Gill, President of the Port Macquarie RSL Sub-Branch as our guest speaker for the day was Mr John Brereton.



Guest Speaker John Brereton



Ilan and Glenda Lovell

John's father, **Captain Tom Brereton**, was a surgeon/doctor in the Australian Army Medical Corps during WW2 and was captured by the invading Japanese forces when Singapore fell in February, 1942. **Captain Brereton** was subsequently transferred to a Prisoner of War camp to work on the infamous **Thailand - Burma railroad**. Quite a deal is known about the Thailand section of the railroad (Bridge on the River Kwai), an area that has become a real tourist destination since the war but John focused his talk on the Burma section which he has researched over many years, with varying degrees of difficulty. It seems that the whilst the Thai Government have welcomed visitors and have prospered from the tourist dollar, the Burmese Government has placed so much 'red tape' to go through before you can visit the area it makes it extremely difficult to visit. **John** gave us an interesting insight into the transportation of the POW's and what they had to go through to build the railway line. His knowledge of that part of the world and the construction of the Thai-Burma railroad makes him an expert in that part of WW2 history. We thank him very much for sharing his knowledge with us.

On the 3rd March 28 members attended an excellent BBQ at Lake Cathie. A very pretty location on the lake, the weather was excellent - not too hot and not too cold. The day started with a bit of drama when the head chef, **Jim Cranna, and his wife Sandra** had to pull out due to a medical issue however I'm very happy to report all is well now. **Peter Wilms**, the partner of our Treasurer **Betty Hartnett**, saved the day and did an

excellent job on the BBQ with help from Chairman **Laurie McGrath**. These days are a success because of all the members who help. **Paul Egge** organised the meat and arrived early to ensure we had sole use of the BBQ area. **Marlene Brown** again supplied the salads and **Jennett Hunt and Marcia McGrath** organised the bread and sundry issues whilst **Kerry Bolsover** assisted greatly in cleaning up and restoring the BBQ area to the way we had found it. There were many other members who contributed in some way to the success of the day. Thank you all for your assistance in making the day a successful one. We look forward to our next BBQ later in the year.



BBQ chef, Peter Wilms, Treasurer Betty Hartnett, Committee member Jennett Hunt and John Baker

Best wishes to all RFPA members.

Jim Cranna, MNC Publicity

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MURRAY RIVER

Several of our members & partners travelled to Melbourne on Tuesday 3rd February 2026 and met at the Mail Exchange Hotel for dinner and presentation to **Reverend Graeme Dark of his OBE Certificate and OBE Murray River Medallion**.



Ken Zegiel & Reverend Graeme Dark



The group in Melbourne L-R Front - Phil & Chrissy Eddes, Dee Wilton, Chris Bentley, Paula Zegiel, Beth Docksey, Back- Graham Docksey, Max Wilton, Margaret Westaway, Graeme Dark, Ken Zegiel

On 7th January 2026 over 20 of the Murray River Branch members & friends drove out to 1/2 Acre Café at Howlong for a cuppa and chat. We were able to welcome our newly retired friends **Scott & Simone Russell** to their first Coffee and Chat. Great to see you both there. The big yummy at the 1/2 Acre is the scones with jam and cream, 2 to a serve. They are very huge as big as a saucer and many of the individuals that ordered them were glad that I issued the warning re "If you are by yourself just order one scone."



George Krooglik, Chris Bentley, & Sharon Restall.

On the 13th February 2026, a few of us wandered out to Baranduda to Roxy's Cafe. None of us had heard of it before however our member **Lyndelle Tubie** told us about it. **Louise and Graeme Stephens** came along for the chat and a cuppa

On 1st March 2026 we took a bit of a drive out west to the small town of Balldale for lunch at the Balldale Hotel. Most of the attendees had never been there and some had never heard of it, but they found their way there, even Riverina Members **John Holstein & Sandra Doughty** from Yerong Creek found the hotel. Great to see you both again taking a little drive across the paddock.

The food was fabulous with lovely main courses and even though there were only about 4 choices for dessert they were beautiful and yummy. Will have to get back there another time. Most stayed for over 3 hours. Great food & fun times.

On 17th March 2026, a few of our members travelled out to Jindera for a little coffee & chat at the Fox & Brew Cafe which used to be an old service station. Amazing transformation. A few cancellations occurred at the last moment, but still a great catch up with those that attended. **Neil Galloway** chauffeured **Ray Waring** out in his lovely 1985 230e Mercedes Benz. We had a surprise visit whilst we were there from our member **Arthur Croft** who lives nearby.

Our branch continues to have great get togethers at different locations so that various members can catch up and join in as we cover such a large area being Victoria, southern NSW along the Murray River and Tasmania.



Arthur Croft & Dave Graham

Beth Docksey, APM

E: murrayriverfpa@retiredpolice.com.au

Geoff GREEN was presented with his OBE award by Chairman Dave.

NEW ENGLAND

We look forward to your contributions for our next Gazette.

NORTHERN BEACHES

Hi everyone,

We are already well into March, with war, floods, and petrol issues dominating the headlines. Hopefully, by the time this Gazette reaches you, I hope the world will feel a little less chaotic.

Our first meeting of the year, held on the 22nd of January, was well attended, with 38 members and friends joining us. Among those present were; **Alan LE SURF, Dave WHITEMAN, Garrie WATT, Rob LINNEY, Barry MILES, Liz WHITEMAN, Oscar TAYLOR, Brian FRIEND, Geoff KAY, John LETTS, Tony WRIGHT, Scott CAMPBELL, Steve HASTE, Lilian FILMER, Deb ANDERSON, Jan KEECH, Bill BUSH, Christine BUSH, Brien GATELY, Bob INKSTER, Bart SNEL, Margie & Alex VOGT, Debbie BETHALL. Phil O'BRIEN, Julie BERTOLDO, Bill & Irene MCINTOSH, Harold HANLEN, Geoff GREEN, Allan HINES, Bob PINFOLD, Jenni CHOAT, Belinda SNEL, Brian WRIGHT, Anne MULLINS, Jeff BRADY and Barry CAFE.**



For those who missed the Artificial Intelligence and Scams handout at the January meeting, please contact the branch or go to the RFPFA site or the NBRFPFA Facebook page where you can download the document. If your fingers go anywhere near a mobile phone or keyboard you should read this document.

It is my sad duty to report the passing of our former **"Doorman", Col "Snake Catcher" FITZROY**, on Thursday 26 February 2026. Col's funeral was held at the War Vets Chapel in Narrabeen, where an RFPFA sash and an Australian flag—courtesy of local MP Sophie SCAMPS—were placed on his casket.



Col Fitzroy and Les Lidbury

We are also saddened to learn of the passing of the daughter of our veteran member **Allan HINES and his wife Lyn**, following an extended illness. Our thoughts are with them during this difficult time.

The RFPFA is launching a Statewide **"Look Down – Step Up – No Ladders"** Safety Campaign. Our Chairman, **Dave WHITEMAN**, deserves recognition for the significant work he has put into this initiative over recent years. Sadly, we have lost four members in recent years due to falls and complications following hospitalisation. Falls remain the leading cause of injury-related hospitalisations and emergency department visits



Since Christmas, we have also welcomed four new members to our branch: **Chris PAPPALLO, Clive SYLVESTER, Charles BUTTROSE, and Steve HASTE.** We look forward to seeing them at our meetings and social events.

among older Australians. They account for more than 40% of all injury hospitalisations nationwide. In 2022–23, approximately 238,000 Australians were hospitalised due to falls, with 6 out of 10 occurring in the home. Around one in three Australians over 65 experiences a fall each year.

Common fall scenarios include slipping on floors or in bathrooms, tripping on rugs, steps, or uneven ground, losing balance while walking, and falling from beds or chairs. And of course **LADDERS ARE A NO-GO AREA!** RFPA members can request safety wristbands through their local branch.

Please remember: **Look Down, Step Up, and No Ladders.**

Ian Finlayson and Julie Bertoldo

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NORTHERN RIVERS

Greetings from the Northern Rivers Branch. Unfortunately our meeting which was scheduled for late February 2026 at Yamba had to be cancelled due to unavailability of some key members. We anticipate that we will have our next meeting now at Evans Head Bowling Club in late April 2026.

Glenn Taylor, Branch reporter

E:nriversrfa@retiredpolice.com.au

NORTHERN SUBURBS (FORMERLY HORNSBY & DISTRICTS)

Our Branch has changed in the last 4-5 months starting with the loss of **Carl Cameron** on 23 December. His funeral service was well attended, particularly by former workmates, including former **Commissioner Karen Webb**, and Branch members. His daughter **Nyree** and son **Stuart** (serving member) wished to express their gratitude for everyone's support following their sad loss. Carl will be remembered for all the right reasons.

We also sent our sincere condolences to our member, **Paul Tuxford** and family on the loss of wife and mother **Maureen**, who passed on 27 February surrounded by family. A very sad loss of a lovely lady. It was good to see so many of Paul's former workmates at the funeral service.

We also welcomed new members **Harriet and John Kelly** and existing RFPA member **Felicity Jonker**. If you live in the area between the Bridges (Sydney Harbour, Spit, Roseville, Hawkesbury and Gladesville) and an unattached RFPA Member please get in touch with me if you would like to be included in this Branch's communications and, if available, activities.

We had our first meeting for the year at Hornsby RSL Club and it was well attended. Present, from left to right, were **Dave Lowden, John Schell, Bruce Williams, Bill Shute, Ron Smith, Greg Bertoldo, Bill Leabeatter, John Andrews, Alan Doak, Verity Greenwood, Ross Beattie, John Graham, Les Potter** and the photographer, me.

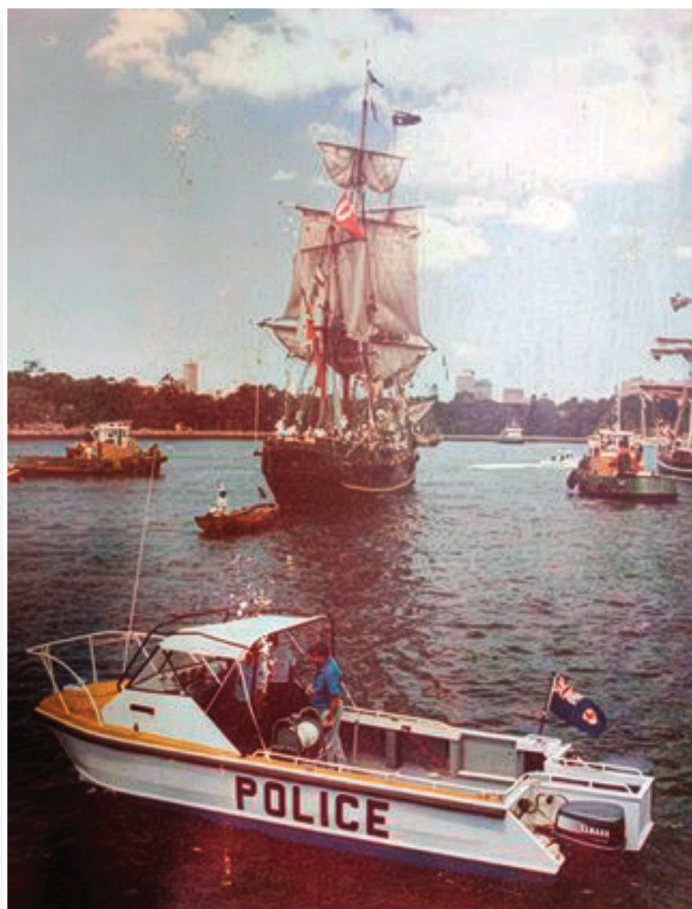


John Graham presented us with a recollection of his past whilst working at a Woodstock style event in the Riverina. The presence of Marijuana amongst attendees resulted in a number of drownings and other deaths involving a single vehicle collision with a tree. How he managed that incident was impressive and indicative of how Police cope under adversity.

We had a quick coffee/lunch meeting in March attended by, from left to right, **Bruce Williams, John Andrews, Rohan Smith, Verity Greenwood, Greg Muir, John Graham, Alan Doak, Bill Shute** and **Bill Johnson**. It was great to see Bill Johnson at the event. He's having a rough time health-wise and a remarkable effort to get there on the day. **Alan Doak** also showed us a framed tongue-in-cheek Certificate of Appreciation signed by a large number of fellow workmates from his time at Surry Hills.



I recently caught up with a couple of workmates from North Sydney and Eastwood days (**Steve Eggleton, Dave Bailey and Tim Winmill**) and reflected on how good it is to stay in touch with others. During the lunch Steve showed me a photograph of a Police Launch at the 1988 Bicentenary celebrations on the Harbour. On board was himself and RFPA members **Tony Milgate** and **Les Potter**. A lot of water under the bridge since then.



Police Launch 1988 Bicentenary celebrations

Our meetings are held at Hornsby RSL Club on the first Thursday in April, June, August and October, with coffee in the bistro at 10am and the meeting commencing at 11am, followed by lunch in the bistro. Or you can join us at Asquith Bowling Club at 11am on the first Thursday in May, July, September and November for coffee/lunch. All are welcome.

Best regards,

Greg Muir

E:hornsbydistrictrfa@retiredpolice.com.au

PARRAMATTA - THE HILLS

Parramatta the Hills Branch Coffee for 2026 recommenced on the 22nd of January at Durk's Cafe, Carmel Village Shopping Centre, Box Hill. Although numbers were down, given the time of year, there was plenty of conversation to go around.

On the 23rd of January, many members of our Branch attended the Funeral Service for Parramatta the Hills Member **John Kenneth Hall** 80 old. **John** was a Foundation Member of our Branch. To his wife **Leticia** (Lee) and her family we extend our heartfelt condolences.

May our Brother Rest in Peace.



Coffee mornings - always a good roll up – Helen & Ian Ridge, Barrie Sutcliffe, Tom Baena, Ian Wigg, Grahame Stone, (obscured) Kris Sweik standing) Jenny Turner, Lester Robey, Ian & Barbara Lindsay, Joe Turner, Lloyd Taylor, Paul Wynne, Gary Raymond, Irene Moore, Lee Hall, Faye Ambrose, Shirley Anderson & Roy, John Rand.

On Thursday 5 February these members of Parramatta the Hills Branch escaped the heat at Michelle's Patisserie Quakers Court, Quakers Hill for our Thursday Coffee. **Joe Turner** shared some of his pumpkin crop and **Neville Greateorex** arrived with boxes and bags of clothes for the Grace's Place OP Shop.

In February we held our Branch meeting at Blacktown Workers Club, our Special Guest, RFPA Webmaster **Dave Whiteman** gave a very interesting and enjoyable audio-visual presentation relating to ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. **Dave**, although a 'guru' in relation to computer knowledge, spoke in a language understood by all. After the meeting we adjourned for lunch in Marlo's Café.

We also returned to Claudia's Cafe at Toongabbie on the for our Thursday Coffee. Pleasing to see **Graham Stone** with us after his recent surgery.

And later in the month we held our Thursday Coffee at Gillies Kellyville .

Nick Pavlov, Branch Reporter
E: parrahillsrfpa@retiredpolice.com.au

PEEL

We look forward to your contributions for our next Gazette.

PENRITH BLUE MOUNTAINS

We look forward to your contributions for our next Gazette.

RIVERINA

We look forward to our contributions for our next Gazette.

SOUTH COAST

We look forward to our 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

At our last meeting, held on 17 February 2026 at the York Club, we welcomed special guest speaker **Dave Whiteman**, the RFPA Webmaster. **Dave** delivered an informative audio-visual presentation, supported by handouts, on AI (Artificial Intelligence). He explained in plain English both the benefits of AI and the areas we should be cautious about. **Dave** certainly helped to demystify AI for us. It was also great to see **Kent** using AI to thank **Dave** for his presentation.



Bruce Howe OBE recipient



Kent used AI for Thank You speech

At the same meeting, Branch stalwart **Bruce Howe** was presented with his **OBE** certificate and RFPA Veteran Membership Card in recognition of his special birthday.



Speaker Dave Whiteman 17 Feb meeting

We also had a lengthy list of members unable to attend due to overseas holidays, clashes with their social calendars, and others currently on both short and long-term "sick report". To all our members experiencing health issues, we wish you a quick and speedy recovery and look forward to seeing you again soon.

After our break over the Christmas and New Year period, our Roaming Coffee Catch-ups are kicking off again. There is an open invitation to all our coffee gatherings, and we warmly welcome any RFPA members, former police, as well as friends and partners to come along.

MEETING 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 from 11am

- 16th June – Pennant Hills Hotel, 352 Pennant Hills Rd, Pennant Hills
 - 21st July – The Juniors Kingsford, 558A Anzac Parade, Kingsford
 - 15th September – Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club, 117 Ryedale Rd, West Ryde
 - 20th October – Dooleys Club, 17 Church St, Lidcombe
- Take care and we look forward to hearing from you.

Belinda Dunn-Toemoe

Secretary/Treasurer/Social Secretary.

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

Meeting held Thursday 20th November 2025, which was our last meeting for the year held at The Marine Area Command which also doubled as our Retired Water Police Day, was attended by 21 members.

Meeting held Thursday 19 February 2026, this was our first meeting for the year at 99 On York, which was attended by 12 members.



(Standing L-R) Len Ware, Terry Ervin, Grant Thompson, Stan Watson, Paul Monk, Bob Adams, Tom Bradley, Dave Bucannon, Martin Kelly, Vic Rulewski, Mal Jeffs, Frank Mahony (seated L-R) Greg Aldred, John Cox, Don Stewart, Hilton Penfold, Supt. Joe McNulty, Brian Friend.

Our welfare officer reported on a few members doing it tough: **Terry Fitzgerald, Martin Kelly, Mick Poole, Bruce Tape, Bruce Vickers Brett Hood**. Give them a call if you can they might be brightened up knowing that someone cares.

Some sad news - **Col Triton** passed away 19th December 2025 aged 70 years and **Brad Rogers'** wife passed away aged 60 years. Condolences to the families.

Vic Rulewski

E: waterpolicerfpa@retiredpolice.com.au

TWEED/GOLD COAST

Our branch meeting held on Tuesday 10th February, 2026 was a normal bi-monthly meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Garry and Jen **JARDINE**, Geoff **CHESTER**, Bruce and Dora **THOMSON**, Les **ZAHN**, Ken and Esther **JENKINS**, Patrick **MEDWAY**, Steve **HUBBARD**, Geoff and Vicki **MAXWORTHY**, Garry **WILLIAMS**, Col **VELMIN**, Bob **GIBSON**, Jim and Olive **CAVANAUGH**, Russell **ROBERTSON**, Max **ROBERTS**, John **BEACHAM**, Jeff **FOWLER**, John **COOKE**, Ron **GRAHAM**, Bob **GODDEN**, Peter **WILSON**, Ross **WHEATLEY**, and John **BRONSWELD**. There were 10 apologies received.

Our Secretary Geoff **MAXWORTHY** spoke about the benefits available to members through the R.F.P.A. website, and the new 'Blue Light' card program which offers a large variety of discounts from various sponsors. There are discussions being held for an NRL round to be dedicated to Police Officers.

Welfare Officers **Jim and Olive CAVANAUGH** had recently reported the passing of our veteran member Jim **NOBLE**. They, along with Dorne **LANDON** and Wendy **COOLEY** had attended the funeral representing our branch.

Welfare Officer Bruce **THOMSON** has been in touch with **Brenda**, partner of our former Chairman Malcolm **COX**, who is still in hospital awaiting a placement in a nursing home.

Sadly **Valerie (Val)** the beloved wife of veteran and stalwart member Les **ZAHN** passed away recently. Condolences and wishes from our Branch and many members have been passed on to **Les**.

Our Social Secretary Gary **MATTHEWS**, although not present, has made arrangements for our March outing to be held at Tony's Chinese at Tugun Leagues Club on Tuesday 10th March, 2026.

Unfortunately, our Guest Speaker had to withdraw at the last minute but has promised to put on a great display of information and photographs of the Granville Train Disaster in 1977 at our next meeting.

Bruce THOMSON

E: Tweedgrfpa@retiredpolice.com.au

WIDE BAY

We look forward to your contribution in our next edition.

NOTICEBOARD

What: FAREWELL DET C/INSP NEIL "GOOF" GREY APM

When: Saturday 13th June 2026- 6pm onwards

Where: Eastlakes Football Club Saturday 13 June 2026
3 Oxley Street, Griffith ACT.

Cost: \$50 per person for finger food & gift.

RSVP Clare STRONG stro1cla@police.nsw.gov.au by Friday 29 May 2026.

Your RSVP will be confirmed with payment to Queanbeyan Police Social Club.
BSB: 815000. Acc No: 100410296.

Please insert your names in payment details

UPUPCOMING REUNIONS

GO TO YOUR RFPa WEBSITE FOR THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION. www.retiredpolice.com.au AND LOOK UP "CLASS REUNIONS AND EVENTS"

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 or Join our Facebook page Class 171-45 year reunion 26 June 2026

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 Mercantile 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

What: 62ND YEAR REUNION – CLASS 101A/1964

When: Wednesday 28 October 2026.

Where: Club 88 Burwood NSW

Enquiries: john.newington@bigpond.com

What: 60 Year Reunion- Class 106 of 196

When: Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th September 2026 – partners welcome

Where: Club Mingara, Tumby Umbi, Central Coast

What: Wed 16th – casual get together in the Club
Thur 17th – 11am lunch at Hadley's restaurant in the Club at the Club.

Cost: Lunch accommodation, dinner and drinks at your own expense

Contact: **Lee Rankin** 0407 206 327 Email lvrarkin@bigpond.com
Irene Juergens (11) 0402 063 140 tomsie3@bigpond.com
Phil Martin 0413 771 770

RSVP: 1st September if attending

Accommodation is available at Encore by Mingara which is adjacent to the Club Phone 02 4327 1000

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 contact on 02-66536478.

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

NOTICEBOARD

FRIENDSHIP WEEK 2027

Where: Reflections Urunga Holiday Park, 2 Morgo Street, Urunga NSW 2455,

When: Saturday 6 March to the Saturday 13 March 2027.

Bookings Quote **Reservation Number 2053895** – Park phone number (02) 66556355

There is a 10% discount when you book in for either Cabin or Caravan Site, just mention Retired and Former Police booking No. 2053895. The park has indicated they are putting aside 10 cabins and 20 caravan sites for a period of two weeks from today. This will give you 14 days to secure your preferred accommodation.

Book early to avoid disappointment, as the park is very popular tourist location. **IMPORTANT**

Regards **Charles Halloran APM**

RFPa NSW Annual General Meeting 2026 Monday 27th July 2026 at 11am Club York, 95-99 York St Sydney (TBC)

REUNIONS HELD

RETIRED WOMEN POLICE LUNCH

Another gathering of retired NSW Women Police was held at the Castlereagh Club on Saturday, 7 March 2026. It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, share stories, and reflect on many years of service and friendship.

The lunch was organised by **Retired Superintendent Doreen Cruikshank APM**, whose efforts made the day both enjoyable and memorable for all who attended.



From left to right – Margaret Thornell, Kay Whitty, Glenise Lapham, Gerldine Wiley, Helen Kirton, Vicki McCrohn, Pam Borthwick, Susan Wakefield, Belinda Dunn, CJ @ Caroline Smith, Suzanne Allwood, Carline York, Karen Webb, Elizabeth Budge, Diane Wearing, Doreen Cruikshank and Anita Face.

THE WAY WE WERE



BACK: G.J. Watson, P.J. Whittington, L.S. White, P.J. Urbaniak, S.T. Stevenson, P.H. Wright, J.A. Wicken, C.J. Van Der Vourt, B.C. Whitaker, J. Walkowiak.

CENTRE: M.K. Stroud, M.D. Webb, S.J. Sweeney, M. Sutherland, D.T. Wild, P.J. Streat, K.W. Toomey, B.K. Van Heythuysen, A.K. White, P.J. Tanner, S.R. Tonnet, D.J. Vucko, I.J. Van Huisstede.

SEATED: C.P. Toomey, R.W. Wildman, J.M. Stowe, Sgt. B. McHugh, J.T. Younger, J.V. Zahra, A.J. Stone, B.A. Wright, M.J. Teece.



BACK: R. Psiropoulos, A.J. Pike, I.G. Smalley, A.B. Spencer, P.E. Smith, D.K. Plunkett, S.J. Savins, M.J. Robinson, S.J. Rowe, J.S. Robbs.

CENTRE: B.W. Sillis, C.W. Smith, S.A. Schaudin, C.M. Pearce, B.J. Pearson, D.A. Pearce, S.J. Rix, P.W. Scott, S.J. Randall, M.A. Rosenthal, V.M. Rovedi, T.S. Shepherd.

SEATED: J.R. Parkin, S.T. Pile, L.M. Phelan, W.E. Oste, Sgt. G. Harrison, C.M. Sangster, D.A. Payne, D.L. Scott, M.F. Sait.



VALE



All relevant information regarding the passing of Members and former Police will be posted on the Retired Police Website 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

We will remember them.

* Denotes Serving Member

SURNAME	CHRISTIAN/KNOWN NAME	AGE	REG.NO	BRANCH	DECEASED
BOSTOCK	James Frederick	85	9535	Parramatta-The Hills	17/02/2026
CLEAL	John 'Tex'	91	8409	Peel	6/02/2026
FITZROY	Colin Arthur	86	10611	Northern Beaches	26/02/2026
GRAHAM	Albert Edward	83	15425 P	enrith Blue Mountains	12/01/2026
HALL	John Kenneth	80	18407	Parramatta-The Hills	8/01/2026
HANINGTON	William C	81	10641	Unattached	19/01/2026
HANSEN	William Robert	87	8873	Unattached	27/01/2026
HOCKING	OAM Barry John	90	7755	Sydney	15/01/2026
HOGNO	Robert Sydney	79	11857	Riverina	24/01/2026
HUMPHREYS	Don	83	10209	Sydney	3/04/2026
HUNT	Peter Douglas	74	14268	Tweed/Gold Coast	23/03/2026
OSWALD	Robert Edward	83	10366	Parramatta-The Hills	9/01/2026
PETERS	Eoin James	72	15249	Kiama	6/04/2026
POULTON APM	Laurence Earl 'Lau'	91	7590	Tweed/Gold Coast	28/02/2026
UNDERHILL	James Allan 'Jim'	80	10904	Brisbane & Northern Subur	19/01/2026
YABSLEY	Thomas William	77	16799	Sydney	22/03/2026

Retired & Former Police Association of NSW (Inc.)

RFPA Website

retiredpolice.com.au

RFPA Secretary

secretary@retiredpolice.com.au

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Southern Highlands	shighlandsrfpa@retiredpolice.com.au
Southern Tablelands	stablelandsrfpa@retiredpolice.com.au
Sydney	sydneyrfpa@retiredpolice.com.au
Tweed Gold Coast	tweedgcrfpa@retiredpolice.com.au
Water Police	waterpolicerfpa@retiredpolice.com.au
Wide Bay	widebayrfpa@retiredpolice.com.au

RFPA Police Bank Account

Although it is cheaper (\$2 discount) for members, and our preferred method of paying your RFPA Membership, by periodic deduction from your Police Bank or Other Bank or Financial Institution, some members prefer to pay their RFPA Membership Fee annually by direct credit to our RFPA Police Bank Account. No cheques or Money Orders.

So here are the correct RFPA Police Bank Account details for Membership Payment...

Account Name : RFPA

BSB : 815000

Account Number : 100067989

Amount per Year : \$28

RFPA Membership Fees paid by this method are due on 1st July each year and are valid until 30th June the following Year.

RFPA Discount Business Partners

Visit the RFPA Website for details on how
Financial RFPA Members can access exclusive RFPA Member
discounts from these RFPA Business Partners





Blue Light Card Membership Benefits

The RFPA is committed to continuously enhancing membership value by securing exclusive benefits for association members. In addition to existing discounts from 16 partner companies, members are now recommended to enrol in the Blue Light Card program, which extends access to preferential offers from over 500 reputable businesses. Participating companies include leading brands such as Samsung, LG, Woolworths, and Dan Murphy's, Qatar Airways, Virgin, among many others. Comprehensive details and a current list of participating companies are available directly on the Blue Light Card website. Copy and paste these URLs in your browser to see the full details of the offers.

- <https://www.bluelightcard.com.au/en/travel-discounts>
- <https://www.bluelightcard.com.au/en/electrical-discounts>
- <https://www.bluelightcard.com.au/en/fashion-discounts>

The Blue Light Card is an initiative specifically designed to recognise and reward first responders, offering generous discounts from companies wishing to acknowledge community service. Membership is available for a modest fee of \$9.95, providing two years of unlimited access to discounts across more than 500 companies.

To acquire the Blue Light Card, please follow these straightforward steps:

1. **Download the App:** The application is available at no cost from the App Store.
2. **Register Your Details:** Complete the registration process and upload a scanned copy or photo of your RFPA ID card (which displays your RFPA member number, not your registered number) to verify your current membership.
3. **Payment:** Upon filling in your details, proceed with the \$10 payment. Your application will be processed, granting you access to the discount site. You can expect confirmation of your RFPA membership by the following day, allowing you to begin shopping immediately.

Navigating the Blue Light Card platform is straightforward. Company logos are displayed on the homepage, allowing members to easily identify and access individual offers. For example, selecting the Samsung icon directs you to the Samsung product page, where all eligible discounts are clearly applied at checkout.

Discount values are subject to variation across products and suppliers, with some offers extending up to 60% off regular pricing.