



The R.F.P.A. GAZETTE

(Established 1931)
Registered office
PO Box 212
TEA GARDENS NSW 2324
www.retiredpolice.com.au

RFPFA NSW PATRON – COMMISSIONER MAL LANYON APM

Troy Cutler VA (Ret'd) awarded the Commissioner's Valour Award.



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 continues to grow, 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

The **Commissioner's Valour Award** was received by **Troy Cutler** on Friday 1st May 2026 at the **Goulburn Police Academy** during the **Attestation Ceremony of Class 368**. The circumstances are detailed below and relate to conspicuous merit and exceptional bravery during the pursuit and arrest of dangerous and heavily armed offenders at Tugun in February 2015.

Brief details below:

On **Thursday, 5 February 2015**, Queensland Police pursued two armed offenders – **John Tough** and **Calin McCabe** – in a **150 kilometre, multi hour, cross border chase** involving **carjackings, gunfire, and extreme danger to police and the public**. **Senior Constable Troy Cutler**, then a NSW Police officer, played a critical role in the final confrontation, showing **exceptional restraint and bravery** under direct fire.

Knowing the offenders' vehicle was soon to cross the state border from Queensland into **NSW Sen.Cons.** **Cutler** positioned his car on the M1 and took over the pursuit as primary driver. At this time the stolen vehicle was travelling at speeds over 180kph in peak hour traffic, posing a serious threat to life. Road spikes were successfully deployed and the stolen vehicle slowed to a stop. The offenders ran from the vehicle with one offender taking a well aimed shot at **Sen.Cons. Cutler** who narrowly missed being wounded. Despite this, **Sen.Cons. Cutler** ran after the offenders who were running between cars and attempting to steal another car. An offender again fired his pistol towards **Sen. Cons. Cutler** and an oncoming vehicle showing no regard for life. Despite the risk to his own life, **Sen.Cons. Cutler** did not hesitate to effectively pursue and arrest the offenders.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On Saturday 25 April I, along with **Paul Smith** attended the Anzac Dawn Service at Seven Hills RSL where I laid a wreath in memory of those who had made the Supreme Sacrifice. The Service was again well attended and I believe the number attending appears to grow each year. There were a number of Parramatta the Hills Branch Members in attendance but what struck me was the number of children and young persons present.



Anzac Day wreath laying

At the invitation of Chief Superintendent **John Klepvczarek APM** I attended the Attestation Parade of Class 368 at Goulburn Police Academy on Friday 1 May, 2026. There were 349 Trainees sworn in as Probationary Constables on that day. This was the largest Class of Trainees for 13 years. At the pre parade morning tea I met and spoke with Senior Police and also Former Prosecutor and Police Minister **Peter Anderson**. **Ian Radford**, Chairman of the Southern Tablelands branch was also at the event.



Ian Radford, former Police Minister Peter Anderson and Paul Wynne at Goulburn Academy 1st May 2026

On Saturday by invitation I attended a luncheon hosted at The City of Blacktown RSL Sub-Branch commemorating the involvement of Australian Troops in the Boer War 1899-1902. **We Will Remember them.**

I travelled to Wollongong with **Lloyd Taylor**, on Tuesday 19 May having been invited by **Kevin Morton**, President of the NSW Police Association to attend the opening of their Conference in Wollongong.



Commissioner Lanyon and Paul Wynne with PANSW Life Members Greg Black, Geoff Green and Lloyd Taylor OA

From 23 to 30 May **Sandy** and I again enjoyed the hospitality of **Jim Thompson** and **Joan Robinson** at **THE REEF RETREAT at Palm Cove in North Queensland**. We were joined at the Resort by 18 other RFPFA members from both NSW and Qld. A most wonderful week of sightseeing, dining at various locations and camaraderie was enjoyed by all. **Jim and Joanne** were again the perfect hosts welcoming us to their Resort and once again we all enjoyed a group BBQ in the pool and spa area on Thursday night where many memories were shared.

We were somewhat fortunate that we arrived at the Resort the day before last year's RFPFA prize winner, **Amanda Baldwin** was to leave. We caught up with her for coffee where she thanked us for the prize and told us of the wonderful week that she had.

Jim and Joanne are again donating a week's accommodation at their location for a financial member who might be lucky enough to have their name drawn at our State AGM in Club York, Sydney. Your membership must be financial to be eligible.

Whilst in Cairns **Ian Lovell** and I visited **Cynthia McLoughlin** at her home for afternoon tea and she also attended **Yorkey's Knob Boating Club** for lunch with the rest of our group.

On Tuesday 16 June **Sandy** and I travelled to Tea Gardens where the Hunter Branch were holding a meeting. **Russell Oxford** was the guest presenter and had the audience of around 50 listening intently with his audio visual account of his experiences in Task Force Gain.

Ian Lovell, Russell Oxford and I met with **Commissioner Mal Lanyon** in his office on Wednesday 17 May. There were a number of items on the agenda, including Defibrillators in Police vehicles, Retired Police Day, Police Overseas Service Medals to name a few. The Commissioner was most generous with his time and the meeting was productive.

As has been mentioned the State AGM will be conducted at Club York, York Street, Sydney on 27 July at 11 am.

God Bless

Paul Wynne

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

We had a great break at Palm Cove in May. Our hosts **Joanne ROBINSON** and **Jim THOMPSON** provided the perfect laid-back environment for a recharge, which most of us needed. We overlapped with **Amanda BALDWIN**, whose late husband Laurie had won the Palm Cove Membership Draw at the 2025 AGM, but had not been able to make it.

Amanda had a short time with us and expressed her gratitude to **Joanne** and **Jim** and the RFPFA for the sensitive handling of Laurie's prize. Thanks to **Dave WHITEMAN** for his diplomacy.

We met up with FNQ locals and other Queenslanders as well as others with whom we could only make telephone contact for this year. **Cynthia McLOUGHLIN** was pleased to see us and to participate in several activities, particularly the Yorkeys Knob Boating Club event. Clifton Beach legend and welfare man extraordinaire **Phil DUNN** joined up with us before he had to leave with Julie the following day for an overseas trip.

Jimbo WILSON made sure we had the best view from the Tin Shed at Port Douglas as we ate the best fare you could find up there. **GOUGHY** was off doing his Flying Doctor things and couldn't be there in person. On our free days we visited the Botanic Gardens and the Cairns Aquarium, the bayside pool (might be the biggest one on earth) Cairns night markets, Kuranda, Moore Reef and the associated turtle sanctuaries, Tully, saw several crocodiles au-natural in the Mowbray River; took a ride on the Lady Douglas and saw every attraction you could imagine. **Dave WHITEMAN** captured a lot of this by drone, and some amazing views and videos are in the DW library. They regularly find their way onto our media.

Steve TURNER and **Nelly**, Brisbane and Northern Suburbs RFPFA organisers and **Geoff MAXWORTHY** and **Vicki**, their Tweed Gold Coast counterparts kept us all busy with travel and entertainment and bravely wore blue to the Palm Cove Tavern for Origin 1. We didn't say much out loud, but we all saw the proverbial crocodile tears. Steve's IPA colleagues from the local area joined us at Rattle & Hum for another interesting evening. Nobody left thirsty or hungry.



Amanda Baldwin



Cynthia McLoughlin

On a different note, the CoM has been busy with several issues we think are important to the **RFPFA's** continued well-being and/or have been raised by the Membership for us to consider:

As has been emphasised lately, many of our Members have been seriously injured (and a number fatally) by falls. Data from NSW Health and NSW Ambulance verified the stance taken by our Northern Beaches Welfare Team. Anyone who has seen this (and we should all have received it from **RFPFA** sources during the **'Look Down, Step Up, No Ladders'** campaign) will be careful of obstacles, firm up their balance rather than taking chances with rough ground and give their old ladders away. We consider this is of sufficient importance to provide reminders to all on a regular basis that falls can be life-changing events. It's often when you find out (far too late and often with no warning) that you have osteoporosis. The small wristbands we provide are a behavioural reminder. We have distributed them widely both inside and outside the **RFPFA** as a public service. If you need some, call the Secretary.

We are considering becoming a registered charity. Our current status as an 'Incorporated Association' under the NSW Fair Trading Act and recent Regulations may alter to an ACNC-aligned charity and will save us money (Australia Post accounts are approaching K20 p.a) and increase our capacity to attract Government Grants. That, in turn, will enable us to enhance service to our Membership. We already comply with ACNC guidelines in most areas, but will need to alter winding-up and objects detail in our Constitution. That work is under way and will be given to the Membership when ready for consideration.

We met with **Commissioner LANYON** on 17 June and had a productive discussion with him. He agreed to become our Patron. Various policing issues were raised for his consideration. An emphasis was placed upon Retired Police Day and Police Remembrance Day, recognition of the extensive involvement of Police in the NRL and its history, service by Police in the 80's and 90's in Papua New Guinea, sponsored donation of defibrillators for use by Police, a letter of introduction for disengaging Police offering **RFPA** membership and our gazette being distributed electronically to serving Police. The issue of 'fit and proper person' notions likely to be incorporated in our Constitution was discussed. As all would be aware, the 'serious indictable offence' changes were made at our last AGM. The above issues were simply presented, and the Commissioner agreed to consider all, with the clear proviso that even though he is the Commissioner, many others are involved in decisions about the way such matters are progressed.

Our next AGM will be held at Club York, 97 York St SYDNEY on 27 July 2026 at 11am. Notices will be sent electronically and posted on the RFRPA website as required.

If you believe that you are a good team member and would like to volunteer to help us, please consider nominating for office with the Committee of Management or your local Branch Committee.

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

Thanks for the great photos and information from your branches. Our gazette reaches far and wide and the stories and photos with names have many of your former colleagues interested in seeing where you are now (not to mention what you look like) so keep them coming.

Is anyone out there interested in taking on the role of Treasurer for the RFPA NSW? Since **Bruce Howe** vacated the position, our amazing secretary **Ian Lovell** has filled in. It is not an onerous position but just one less "hat" for Ian to wear. Feel free to ring Ian on 0425 336 801 for a chat about the job.

Deadline for the Spring (July August September) Gazette is 15th September 2026

Cheers ,

Sandy Benson

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WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT

Some branches have had a break for some time, but have since resumed operation. It is good to see that some Secretaries are putting in effort into running their organisations and are adopting new practice procedures. The organisation is always open to discussion and fresh ideas. To those of you who are not feeling

the best, I hope you improve and take care.

Kind regards.

Ian Moore

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear **Sandy, Ian and Paul**

I would like to thank the **RFPA NSW** and **Jim and Joanne** from the **Reef Retreat in Palm Cove** for the wonderful prize that was drawn out for **Laurie Baldwin**. It was bittersweet not having **Laurie** with me to share such a lovely week away in a beautiful part of Australia.

I was also fortunate to meet up with Ian **Lovell**, **Paul Wynne** and **Sandy Benson** and share my week's highlights. I will always remember your kindness.

Thank you very much. Best regards

Amanda Baldwin



Dear Editor

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 6653 6478.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST



Falls, Trips & Ladder Injuries (60+)

Australian national snapshot + practical prevention tips

AHW statistics show falls are the largest injury problem for older Australians. Most serious injuries come from **same-level slips/trips**, and ladder falls remain a high-risk cause of major trauma.

KEY NATIONAL NUMBERS

248,211 hospitalisations (2023-24)

Falls were 43% of all injury hospitalisations.

6,698 deaths (2022-23)

Falls were 43% of all injury deaths.

\$5.4B health spending (2023-24)

Estimated spending on injuries from falls.

4.8 days average stay

Average length of stay for fall-injury hospitalisations.

WHY 60+ MATTERS

- Risk rises steeply: people 65+ were almost 12x as likely to be hospitalised due to a fall as adults aged 25-44 (3,298.7 vs 276.9 per 100,000).
- Most serious fall injuries are from same-level slips/trips/stumbles (not just big heights).
- Falls are more likely to lead to complications, longer recovery, and loss of confidence after 60.

LADDER FALLS: SMALLER NUMBERS, HIGH SEVERITY

- 6,167 hospitalisations in 2023-24 were from fall on and from a ladder (WII).
- People aged 65+ have higher risk of serious injury from ladder falls. Avoid ladders when possible (use a platform step, or hire help).

RFPA members can request a free wrist band from our State Secretary Ian Lovell for distribution at' their branch meetings to remind everyone re falls!
"No ladders, Look Down, Step up"



SIMPLE PREVENTION CHECKLIST

1) Home hazards (stop trips and slips)

- Good lighting; night-lights for hall/bathroom.
- Remove loose mats; clear cords/clutter; wipe spills fast.
- Non-slip surfaces in bathroom; grab rail if needed.
- Handrails on steps; mark step edges; keep pathways clear.

2) Strength, balance, and footwear

- Do strength + balance 2-3x/week (sit-to-stand, heel-to-toe walk, single-leg stand near a bench).
- Check vision/hearing; keep glasses up to date.
- Wear supportive shoes; avoid slippery soles and loose slippers.

3) Health and medicines

- Ask your GP/pharmacist to review dizziness, blood pressure drops, and sedating medicines.
- Manage diabetes/neuropathy and any foot numbness.
- Use walking aids if recommended - they prevent injuries, not independence.

4) Ladder rule-of-thumb: avoid if you can

- Prefer a stable platform step; never climb when tired, unwell, or dizzy.
- Keep 3 points of contact; do not over-reach; set up on firm, level ground.
- Have someone present to spot/assist; consider help for gutter/roof jobs.

AFTER A FALL: GET URGENT HELP IF...

- Head strike with confusion, vomiting, severe headache, or if on blood thinners.
- Severe pain, deformity, or cannot weight-bear.
- New weakness, slurred speech, or loss of consciousness.

Sources (national)

AIHW, Falls (hospitalisations 2023-24; deaths 2022-23):

aihw.gov.au/reports/injury/falls

AIHW, Health system spending on disease and injury in Australia 2023-24 (injuries from falls \$5.4b):

aihw.gov.au/reports/health-welfare-expenditure/health-system-spending-disease-injury-aus-2023-24

Better Health Channel (Vic), Ladder safety matters (higher risk of serious injury for 65+):

betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/ladder-safety

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

SURNAME	CHRISTIAN NAME	BRANCH
ANTONJUK	GREGORY ERNEST	SYDNEY
BENTLEY JP	DON	TWEED/GOLD COAST
CONNER	PAUL ANDREW	ILLAWARRA
PATCH	DAVID GLENELG	CENTRAL TABLELANDS
EDWARDS	PAUL	SYDNEY
HANNA-BURGESS	GILLIAN	SOUTHERN TABLELANDS
JANSEN	ALLISON	MURRAY RIVER
PISANI	WINSTON PAUL	SYDNEY
McEWAN	RODNEY	PARRAMATTA THE HILLS
McGREGOR	BRUCE	HUNTER
MYATT, APM	ROBERT JOHN	TWEED-GOLD COAST
NEIL	DAVID	SOUTH COAST
THISTLETON	Jo	CENTRAL COAST
ROSE	DANIEL	BRISBANE/NTHN SUBURBS
ROWE	DEBRA LEANNE	HUNTER

BRANCH REPORTS

BRISBANE AND NORTHERN SUBURBS



Hi Everyone,

Sadly, we lost **Shirely Whitehall** who was the lovely wife of **Ian Whitehall** who were both treasured members of the Brisbane and Northern **RFPA** Branch and subsequently of the Tweed/Gold Coast **RFPA** Branch and it goes without saying that **Shirely** will be sadly missed.

Saturday 28.3.26 was our AGM and numbers were down as they always are when this is on but added to this was the current fuel situation and some health issues for a few of our members.

However, all those who attended seemed to have a good time at the lunch afterwards and a huge thanks to those who have been confirmed for the Committee for the 2026/7 period.

ATTENDEES:

Steve & Lynell Turner, Ken Fogarty, Sally Matherson, Marilyn & Gerald Fiddis, Donald McKeating, Bob Leembruggen, Dale De Martino, Graeme & Teresa Power, Ross Konowalenko

COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2026/7 PERIOD:

Chairperson:	Steve Turner
Vice Chairperson:	Kerry Beggs
Secretary:	Steve Turner
Assistant Secretary:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Ken Fogarty
Welfare Officer:	Marilyn Fiddis
Assistant Welfare Officer:	Vacant
Police Chaplains:	Ian and Di Todd
Social Secretaries:	Lynell Turner & Sally Matheson
Editor:	Vacant. Currently under the duties of Secretary
General Committee:	Gerald Fiddis, Kerry Beggs

However, I and some others on the committee are giving a “heads up” that we will not be nominating for positions at the 2027 AGM so I am keen for members to become involved now with the current committee so that we can have a smooth transition next year to allow the Branch to continue to function. In the meantime, while our meetings/lunches will continue to be held on the first sat every 2mths, our Tuesday mid-week bi-monthly lunch will cease, which will allow **Lynell and Sally** more flexibility in organising a range of different activities and members will continue to be invited to monthly QLD IPA functions.

Members are not sufficiently supporting the current Christmas in July format as it does not fit many people's budget even though these types of functions are only twice per year, so there will be only one special function per year, being our Christmas Party.



Dedication Service of the new Memorial Wall.

Troy White one of our valued Brisbane and Northern Suburbs **RFPA** Members together with our Queensland Premier, was privileged to conduct a Dedication Service of the new Memorial Wall. **Troy** was accompanied by his lovely fiancée **Celina**.

A smaller but great bunch attended our Next Brisbane and Northern Suburbs **RFPA** Lunch on Tuesday 5th May at the Solander Lake Bowls Club, 70 Sunderland Drive Banksia Beach 4507 (Bribie Island) **Marilyn** and **Gerald** found **Doug Minslow** sitting alone and convinced to join our group which gave **Gerald** a new person who hadn't heard about his exploits, lol.

Photo shows **Ken Fogarty, Lynell & Steve, Kerry Beggs, Marilyn & Gerald Fiddis, Ross Konowalenko, Jan Fort, Doug Minslow**



On Saturday the 9th a few of our Brisbane and Northern Suburbs **RFPA** members and some friends attended the QLD IPA catchup at Landers Pocket. Great location and atmosphere with live music and dancing (not me) golf range and more than a few drinks. It was a great night with a very social group.

Several members of the **RFPA** travelled north to Cairns in May. It was a fantastic week attended by 20 members and their partners from various branches including ours and the NSW **RFPA** Committee. We were very fortunate to be staying at **The Reef Retreat at Palm Cove** which was a lovely place to stay and a huge thanks to **Jim and Joanne** for looking after us with great rooms, great price and fantastic BBQ on Thursday night around their pool and spa area. Financial **RFPA** members get a very generous **RFPA** discount but phone bookings are required to get the best rate.

Monday night our **RFPA** members had dinner with the **NQ IPA** members at the **Rattle & Hum**, Palm Cove. We had a great night together sharing good food, plenty of laughs and great company as it is always special when our different organisations connect and share a common goal of friendship through the **police family**.

Tuesday Lunch with the **RFPA** team at **Yorkey's Knob Boating Club** which is at the marina and a very nice place to enjoy a drink or 2 overlooking boats that none of us can afford, lol.

Wednesday lunch was at the **Tin Shed in Port Douglas** with the **RFPA** crew. Clouds over Cape Tribulation and tropical storms over the Daintree rainforest catching up with our **RFPA** Members **Jim and Debbie Wilson** formerly of Moama.

Wednesday Night had a great meal and drinks as we watched the **State of Origin** in enemy territory at the **Palm Cove Tavern** which made the come from behind win all that more satisfying.

A lot to do up there including night markets, tours, Croc's and other NQ attractions, meaning we will be back next year to try to make it even better.



A further reminder that Associate RFPA Members do NOT need to be a former NSW Police Officer to join to get all the benefits and discounts.

Regards

Steve Turner

Chairman and Secretary

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CENTRAL COAST

GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS.

How terrible the daily news is these days, with super powers constantly launching destruction on their neighbours. No doubt, as older people, we have no need to worry about our participation in any of the current overseas events but, of course, our concern is about those who follow after us, our children, grandchildren and those not even yet with us. Here, in our little Central Coast hide-away, we are sheltered from the big things of the world and we must be grateful for that, small mercy though it may be, and keep those nearest and dearest close to us and ensure their good health and well being. We must make the most of the time we have on the planet.

In June, we had the following company at our branch meeting. **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.**

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**.

On the welfare front the following are improving - **Trevor Carroll** (here at this meeting and looking fit and well), **Bill Ide, Neil Ashman**

Our AGM was held and all incumbent committee members retained their positions.

Chairman	Geoff Talbot
Vice Chair	Russ Whitcher
Secretary	John Marheine
Treasurer	Ray Hatcher
Welfare	Barry Clark

We had a lovely day in God's country for our “famous” Sausage Sizzle with chef **Brian McVicar** and able assistants did their usual great job.



Head Chef Brian McVicar, and his able assistants, Geoff Bown and Peter Caddy

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.



In April we welcomed two new Members, **Jo Thistleton** and **Peter Redman** and we look forward to seeing them at the Branch's future functions.

Our Welfare Officer, **Barry Clark** told us that he had been in contact with **Trevor Carroll, Peter Caddy, Neil Ashman** – members are reminded that those not travelling so well would always like to hear from a mate. Give them a call if you can.

An extremely sad event took place 2 weeks earlier at Tuggerah Lakes, a serving Police Officer, **Anthony Rex Bailey**, a Sergeant, 50 years of age. A stark reminder of what this job can do. Confidential help is only a call away.

Chairman Geoff represented the RFPA at the funerals of **Anthony Bailey and Neville Glover**.

Bede Irvine, who has been absent from recent Meetings, named several Members who have left the Central Coast to move to Queensland. He said that one Member, **Howard Caton**, who now lives in South Eastern Queensland, sent his good wishes to Members. **Bede** said that others who have moved north include **Steve Lee, Garry Hanlon and Barry Beavis**.

What a wonderful way to spend St Patrick's Day. On Tuesday, 17th March, 2026, a happy group, led by Head Chef, **Brian McVicar**, wearing a very classy green hat, with appropriate trimmings, and adorned with a NSW Police insignia, gathered at the Valley Tavern, at Niagara Park, to celebrate another round of wonderful food and great company. Oh, how many stories were brought out of the history book but those stories served to stir up memories, happy and perhaps not so happy, but stories installed in our collective memories. And it was great to see old mates, **Stuart Avery** and **John Mortimer**, back again after long absences. We missed you guys!

How terrible it would be if we did not keep up this practice.

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).

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

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

And what does the future hold? Mankind is the only creature on Earth who seems to be eternally engrossed in the eradication of his neighbours. Meanwhile we are enjoying the glories of the Central Coast.

John E. (Ernie) Carmichael.

Email: centralcoastrfpa@retiredpolice.com.au

CENTRAL TABLELANDS

We look forward to your contributions for our next gazette

COFFS HARBOUR

In April we had a different sort of Social Event - an introduction to **Croquet** at Sawtell Croquet Club where 17 of us "had a go at croquet" followed by a sausage/coleslaw lunch. It seems that we CAN teach 'old dogs' new tricks. Just ask any of those who came along for some fun, friendship and a feed. They were **Garry/Suzanne Heskett, Natalie Salter, Jillian Englert & Partner, Dave Morris, Murray/Judy Smith, John Reid, Tony/Jan Lawler, Deirdre McLeod, Ian Hodges OAM and Sue, Hedley/Barbara Gleave, Heather Moore**.

I dropped in and saw **Harley/Rhonda Toms** in April, whilst on my way to Canberra. I dropped off our NEWSLETTER and a WELFARE CARD. He's going ok. Has to have surgery to remove the infected rod in his left leg and replaced it with an antibiotic rod/nail type. This is the support rod I suspect that helps with his pseudo-gout in his left ankle joint that has caused the painful infection.

Harley Toms and Allan Elworthy are both out of Hospital. Good to see they have been released on parole. **Hedley Gleave** is also recovering.

Don't forget to either visit or contact our members who are on sick report. We are all Welfare officers.

If you are unwell or know of members who are unwell let us know.

Cheers

Ian Hodges OAM

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DUBBO

We look forward to your contributions for our next gazette.

HUNTER REGION

Friends

On Tuesday 14/4/2026 the Hunter Newcastle branch had a meeting and Lunch in the Sunset room with 32 members present plus a special guest. This is great given the current circumstances re Fuel and travel.



Members at Russell Oxford's presentation



Ian Lovell, Veteran Kevin Marr, 95 was presented with his 90 Not Out pin, Paul Wynne, Russell Oxford

A big shout out to the members who couldn't make it due to sickness and or hospital. Thoughts to **Bob** and **Maureen Gray** as well.

The meeting was opened by **Alan Crumpton** and our visitor from State Committee Sen Vice President **George Weissel** was welcomed.

Our Patron **Ian Lovell** presented **Alan Crumpton** with his OBE (80 yrs) and then presented **Cyril Hutchison** with his 90 years & not out Pin.

A great catch up and we all look forward to our next lunch at Stockton in May.

Bob Gray (Vice Chair)

Ian Lovell

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ILLAWARRA (WOLLONGONG) AND KIAMA BRANCHES

We look forward to your contributions for our next gazette.

MACARTHUR

Below is an overview of the Macarthur **RFPA** Charity Golf Day for the Gazette.

The Weather Gods delivered another rain free day for the Macarthur **RFPA** annual charity golf day on the 28th May, 2026 at Lakeside Golf Course. Although the course was soggy underfoot with the conditions normally reserved for ducks, it did not deter the 63 players from enjoying the day.

Thanks to the **Police Bank, Campbelltown Catholic Club, Club Menangle, Jones XL Security, IDP, and Geoscope** for their sponsorship in making the day a success. As well as the assistance of all the supporters and participants on the day helped raise \$20,215 towards the purchase of a **Verathon i10 Bladder Scanner for the Campbelltown Hospital**.

The winning team was from the **Mounties Group** with **Matt Harvey, and Chris Ashton** winning the Longest Drive, plus **Clay Harding** and our own **Max Madgwick** winning the Nearest to the Pin trophy. A great day for a great cause.



Max Madgwick NtoP Trophy 2026

Our branch visited the new Sydney International Airport (**Nancy Bird-Walton** Airport at Badgery's Creek) recently. After a stringent security check, we boarded a bus for a tour of the perimeter of the Airport culminating in an experience of standing at the end of the 4.7 kilometre Runway whilst large Passenger Planes passed overhead. It was unbelievable as to the quietness of the planes as they flew over us as compared to the expectation of the loud noise.



New SYD Airport

A recent guest speaker was our member **ROD O'REGAN**. The photo in the background is when he received one of his awards in the Great Hall at Parliament House. He has a bravery award from his time in the Police and an OAM for his Services



ROD O'REGAN

Roger Ford

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MANNING – GREAT LAKES

We look forward to your contributions for our next Gazette.

MID NORTH COAST

The 7th April saw us return to Port Macquarie City Bowling Club, our home base, for coffee and a meeting. Those in attendance included **Laurie & Marcia McGrath, Bob and Helen Hanlon, Sandra & Jim Cranna, Paul Egge, Sid Crane, Marlene Brown, Val Ivlev, Maree Rea, Garry Jennings, Bruce Saunders, and Ian Campbell.** We had apologies from **George & Jan McCleery, Ron and Desley Nunn, Betty Hartnett and Peter Wilms, Graham Rea and Keith Willott.** Medical appointments also prevented several other members from attending. The day went well, our own **Marlene Brown** did a presentation on her time as a country policeman's wife. **Marlene** was a country girl at heart and had great difficulty adjusting to life in the "big smoke" after moving to Sydney in 1962 when her Late husband John decided to join the Police Force.

She told us of some very funny experiences and she was extremely happy when, after a couple of years, John was offered a transfer to Molong. **Marlene** said she "would have gone anywhere" just to get out of Sydney. She told us of some of her experiences out at Molong. **Marlene** is known by all members of our Branch as an excellent cook, she produces all manner of relishes, spreads, sauces, cakes and Christmas puddings and she makes all sorts of 'crafty' items. These all find their way onto our tables as prizes at our July and December Christmas functions and are most sought after by prize winners. So it was no surprise to us when she told us of the one guy who used to arrive in Molong just as winter was starting and he'd get himself into some type of minor issue where he'd get locked up so as he could savour **Marlene's** home cooking. Pretty smart fellow I'd say !!

Our members met for lunch in early May at the Lake Cathie Tavern. It's a very nice bistro area with a great choice of meals. The Tavern proved to be very popular with our members, the food was good, the drinks were cold and plentiful and the company was excellent. I'm sure we'll be returning there in the not too distant future. Thank you to those who made the day a success.

A good rollup for our AGM on the 2nd June. We had a few new faces, **Alan Cleaver** who was at Port Macquarie Police Station when he retired, **David and Jenny Martin** who had recently moved to Port Macquarie from Sydney and **Michael and Helen Robinson** who were visiting from the Wagga Wagga Branch. We look forward to them all perhaps becoming permanent members of our Branch in the future. Our member **Wayne Evans** chaired the meeting for the election of officers for the 2026-7 financial year which resulted in the following:

CHAIRMAN: **Laurie McGrath**

VICE CHAIRMAN: **Ian Campbell**

SECRETARY: **Paul Egge**

ASSISTANT SECRETARY: **Trish Affleck-Mooney**

TREASURER: **Betty Hartnett**

WELFARE OFFICERS : **Jeff & Margaret Elliott,**

ASSISTED by Bruce Saunders

COMMITTEE: **Jennett Hunt.**

Thank you to all those who volunteered their time to ensure our Branch runs efficiently for the coming year. The publicity for the Branch remains in the hands of **Jim Cranna.** We look forward to the coming year.

Best wishes to all RFPA members.

Jim Cranna, MNC Publicity

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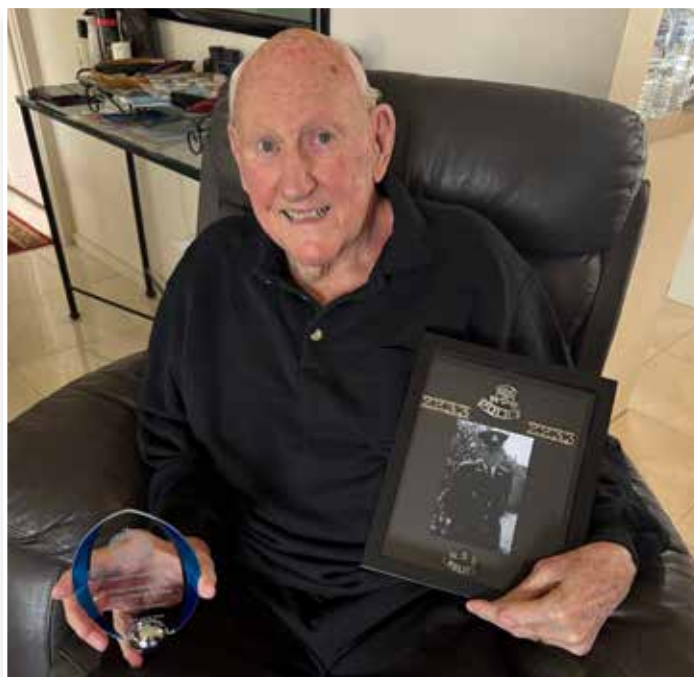
MURRAY RIVER

FEATURE PRESENTATIONS.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TED JARRATT 90 YEARS YOUNG.

Our Murray River **RFPA** member **Ted Jarratt** from Deniliquin has just celebrated his 90th Birthday on 30th April 2026. We were contacted earlier in the year by **Trent, Ted's** son who indicated that family would be attending for his birthday and wondering if there was any small memento that could be presented from the **RFPA** as he has been a member for many years and had come to our events in Deniliquin when we have travelled over that way.

We decided that we would provide a memento from our branch on reaching the age of 90 so decided to present a crystal award to **Ted.** "He was extremely pleased, surprised and extremely humbled by the thought and effort of our branch" His son **Trent** presented him a picture of him in uniform with his collar numbers on it. Happy Birthday **Ted.**



Ted Jarratt

OBE DIANA CROUCHER

Diana received her OBE Certificate from the State **RFPA** and her OBE Medallion from the Murray River **RFPA** on 24.5.26. As she lives way up north at Corindi Beach, the presentation was made by her lovely husband **Peter Croucher**, on behalf of the Murray River **RFPA**. Both looked very dapper in their MR **RFPA** Jackets for this official occasion. Peter Croucher thanks for helping. Happy Birthday Diana.



Diana & Peter Croucher

Darryl Baxter OBE Presentation.

On Monday, 1 June 2026, several Murray River Retired & Former Police Association members, family & friends attended the Purple Chicken Cafe in Albury for the OBE presentation to **Darryl BAXTER**. Luckily for **Darryl** his sister **Michele** was down from Queensland so was able to attend as well as his lovely wife **Glenys** to cheer him on.

As usual, our chair **Ken 'Ziggy' Zegiel** was present and able to tell some stories about **Darryl** when he worked down in Albury with him. It was a great story which ended with the presentation of his OBE certificate as well as his special Murray River OBE Medallion. Congratulations and happy birthday Darryl.



Ken Zegiel & Darryl Baxter

FEATURED DAY

Murray River RFPFA & ANZAC Day in Albury 2026.

Members of the Murray River **RFPFA** and family attended the Albury ANZAC Day March on 25 April 2026 and marched behind our banner carried by two of our members' grandchildren **Jessie Hoare & Aiden Zegiel**. Others who were unable to make it down Dean Street on foot went in army jeeps or other vehicles. Some others also marched with Armed Forces groups that they had worked in either before or after their police service; others marched with families of deceased armed forces members.

After the march dozens of people went up to the 10am service at Monument Hill. Our member **Nigel Horne** was the Master of Ceremonies. He introduced all the speakers and called everyone to lay wreaths. Our **RFPFA** Police Chaplain **Alan Kelb** also spoke at the service. Our Chair **Ken Zegiel** laid a wreath on behalf of the Murray River Branch of the Retired and Former Police Association.

Our other member **Graham Docksey**, who is the President of the City of Albury RSL sub-Branch, also spoke and provided a farewell speech in relation to his 13 years as the sub-Branch President as he was standing down after his final ANZAC Day as President.

Overall, it was another amazing ANZAC Day that was attended by hundreds of local community members.



L-R Ed Moran, Paul Leddy, Peter Beacroft, Peter McLaren, Aiden Zegiel, Chris Bentley, Rosie Aitken, Jessie Hoare, Ken Zegiel, Beth Docksey.

COFFEES & LUNCHES

Lunch at Woomargama Hotel 12 April. We also had a visit from **Gwen Carl** who is **Daryl Carl's** wife and lives in Woomargama as **Daryl** was in care. Nice to see you **Gwen**.

Murray River RFPFA Coffee & Chat at Trilogy Cafe Wodonga. 24 April.

Murray River RFPFA Melbourne & surrounds members luncheon at Dandenong RSL Club 5 June. It was great to see **Wayne 'Rosey' Rossetto** today.



Beth Docksey, Margaret Westaway, Chris Bentley, Wayne Rossetto, Max Wilton, Graeme & Kay Dark, Graham Docksey

Beth Docksey, APM

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NEW ENGLAND

We look forward to your contributions for our next Gazette.

NORTHERN BEACHES

Hi everyone,

We had our March meeting on the 26th, Vice Chairman, **Brian FRIEND** opened the meeting and was pleased to see the following members here. **Brian FRIEND, Alan LE SURF, Garrie WATT, Oscar TAYLOR, Deb ANDERSON, Bob INKSTER, Jan KEECH, John LETTS, Graham SPRING, Bob STARK, Julie BERTOLDO, Steve SPENCER, Harold HANLEN, Milton CHRISTMAS, Geoff KAY, Brian WRIGHT, Anne MULLINS, Bill & Irene MCINTOSH, Lilian FILMER, Charles BUTTROSE, Jeff BRADY, Bob PINFOLD** and our new member **Chris PAPALLO**, welcome Chris.

The Vice Chairman, **Brian FRIEND** read out a message from Chairman **Dave WHITEMAN** regarding the coming departure from our branch of secretary, **Al le SURF**. This was the final meeting for **Al**, before he relocates to Queensland in April. **Al** has served as our Branch Secretary and as a member of the **RFPFA** Committee of Management for more than four years. In both roles he has been outstanding. His departure will be a significant loss to our branch, not only because of the work he has done, but because of the calibre of the man himself.



Al le SURF

Gloria VELLELEY has qualified for her O.B.E. Certificate as Veteran Associate as did member, **Robert James WARLAND** Insert photo 3.

Our Guest speaker organised by **Julie BERTOLDO** was **Chris D'ARCY** & Koa from Search Dogs Sydney who are a team of volunteers trained in canine handling, search strategies and lost person behaviour. They provide assistance to Police and Emergency Agencies in the search for people missing in the bush, Alzheimer/dementia patients who have wandered away, missing children, or people trapped following natural or man-made disasters. Search Dogs Sydney Inc. relies on donations, grants and fund-raising.



The-Team - Search Dogs Sydney Inc

At our May meeting we learned that **Dave COLE** and **Lois** have requested a transfer from Northern Beaches to Penrith Blue Mountains Branch. Not quite walking distance from his home!! All the best.

Bill WILLIAMS spoke to members concerning a former member of the Police Force - **Mal MARKS**. Mal served in the former 14 and 29 Divisions before leaving to run a stud farm on Jones Island. He has had a hard time due to the recent floods on the north coast in which many of his cattle drowned. **Mal** said he would love to hear from any of his old colleagues. Contact the Branch Secretary for numbers.

My sad duty to report the passing on Thursday 11th June our colleague and friend **Graeme Ferguson**. As one of our members commented, Graeme was Nature's Gentleman.



Graeme Ferguson

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

Our last meeting for the Northern Rivers Branch was held at Evans Head Bowling Club on the 21 April 2026. There was a small gathering of members that consisted of **Charles Halloran APM, Ron Marriott, Chris Wallace, Con Venardos, Bruce King, Barry Hurren, Ron Maher, Bill Nugent and Glenys Parker**. We would like to thank the Evans Head Bowling club for making their facility available for the meeting. It is with sadness that I advise of the passing of long time Northern Rivers member, former **Assistant Commissioner Eric Strong**. A good attendance of our members at his recent funeral in Ballina. Many members were also saddened to hear of the passing of former **Senior Assistant Commissioner Peter Walsh** of Port Macquarie. Both these former senior officers were very well respected and great leaders in their Police careers.

Our next meeting is likely to be in Casino in July.

Glenn Taylor, Branch reporter

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NORTHERN SUBURBS (FORMERLY HORNSBY & DISTRICTS)

Our meeting in April was very well attended with one of the best presentations that we have witnessed, alongside that given by **Russell Oxford** on the **Rogerson/McNamara** arrest. Our guest presenter was **S/Const Ash Bold** who delivered an historical documentary on the murder of **Sgt Adam Schell** and night watchman **Frederick Marshall** at Bobbin Head on 8 October 1968. The work being done by NSW Police, particularly by **Ash**, in remembering our fallen comrades is commendable.

The documentary was narrated by **Sgt Katie Bond**, granddaughter of **Sgt Adam Schell**, and included commentary by our own member and **Katie's** Dad, former **Sgt John Schell**. The documentary was presented to the last Class that graduated from the Academy and from the student reactions it had a profound impact. The Class members were also presented their hat band, epaulettes and hat badge by **Schell** family members. The documentary was also very much appreciated by our members. Not a dry eye in the house. One non-police attendee was so moved that she commented on appreciation of the dangers of police work and the concept of the Blue Family.



In attendance were front row **Les POTTER, Ross BEATTIE, Kent VILD, Verity GREENWOOD, Greg MUIR, Bill JOHNSON**, 2nd row **John and Harriet KELLY, John ANDREWS, Bill SHUTE, Bruce WILLIAMS**, 3rd row **Peter McDONNELL, Tony SNEDDON, Ash BOLD, Dave LOWDEN, Luke SPURR**, 4th row **Dick and Joyce SMITH, Elaine and John SCHELL, Katie BOND, Greg BERTOLDO**.

Members of Northern Suburbs Branch caught up with some Central Coast Branch members at Dangar Island Bowling Club recently. Great weather, food and company led to a very enjoyable day.



Standing (l to r) - Rohan & Narelle SMITH, Ross BEATTIE, Phil COLLINS, Tricia & John ANDREWS, Elaine & John SCHELL Bill SHUTE, Verity GREENWOOD & John GRAHAM, Jim REGAN, Greg BERTOLDO, Peter REDMAN, Peter CADDY, Geoff TALBOT, John MARHEINE.

Front -John ROGER, Dave LOWDEN, Russ WHITCHER, Greg MUIR.



With the colder weather and various medical conditions and appointments we had a small roll up for our June meeting. In attendance were (standing l to r) **Les POTTER, Dave LOWDEN, Greg MUIR, Verity GREENWOOD, John ANDREWS and John SCHELL.** It was great to see that **Bill JOHNSON** could make it to the meeting. He is a real stalwart for the Branch, getting to meetings even though suffering ongoing health problems. We received apologies from **Ken McKNIGHT, Robyn MORGAN, Harriet and John KELLY, Rohan SMITH, Alan POLLOCK, Alan DOAK, Bill SHUTE, Bruce WILLIAMS and John GRAHAM.** **Ken** has ongoing medical problems, **Bill** is suffering from a bout of pneumonia and **Bruce** picked up a bug after recent surgery. We're wishing them better health sooner rather than later.

Our next two meetings are 6 August and 1 October, held at 11am in one of the meeting rooms at Hornsby RSL Club (lower ground floor). We usually meet at 10am in the Bistro Bar area for coffee. We also meet at 11am on 2 July, 3 September and 5 November at Asquith Bowling Club for coffee/lunch. Anyone wishing to attend will be most welcome.

In the meantime, stay warm and take care of yourselves and your loved ones.

Best regards,

Greg Muir

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PARRAMATTA - THE HILLS

In April, a group of our members enjoyed a lovely social evening spent at a live play by Castle Players, a local group of amateur actors who put on several performances a year. Our choice was "The Graduate".



Anzac Day commemoration. Several of our branch members attended the Dawn Service at 7 Hills RSL to commemorate those who sacrificed everything. At the service were local members of Parliament, **Mark Taylor MP, Chris Bowen MP, Hugh McDermott MP** and other dignitaries and about 800+ community members. We commented that each year the crowd gets larger and it is particularly good to see many school children attending.

In June our branch meeting had special guest **Ash Bold** from the Police Media Branch who gave a great presentation regarding the murder of Sgt 2/c **Adam Schell** Schell at Bobbin Head. Attending our meeting were some of the actual family members with his son **Bruce** and wife, his granddaughter **Katie Bold.**



We also had several OBEs to present – **Clarrie Capdor, Jeff Little** and posthumously **John Hall** which was accepted by his wife **Lee.**



Lee Hall accepting John Halls OBE posthumously



Jeff Little accepting his OBE



Clarrie Capdor receiving his OBE

Despite the weather, these hardy members of our branch gather around the BBQ at The Precinct, Blacktown to enjoy the warmth and camaraderie that membership of the **RFPA** brings. We were also pleased to welcome a visitor to our event, **Sen. Cons. Chris Robey** from QLD Police Crash Investigation Unit.



Our branch has weekly coffee meetings on a Thursday at various locations and anyone travelling or visiting our area is most welcome to join us. Just contact **Paul Wynne** Branch chairman via sms 0414465963 for an update on the location of this week's coffee catch up

Nick Pavlov, Branch Reporter

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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 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

On 16th March our regular bi-monthly meeting was held at our usual venue of the Goulburn Soldiers Club. Once again our scones, tea and coffee were on hand for the refreshment of all in attendance. **Greg Moore** brought along two guests, retired Police officers **Bob Grimes** and **John Lovern** who were welcomed by chairman **Manny Rivera**.

The meeting featured a Guest Speaker, **Danny Webster**, Police Historian and author of "**Beyond Courage – The Circumstances of NSW Police Officers who have lost their lives.**"

Danny's interest in Police who have lost their lives whilst on duty stemmed from his attendance at a NSW Police Academy course in 1988. He searched the Academy Library for information regarding the deaths on duty of NSW Police. There was no specific reference to be found.

On his transfer to the NSW Police Academy in 1994 he observed that the Honour Roll of NSW Police who died on duty only extended back to 1862, when the NSW Police Force came into existence and privacy issues since then. The Police Protocol Unit was contacted to obtain information regarding Police Deaths on duty from 1789 to 1862 and received no assistance due to privacy issues.

After extensive research he authored and produced his first edition of "Beyond Courage" in 1997. There followed a 2nd edition in 2005, a 3rd edition in 2012 and now a 4th edition in 2025. All proceeds of these books are directed to the **NSW Police Legacy**.

The 4th edition is available in hard copy from the **NSW Police Academy Police Shop**.

The 20th April was set down for a **Coffee Outing**. The venue was the **Tattersalls Hotel** in Goulburn and we enjoyed a good turn up of members with wives and friends.



Coffee at Tattersalls

Clockwise from the left: **Mat Casey, Ray and Maureen Strong, John Kowalenko, Pattie Stevens, Steve Senior , Kim Rivera (Manny was the photographer), John Connell, Ian Radford, Louise Kowalenko, Debbie and Greg Moore.**

On 1st May, 2026 **Alan Whitten** and **Ian Radford** attended the Attestation Ceremony of Class 368 at the NSW Police Academy. We were pleased to be seated next to our **State RFPA President Paul Wynne** and **RFPA Gazette editor, Sandy Benson**. An impressive program featured a display by the NSW Police Force Dog Operations Unit and the attestation of 349 new Police Officers.



Ian Radford, former Police Minister Peter Anderson and Paul Wynne

The cohort was reviewed by **NSW State Governor, Margaret Beasley**, who also addressed the assembly, together with **Commissioner Mal Lanyon** and **Minister for Police and Counter Terrorism, Yasmin Catley, MP**. After the ceremony we caught up with the three current ex-police members of the NSW Police Pipe Band, **John Graham (Northern Suburbs RFPA)**, **Greg Locke (Unattached)** and **Manny Rivera (Southern Tablelands)**.



John Graham, Alan Whitten, Greg Locke, Ian Radford, Manny Rivera

A well-attended branch meeting was held on 18th May, 2026 and featured Guest Speaker,

Peter Walker, former Mayor, Deputy Mayor and current Councillor of the Goulburn Mulwaree Council. He spoke on issues affecting the decisions of council over his time with the council. Of particular interest were his comments on the issues surrounding the selection of land on which to build the **new Goulburn Police Station**. Not an easy task due to the size of land required to fit the planned footprint, heritage road blocks, and the final, less than ideal, selection of land occupied by the **NSW Police Academy**.

Our next outing, set down for mid June, will include a tour of the **Tribe Brewery**, followed by coffee/lunch at the adjacent **Trapper's Bakery**. All **RFPA** members and friends are invited to attend.

Our next branch meeting is set down for 20th July, 2026 and will include our A.G.M.

Ian Radford

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SYDNEY

Sydney Branch RFPA – Autumn 2026 Activities

Our Branch enjoyed a vibrant and sociable autumn, marked by a series of gatherings that highlighted the strong fellowship within the branch.

The season began with a **Roving Coffee Catch** up on Tuesday, 17 March at the Revesby Workers Club. The morning brought together **Don Eyb, Belinda Dunn Toemoe, Peter Hamer, Tony Moynham, Allan Simpson, Guy** and **Denise Pianta**, and **Vaughn** and **Adrian Reid**. With lively conversation and plenty of good humour, members enjoyed a relaxed and friendly start to the year's social calendar.

A month later, on **Tuesday, 21 April 2026**, members met again for our **Roving Coffee Catch** up at the **Easts Club, Bondi Junction**. Attending were **Greg Thane, Belinda Dunn Toemoe, Warren** and **Carol McKinnon, Adriana** and **Vaughn Reid**. The gathering offered another warm opportunity for members to reconnect, share stories, and enjoy each other's company in a casual setting.

Our members also gathered for the **May General meeting** on **Tuesday, 19 May 2026**, at the York Club in Sydney. Members in attendance included **Phil Budge, Kent Vild, Margaret** and **Keith Thornell, Warren McKinnon, Belinda Dunn Toemoe, Greg Thane, Lesley Smallwood, Vaughn** and **Adrian Reid**, and **Carmela Ohmenzetter**. The branch also received **nine apologies** from members unable to attend due to prior commitments, sick report, or overseas travel.

A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of **Vaughn Reid's Over Bloody Eighty (OBE) certificate** and his **Veterans Membership Card** — a moment warmly received.

Following the meeting, members adjourned to the Meza Bar, where lunch, drinks, and lively conversation continued well into the afternoon. The gathering also doubled as a celebration of **Vaughn's 80th birthday**, adding a joyful and memorable highlight to the day.

The branch continued its social rhythm with a **Roving Coffee Catch** up on **Tuesday, 16 June 2026**, held at the **Pennant Hills Hotel**. This event welcomed a few new faces — **Alan Doak** and **Faye Ambrose** — who joined Sydney Branch stalwarts **Warren** and **Carol McKinnon, Kent Vild**, and **Belinda Dunn Toemoe**. The morning was marked by easy conversation and a welcoming atmosphere, with both long standing members and newcomers enjoying the relaxed environment.

Together, these events showcased the strong camaraderie, fellowship, and shared spirit that define the Sydney Branch of the **RFPA** — a community that values connection, service, and the simple pleasure of spending time together.

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

18th August – Branch Annual General Meeting

17th November – General meeting & Christmas Lunch

Roaming Coffee Catchups from 11am

- 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



17 March 2026 Revesby Workers – L to R – **Denise & Guy Pianta, Allan Simpson, Vaughn Reid, Tony Moynham, Don Eyb, Belinda Dunn-Toemoe & Adriana Reid.**



21 April 2026 Easts Bondi – L to R – **Greg Thane, Warren & Carol McKinnon, Vaughn & Adrian Reid.**



19 May 2026 - **OBE Presentation by Kent Vild to Vaughn Reid**

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 21 May 2026, this was our second meeting for the year at 99 On York, which was attended by 16 members.

Some Sad News of three recently departed work Colleagues:

Katie THOMPSON late March 2026 at home
Bill Harley late April 2026 aged 92
Phil CROWE no further information

Our welfare officer reported on a few members doing it tough:

Terry Fitzgerald – Is now in a nursing home. Martin Kelly and Mick Poole having some difficulties with health.

On the 4th May 2026 a former boss of the **Water Police Chief Inspector Wellings** had his ashes spread off Taylor's Point Wharf with his wife **Jean** present and in a wheel chair organised by Broken Bay Water Police, a fitting farewell.

On 24th July 2026 LSC **Bruce Tape** will march out of the NSWPF, retiring after 42 years of service. There will be a formal function at the MAC to celebrate Bruce's career. Starting at 9am at the MAC.



Standing left to right: **Bruce Tape, Frank Mahoney, Dave Ritchie, Hilton Penfold, Stan Watson, Tom Bradley, Len Ware, John Cox, Dave Buchanan, Mick Hogan, Terry Irwin, Ross Cramp.**

Seated Left to right: **Vic Rulewski, Darren Maguire, Brian Friend, Bruce Vickers.**

Vic Rulewski
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TWEED/GOLD COAST

Our branch meeting held on Tuesday 7th April, 2026 was a normal bi-monthly meeting and we had the following members attend. **Garry and Jen JARDINE** **Bruce and Dora THOMSON**, **Ken and Esther JENKINS**, **Geoff and Vicki MAXWORTHY**, **Garry WILLIAMS**, **Bob GIBSON**, **Jim and Olive CAVANAUGH**, **Russell ROBERTSON**, **Max ROBERTS**, **Jeff FOWLER**, **John COOKE**, **Ron GRAHAM**, **John SEWARD**, **Alan HENDERSON**.

HISTORIC MEETING:

Due to club bookings, our meeting coincided with the meeting of the Queensland Retired Police, Gold Coast branch. After negotiations by our Secretary **Geoff MAXWORTHY** and Qld President **Gerry McHENDRY** it was decided to hold a joint meeting of the two State branches. Meeting agendas were run in tandem without any hitches. Even raffles from both sides were eagerly sought after and winners were shared between members from both branches. It was a fun meeting in which everyone enjoyed the company of fellow officers from Qld and NSW followed by drinks and dining afterwards and it has set a standard for events, either meetings or social, for the future. We all have so much in common, post service ageing experiences, welfare and organising a social calendar. Well done to our Chairman **Garry JARDINE** and Qld President **Gerry McHENDRY**. History in the making.



Gary Matthews, John Beacham, Bruce Thomson, Terry Perkins

Chairman **Garry JARDINE** reported that family and friends got together to remember **Les ZAHN's** wife Val, who recently passed and would have been her 90th Birthday. Chairman **Garry JARDINE** and Treasurer **Bruce THOMSON** were in attendance.

Welfare Officer **Bruce THOMSON** reports:

Following on from the funeral of **Jim NOBLE**, his wife Jan, sought a request from **Jim Cavanaugh** that his ashes be spread on the waters off Pittwater. I made contact with Senior Sergeant **David HRNJAK** of Broken Bay Water Police Command and he happily obliged with this request. The ceremony took place from a Police Launch on the 1st June. **Jan and family** were delighted that this ceremony occurred. Great to see the broader Police family helping each other.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Our Chairman presented long time member, **John SEWARD**, with his OBE Certificate. Congratulations John for this milestone. Chairman **Garry** reminisced with **John** about his early Cadet days playing basketball with John.

Our guest speaker was **Alan HENDERSON** who is a branch member. **Alan** was a photographer attached to the Public Relations Branch and was summoned to the Bold Street Bridge at Granville in January, 1977. What unfolded was the largest train disaster in Australia's history. The bridge collapsed onto two carriages of the Blue Mountains to Sydney train, nearly 600 tonnes of concrete onto two wooden frame carriages. 84 deaths, 213 injured. Many thanks **Alan** for your time and presentation.

At our recent AGM (9 June), the following people were elected:
Chairman – **Geoff MAXWORTHY**
Senior Vice Chairman – **Alan LE SURF**
Junior Vice Chairman – **Tim TARLINGTON**

Secretary – **Geoff MAXWORTHY** (Yes, he's a glutton for punishment!)
Asst. Secretary – **John COOKE**
Treasurer – **Bruce THOMSON**
Events Organizer – **Charlie D'AGOSTINO**
Welfare Officer (South) – **Bruce THOMSON**
Welfare Officer (North) – **Terry PERKINS**

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from contact with our Welfare Officers, please email them at welfare.tweedgc@retiredpolice.com.au

WHAT'S COMING UP – 2026

Tuesday 14th July - Club TWEED – 11.30am - Christmas in July (Tweed - Gold Coast Branch) – \$30 per head. RSVP to alstgc@retiredpolice.com.au

Tuesday 21st July - Twin Towns Services 11.30am - Christmas in July – combined function with Queensland Retired Police Gold Coast Branch - \$60 per head, includes alcohol. RSVP to alstgc@retiredpolice.com.au

Friday 7th August - The Juniors, Kingsford (Sydney) Police Boxing night in support of Police Legacy. Chief Inspector **Chris Schilt**, Tweed Byron Commander is fighting. If you're in Sydney at that time, it should be a good night. To support **Chris** and Police Legacy, please go to <https://share.google/XIHpMeF456nQ3qMdH> Donations are tax deductible.

Meetings – 11am, Currumbin RSL 165 Durrigan Street, Currumbin
11 August : 13 October : 8 December :

Our next meeting will be held at **11am, Tuesday 11th August, 2026**. Join us for coffee before the meeting and then after the meeting, lunch on the balcony, overlooking the waters of Currumbin Creek (looks better than it sounds!)

Drop by - we'd love to see you.

The Team at Tweed/Gold Coast

Geoff Maxworthy or **Alan LE SURF** 0421 694 035
or alstgc@retiredpolice.com.au

E: tweedgcRFP@retiredpolice.com.au

WIDE BAY

We look forward to your contribution in our next edition.

UPUPCOMING REUNIONS

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

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 1966

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 (IJ) 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

What: N.S.W. Ex Police Cadets Function, Club York. 24.2.27.

Where: Club York, 95-99 York Street, Sydney.

When: Wednesday 24th February, 2027. 11am – 3.30pm

Meal: 3 course sit down lunch. Cost \$120 p.h.

Drinks: Drinks supplied.

Payment: On or before 30th January, 2027.
Electronically: Ex Police Cadets Assn of NSW,
BSB: 815-000. Police Bank Acct No. 241807,
Payment by cheque 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
(M) 0404 88 1513. (LL): 02 4443 1007.
P.O. Box 3317 Vincentia, NSW 2540.

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**

RFP A NSW Annual General Meeting 2026
Monday 27th July 2026 at 11am
Club York, 95-99 York St Sydney

THE WAY WE WERE



Back: F.V. Pirnat, R.J. Robertson, P.A. Paroz, P.J. Smith, A.H. Weaver, W.J. Simeon, G.J. Wiley, R.B. Watson, D.J. Whiteway, K. Timms.

Centre: J.D. Ridley, S.V. Robinson, D.A. Ritzau, P.E. Sheehan, N.J. Webber, M. Rayner, B.K. Staines, A.J. Robertson, M.I. Smith.

Seated: K.E. Strickland, B.N. Sullivan, A. Stefanidis, S.A. Payne, P. Varley, P.M. Thomson, L.F. Summers, G.M. Ratjens, J. Ramon.



BACK: V.A. Reardon, D.E. Cruickshank, R.J. Mulligan, C. Wightman, C.A. Mulheron.

CENTRE: M.M. Greenaway, B.A. Melville, D.P. Pratt, M.J. Dunn, D.L. Dumesny, M.J. Frazer

SEATED: S.L. Thompson, A.A. Allingham, (Instructor), F.A. Kirkham (Instructor), C.R. Cole (Instructor), S. Corkill



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
ARMSTRONG	Reginald William	96	7228	Sydney	4/06/2026
BASSETT	Allan John	87	8987	Hunter Region	6/06/2026
BISHOP	Kevin Albert	88	10871	Manning Great Lakes	23/04/2026
BUSHELL	Neville Charles	91	9149	Hunter Region	12/06/2026
BYRNE	Margaret	82	70	Unattached	16/05/2026
CALDWELL	James Leishman	77	16953	Murray River	3/05/2026
CEVAAL	Johannis (Jack) Marinus	86		Murray River	16/05/2026
CHADWICK	Brian William		8484	Unattached	15/04/2026
FERGUSON	Graeme Robert	86	9893	Northern Beaches	11/06/2026
HODGE	Brian Robert	84	12743	Peel	9/06/2026
ISEDALE	Allan John (John)	88	8581	Sydney	27/05/2026
LEADBEATER	William Alan	78	12842	Northern Suburbs	22/04/2026
LIDBURY	Leslie Darcy 'Les'	89	8746	Northern Beaches	16/06/2026
MASTERS	Joyce Helen (Joy)	103		Hunter Region	24/04/2026
STRONG	Eric Stewart	93	7110	Northern Rivers	24/05/2026
WALSH APM	Peter John	79	11722	Mid North Coast	2/05/2026
WILSON	Eric Francis (Rick)	81	11661	Northern Rivers	26/04/2026
WYLIE	John Wilson	91	7645	Murray River	22/03/2026

BRAVERY AWARDS RECEIVED BY THEN DETECTIVE SENIOR CONSTABLE STEVE PACKER & DETECTIVE SERGEANT JOHN NAGLE FOLLOWING THEIR EXTREMELY BRAVE ACTIONS ON 31 JANUARY 1984.



These significant awards were approved by Acting NSW Police Commissioner Peter Thurtell, APM in 2025. I thank Peter for his support & willingness to sign off on their nominations which resulted in Steve Packer & John Nagle finally being recognised for their extremely brave actions on 31 January 1984. The incident was then described as 'The Atahan Siege' during which hostages were taken from inside the Commonwealth Bank, George Street, Sydney during a daylight bank robbery by Hakki Bahadir Athan, a 35 year old habitual criminal.

The day was certainly evocative of the Al Pacino movie 'Dog Day Afternoon'. I will briefly describe what happened for those who may be unaware or perhaps were not born in 1984. Atahan, after robbing the Bank, took hostages which he used to form a human shield, all whilst holding a handgun at the head of the Bank Manager. He walked them out of the Bank & entered a Datsun Sedan, directing the Manager to drive. The news media became aware of what was happening & remained a constant throughout the incident.

Over the ensuing hours, the vehicle was driven through the Eastern Suburbs & Manly with a convoy of at least 30 police vehicles following. The Datsun was stopped north of the Spit Bridge where it was approached by Detective Senior Constables Packer & Canellis. They stood side by side at the driver's side door in clear view of Atahan who had his weapon pointed at the head of the Bank Manager.

Whilst attempting to resolve the situation & without warning Atahan fired a single shot, striking Steve Canellis between the eyes. In defence of their partner & the hostages, both Packer & Nagle discharged their service weapons, bringing an end to the threat posed by Atahan. Their actions, in perilous conditions, saved the hostages & perhaps other police. Steve Canellis miraculously recovered from this life threatening attack.

Detective Senior Constable Steve Canellis was rightly awarded the 'Star of Courage' by the then NSW Police Commissioner, but inexplicably Steve Packer & John Nagle were not similarly recognised. Perhaps this decision was made as historically such awards were selectively given during incidents where lethal force was used. Sadly, Steve Canellis passed away in 2021. (RIP)

As we approach the 42nd anniversary of 'The Atahan Siege' this omission has finally been rectified. The award ceremony was held on 7 May 2026 during which Commissioner Mal Lanyon, APM said the outstanding bravery shown by former Detectives Packer & Nagle is a testament to their character & unwavering commitment to ensuring community safety. "These two officers showed extraordinary courage on the day while confronted with an armed offender, a hostage situation & an escalating threat to the public. Their actions without doubt saved lives & were selfless & unwavering in their pursuit to protect others in a moment of great danger. It was an honour to award them the Commissioners Commendation for Courage today & uphold them as an inspiring example of the very best in policing."

[S.A. Reeves](#)

Stephen Reeves, OAM.

RFPA EMAIL CONTACTS

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Tweed Gold Coast	tweedgcrfpa@retiredpolice.com.au
Water Police	waterpolicerfpa@retiredpolice.com.au
Wide Bay	widebayrfpa@retiredpolice.com.au

Retired & Former Police Association of NSW (Inc.)

RFPA Website

retiredpolice.com.au

RFPA Secretary

secretary@retiredpolice.com.au

RFPA Launches Statewide “Look Down – Step Up – No Ladders” Safety Campaign

A simple wristband with a powerful message for retired and former police

The Retired & Former Police Association (RFPA) has launched a new statewide safety initiative aimed at reducing preventable falls among retired and former police officers — a demographic statistically over-represented in ladder-related injuries and home-based falls.

At the centre of the campaign is a bright blue silicone wristband carrying three short, sharp reminders:

- **Look Down**
- **Step Up**
- **No Ladders**

The message is deliberately simple, but early trials across several branches show it works. Members report that the wristbands act as a constant visual cue during everyday tasks, prompting safer decisions and sparking conversations with family, friends, and fellow members.

RFPA representatives say the initiative aligns perfectly with the Association’s mission to support the well-being, independence, and quality of life of retired and former police. “We know that falls are one of the most common causes of injury among our members,” one branch leader noted. “If a wristband can prevent even one serious fall, it’s worth it.”

The wristbands will be supplied **free of charge** to any RFPA member who requests one. Distribution will occur through local branches and branch welfare officers. New members will be offered a wristband at their first branch meeting.

The campaign has already attracted interest from other community based organisations, with potential for broader awareness partnerships in the future.

The RFPA encourages all retired and former police to wear the wristbands proudly — not only as a safety reminder, but as a symbol of ongoing connection to the policing family.

Members can request wristbands through their local branch.



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.



BLUE LIGHT CARD™

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.

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

