



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

**Central Coast Branch
June, 2026.**

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

What a wonderful spot it is on the Central Coast. Could we ask for more? When we watch world events on television and see the conflict between nations causing so much death and devastation we must realise how fortunate we are to be here amongst friends and family, so cherished for so long. Let us hope that the Central Coast can remain somewhat immune from the trials of other areas. But, obviously, we must remain vigilant at all times. You never know what may happen just around the corner.

SCHEDULED BRANCH MEETING.

The Branch Meeting was held at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah, on Tuesday, 16th June, 2026, commencing at 11 a.m., chaired by Chairman Geoff Talbot.

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

Attendances:

The following Members, wives and partners were in attendance:

Geoff Bown, Peter Caddy, Ernie and Bev Carmichael, Trevor Carroll, Barry and Marge Clark, John and Joan Corbett, Bruce and Jan Gibson, Ray Hatcher, Russ Jackson, John and Anne Kent, Brian McVicar, John Marheine, John and Noelene Nicholas, Peter Redman, Jim Regan, Ron Richmond, John Roger, Phil Stubbs-Mills, Bob Sullivan, Geoff Talbot, Peter Thompson, I.J. Toms, Wilma Walsh, Russ Whitcher.

Apologies were recorded.

The Chairman, Geoff, welcomed Trevor Carroll back with us at a Meeting after a long absence due to health issues. Geoff also welcomed our always welcome visitor, Les Potter.

Vale List.

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

The minutes of the last Meeting, held in April, 2026, were read by the Secretary.

It was moved by John Kent, seconded by John Roger, that the minutes of the last Meeting be accepted.

Correspondence.

Correspondence in: The Secretary, John, said that he has possession of a Veteran Certificate for Sydney Walsh, and he has received the particulars of a new Member.

Correspondence out: Nil.

Treasurer's Report.

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

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

The Treasurer's records were the subject of an annual audit and this was carried out by the appointed auditors, Peter Caddy and I.J. Toms. At the Chairman's invitation to comment, Peter Caddy said that the Treasurer has kept all the Branch's financial records in extremely good order and all aspects of the Branch's finances were completely accounted for.

Our OBE Roll Call.

Gents:

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

Ladies:A.Staunton, Myrlene Hauser, Adele Dale, Pauline Braithwaite, Maureen Groch, Marge Clark, Wilma Walsh, Bev Carmichael, Jan Gibson, Virginia Connolly.

WELFARE REPORT:

Our Welfare Officer, Barry Clark, informed the Meeting of those Members coming under notice by reason of their health. Barry's report is as follows:

Barry welcomed Trevor Carroll attending the Meeting and reminded Members of the difficulties he has suffered with throat cancer over a long period. Trevor spoke to the Meeting and said that he is going well and indeed, he did look fit. It was good to see him back with us.

Barry said that Bill Ide is currently in a nursing home at Umina. He is having treatment for his problems and is happy with where he is.

Barry said that he had called Neil Ashman on the previous evening and discussed his current condition. Barry said that Neil is now having difficulty walking but, at the time of his call, Neil had been riding a bicycle. He has indicated that he would love to hear from Members from time to time.

We wish all Members good health and a speedy recovery from any ailments which they are suffering.

Social Club.

Russ Whitcher said that, following research, it has been decided to hold a mixed lunch at The Lakes Hotel, at The Entrance, on Wednesday, 26th August, 2026, commencing at 11.30 a.m. Russ said that, recently, several Members had attended the hotel for lunch and found it to be satisfactory. Russ had prepared a book for Members to indicate their intention of attending the lunch but asked that, if unable to attend after intending to go, please notify the Social Club for the purpose of changing catering provisions.

Russ repeated previous comments that the Royal Hotel at Wyong has proven to be a most suitable venue for the pre-Christmas luncheon and it is scheduled that this will be held on Wednesday, 25th November, 2026, commencing at 11.30 a.m.

General Business:

John Nicholas said that he has recently attended a Highway Patrol presentation and he said that it was a good event and was well presented.

I.J. Toms addressed the Meeting dealing with a motion which she raised at a previous Meeting concerning donations to Police Legacy and the form which those donations might take. She expressed appreciation to Russ Witcher, who chaired a later Meeting in the absence of Chairman Geoff, for delaying any decision on this matter until I.J. was next in attendance. I.J. had prepared a formal address respecting her decision to withdraw the motion and it is felt that this should be quoted herewith.

“Thank you, Chair.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share a quick update.

As some Members may be aware, I am a Police Legatee and hold the highest regard for the invaluable work they do, regardless of whether an officer was serving or retired and regardless of the circumstances of their death, Police Legacy is there for the families left behind.

Tomorrow – Wednesday, 17th June, is National Police Legacy Day.

So, about the motion I brought up recently – the one suggesting we might consider donating to Police Legacy. After further reflection and careful consideration, I have come to the conclusion that the Members of the Central Coast branch of the RFPA should feel free to support charitable causes in their own way, rather than feel obliged or compelled to do so by my suggestion. With that in mind, I would like to advise Members that I am withdrawing the motion.

I appreciate everyone’s understanding and thank you for allowing me the opportunity to clarify my position.”

Brian McVicar said that this matter arose several years ago and it was then decided that it was up to individual Members to make donations as they saw fit and there was some discussion about methods which might be introduced for donations to be made, methods which would not involve much handling of funds. The matter was again left in abeyance for a decision to be made about possible collection processes.

Chairman Geoff said that he had recently attended two funerals. One was the funeral of the former Police Officer, Anthony Bailey, which, Geoff said, was attended by about 150 uniformed Police, some from Sydney and some from Newcastle as well as local Police.

The other funeral which Geoff attended was for Neville Glover who was well known as a Parramatta rugby league player of considerable fame and the funeral was attended by numerous Police who had played football with him.

Geoff also mentioned the recent passing of another Member, Bill Dent. No funeral details have been supplied and it is understood that the funeral will be a private matter. Brian McVicar said that the Branch should provide the Dent family with a sash thereby marking Bill’s passing.

The raffle was won by Barry Clark who donated the prize back to the Branch.

The Meeting closed at 11.30 a.m..

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting was conducted immediately after the General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club on Tuesday, 16th June, 2026. The Meeting commenced at 11.30 a.m. and Brian McVicar occupied the chair to conduct the Meeting.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read at the General Meeting and they were not repeated. The minutes of the previous AGM were read by the Secretary. Brian McVicar asked current office bearers if they were prepared to stand for the same positions and all agreed. Accordingly, Geoff Talbot was nominated as the Chairman of the Branch. Russ Witcher was nominated as the Vice Chairman. John Marheine was nominated as the Secretary. Ray Hatcher was nominated as the Treasurer. All appointments were confirmed.

John Nicholas moved that the minutes of the previous AGM, as read by the Secretary, be accepted.

There was no further business and the Meeting was closed at 11.45 a.m.

Sausage Sizzle.

Oh, what a wonderful day!! While much of the Central Coast felt the sting of late Autumn rain, here at the Valley Tavern, a happy group enjoyed brilliant sunshine, of course wonderful food and the coming together of like souls to join in happy banter and recall stories from past days. Indeed, it was a unique day: We had the pleasure of two ladies in attendance and two new Members. And we hope we will see more of them at all our various functions and get-togethers. Whilst it goes without saying – (but we will anyway) – the preparation of food under the supervision of head chef, Brian McVicar, assisted by his able and willing colleagues, Geoff Bown and Peter Caddy, (with Chairman Geoff Talbot helping where needed), the outcome was of its usual exceptional standard. As has been said before, if you missed it – serves you right! Just look forward to seeing you next time.



How lovely to see the ladies, all toggled out for Autumn, and smiling too. I.J. Toms and Jo Thistleton. We very much hope they will become regular attenders. They gave a totally new atmosphere to the sizzle, something we would like to experience more often.



And our new visitors: Phil Collins and Jim regan. Great to have you guys with us and we certainly look forward to seeing you on a regular basis as well.



And there they are: the production team. (Left to right): Head chef, Brian McVicar, and his able assistants, Geoff Bown and Peter Caddy. They can certainly be happy with their production efforts. As usual, nothing was left to chance and the outcome was successful, as it always is.



And yes, someone had to clean up!! John Roger, responding as always, even if he did not seem all that happy about the service he carried out.



Left to right: John Marheine, Jock Smith and Phil Stubbs-Mills.



As you can see, Russ was taking it seriously, John was away with the fairies.

Excursion to Dangar Island.

On a beautiful day, Friday, 8th May, 2026, six of our Members from the Central Coast Branch joined with 18 Members of the Northern Suburbs Branch to travel by water taxi, (due to the ferry being out of service), to Dangar Island for lunch at a restaurant there. Below is a photograph of the happy group seen with a clear blue sky in the background.





And on the previous page are five of the Central Coast group: Back row, Left to right: Geoff Talbot, John Roger, Peter Redman. Front row: Left to right: John Marheine, Peter Caddy. Is there someone missing?? Are the shadows in the foreground the souls of Members long gone????..... Or perhaps one of those shadows could be the photographer, Russ Whitcher..... And our thanks to Russ for recording the event.

The Ladies Coffee Club.

Winter is upon us and whilst we may shiver, sometimes in the wind and rain, it does bring out the ladies' finery and isn't it wonderful to see what they can find in their wardrobes to look so much more exotic than they did last Winter. But whilst we may be appreciating their outstanding attire we must remember the contributions they have made to our welfare, perhaps to our very existence, by guiding us in our activities and our decisions – and perhaps even saving us from our self made catastrophies. If their talents are fully appreciated there is little doubt they will be grateful but we must demonstrate just how much we cherish them and recognise their efforts in achieving joint success.

THE WEB SITE.

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 CALENDAR.

21st July, 2026. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Niagara Park.

18th August, 2026. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.

At this Meeting we will have a guest speaker, Dave Whiteman, the Association's Webmaster, who will inform us about the features of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

26th August, 2026. Mixed lunch at The Lakes Hotel, The Entrance.

15th September, 2026. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Niagara Park.

20th October, 2026. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.

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

25th November, 2026. Christmas lunch, at the Royal Hotel, Wyong.

15th December, 2026. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club , Ourimbah.

And what does the future hold.

Isn't it wonderful to be in Australia. An isolated landform, surrounded by water, where none of the inhabitants want to take over their neighbours' territory. We can only feel sad for the devastation being suffered in other far off lands. And here on the Central Coast, we may freely divide our attention between the ocean and the lakes, in many cases just on the other side of the road. We must be grateful for what we have, what we have achieved, either individually or in group formation, and acknowledge the outstanding features of the planet. Many things are changing. We are told this is the result of climate change and whether this is the result of fossil fuels or some other feature of the universe, we will probably never know in our life time. But we must consider those who come after us and, whilst we are here, we must direct our attention and energy to their health and security. As individuals our powers to help are limited, if not non-existent. So, care for those who are near to us and just hope that some feature of the future will change the course of world events.

With best wishes to everyone.

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