Retired and Former Police Association of N.S.W. Inc.

(Established 1931)

Central Coast Branch

October, 2026.

Chairman: Geoff Talbot. Secretary: JohnMarheinePostaladdress: 37NorthcottAve, Watanobbi, NSW, 2259. Tel: 0400 724 768

Greetings to all members

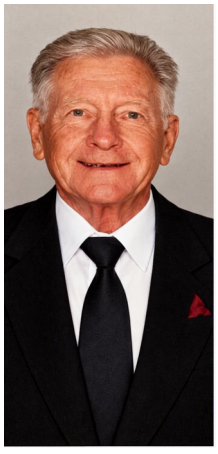
The world is in a state of upheaval in so many areas. We can only wonder what will be the eventual outcome. Will man completely destroy the planet or will this be done by Artificial Intelligence. It is indeed difficult to understand why, in this age of plenty, incredible technology and supposedly wonderful diplomacy, the good life as we knew it is now a thing of the past. One can only wonder why and wonder if solutions will ever be found. But life on the Central Coast has so many benefits, we are blessed in so many ways and we can only enjoy them while they last and hope that those who follow behind us will see better times, local and in other parts of the world.

Vale John Sydney George Clark

7 September 2026

It is with much sadness that we must report on the passing of one of the very distinguished Members of our Branch, John Clark, who had been our Branch Secretary for several years some time back. John left us on the 7th September, 2026, at 74 years of age, far too early and we know he will be sadly missed. His funeral was conducted at the Palmdale Gardens cemetery on the morning of Friday, 25th September, 2026.

In his youth, John was an extremely fit and active sportsman, particularly in the field of boxing, and one of his greatest achievements was a boxing contest with the world renowned Australian, Tony Mundine. The following photo shows John in his later years yet he still looks fit and very dignified – as we always knew him.



Our best wishes are with his family. We understand their loss. May he rest in peace.

October branch meeting

The Branch Meeting was held at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah, on Tuesday, 20th October, 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.

Attendance

The following Members and wives were in attendance:

Peter Caddy, Ernie and Bev Carmichael, Barry and Marge Clark, John Corbett, Peter and Anne Drinan, Bruce and Jan Gibson, Grant Harridge, Ray Hatcher, Russ Jackson, John and Anne Kent, Bryan Lowe, Brian McVicar, Noelene Nicholas, Jim Regan, John Roger, Phil Stubbs-Mills, Geoff Talbot, Paul Thomas, Jo ThistIeton, I.J. Toms, Wilma Walsh, Russ Whitcher.

Apologies were recorded.

Vale list

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

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the last Meeting, held in August, 2026, were read by Peter Caddy.

It was moved by Peter Drinan, seconded by Grant Harridge, that the minutes of the last Meeting be accepted.

Correspondence

Correspondence in: There were two items in this category:

1st. A letter from the Ourimbah RSL Club in answer to our application for the grant for the use of a room for the conduct of Meetings. The Club's letter confirmed the grant and the rooms are provided without cost. Normal charge for the use of a room is $150.00 for each occasion.

2nd A letter received from a Member, I.J. Toms, addressed to the Secretary, thanking Members for the acknowledgement of her 80 years and the Certificate which was presented to her at the last sausage sizzle in September, 2026. The letter was read to the Meeting by Peter Caddy A framed Certificate was presented to I.J. later in the Meeting and this is dealt with later in the Newsletter.

Correspondence out: Nil.

Treasurer's report

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

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

At this point of the Meeting Chairman Geoff informed Members of the decrease in funds provided by the Association, in the current year being reduced to $5.00 per Member from an initial $8.00 and reduced last year to $6.00. This results in reductions in benefits given to Members of this Branch. After some brief discussion Geoff moved a motion, seconded by Russ Whitcher, that the attendance charge at our Meetings should be increased to $5.00 and this was passed unanimously.

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, provided details of those Members who are not so well.

Barry said that Father Jim is not really well. Barry had been to see him in Gosford Hospital on the preceding Friday: Barry said that Father Jim was sitting up in bed, was looking better and was to go home on the following Monday. However, he has now been moved to the Brisbane Water Private Hospital, is having breathing difficulties and a heart problem.

Barry told the Meeting that Trevor Carroll has had further trouble with throat cancer, is now seeing an oncologist and is to have further treatment.

Barry said that Bill Connors is also unwell at present. He is having tests on his heart and he is suffering from vertigo.

Barry said that Neil Ashman is having walking difficulties. He is using a walker, he is not driving and he is finding great difficulty getting around.

Barry suggested that Members should call those Members who are unwell because they want to retain communication and it is helpful to receive a call when you are unable to attend Meetings and other gatherings.

Barry also told the Meeting that John Nicholas is currently in hospital having had a total knee replacement but now has a blood infection and will probably remain in hospital for some time. It has become necessary for the doctors to work out what treatment can be given to overcome the problem. Barry had spoken to John on the morning of the Meeting and John’s wife, Noelene, attended the Club that day.

Chairman Geoff commended Barry on his untiring work for the Branch. He said that Barry has been the Welfare Officer for a long time, having taken on that role after he stood down as Branch Chairman. Geoff said that Barry travels long distances to visit those Members who are not well and he asked if any Member living further north than Barry’s home at Wyoming might take on the duties of Assistant Welfare Officer in the more northern regions.

Social club and general business

Russ Whitcher reminded Members of the forthcoming pre-Christmas lunch to be held in the Canoe Room at the Royal Hotel, Wyong, on Wednesday, 25th November, 2026, commencing at 11.30 a.m. Russ said that he has booked for 30 to 40 attendees and he hopes to see everyone there who previously registered their intention of coming.

Russ said that, in looking ahead, it is intended that a Mixed Lunch will be held in August, 2027, possibly at the Blue Lunar restaurant in Wyoming, north of the Gosford township. Further information will be supplied at a later date.

General business

The first item of business under this heading involved the presentation, by Chairman Geoff, of framed Veteran's Certificates to those Members who have become – or are about to become – octogenarians. The presentations were made to the following Members:

I.J. Toms; Peter Drinan; Russ Whitcher; John Corbett.

Photos of these presentations are shown later in the Newsletter.

Wilma Walsh told the Meeting that she had recently worked on a stall as part of a project entitled "Rally for Life". Wilma said that her daughter-in-law is on the committee for this benefit group, she said that a total of about $150,000 was raised on the day and the stall on which she worked raised some $5,000.00.

Peter Drinan said that he had gone to hospital to see a haematologist at the cancer unit to determine whether there was any adverse progress of his leukaemia condition. He said he was told that blood tests had shown that nothing has changed in the last two years and he was told that the condition may not affect him for the rest of his life. Needless to say, Peter is very happy with this outcome.

Phil Stubbs-Mills said that he has recently been to Queensland to attend games conducted for Emergency Services. Phil said that he was unsuccessful in his participation.

Paul Thomas told the Meeting of his association with the Bendigo Bank. He said there are five branches on the Central Coast and representatives of the Bank can come to a Meeting, if this was desired, to provide advice on how the Bank could help Members with their banking needs. He said that Bendigo Bank is a franchise and all profits made by the Bank are given back to members. He said that if it is desired, a representative of the Bank could come to a Meeting and provide information about the Bank's operations.

Chairman Geoff told the Meeting that he intends to undertake, with others, a 5 km. walk in support of the organisation known as S.C.A.D.S., (Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissection), for people who suffer heart attacks for no reason. Geoff said that a few thousand people are going to undertake this walk which will start at the Skillion in the Terrigal region.

Geoff also spoke of his volunteer hospital work, dealing with palliative care, and he has now been doing this at Gosford Hospital for 15 years. He told Members that if they know of anyone in hospital to let him know because he is there in each week and can take in anything that is needed.

Peter Caddy reminded Members that he is a qualified Justice of the Peace and would be happy to attend to any matters where a J.P. is required.

The raffle was won by Geoff Talbot, (No. 15), and Geoff donated the prize back to the Branch's bank account.

The Meeting concluded at 11.55 a.m.

Veteran’s Certificate presentations

The following photos show the presentation of Veteran’s Certificates to those Members who have reached that commendable status.







Chairman Geoff is seen presenting Veteran’s Certificates to, left to right: I.J. Toms, Peter Drinan and Russ Whitcher.



Chairman Geoff presenting a Veteran’s Certificate to John Corbett.

Wall to Wall Ride for Remembrance

On Saturday, 12th September, 2026, a Member of the Central Coast Branch of the NSW Retired and Former Police Association, Jo Thistleton, and her husband, Mark, took part in the annual Wall to Wall Ride for Remembrance. They joined hundreds of riders travelling from Sydney to Canberra, where riders from across Australia came together at the National Police Memorial to remember Police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

The Wall to Wall for Remembrance is one of the major fundraising events supporting Police Legacy, helping to provide ongoing support to the families of fallen officers.

It was a great day of riding, remembrance and mateship and an opportunity to show continued support for the wider Police family.

The photo below shows the newly erected sign for the Wall to Wall Remembrance, unveilled at a small ceremony during a “pit stop” at the NSW Police Academy, at Gouburn, on the way to Canberra.



The newly erected Wall to Wall Ride for Remembrance sign at the NSW Police Academy, Goulburn.



The above photo depicts the St Michael’s sign at the NSW Police Academy.

The ride to the Police Memorial

The following photos depict segments of the Ride for Remembrance on the way from EPIC Park to the Police Memorial in Canberra.



Wall to Wall Ride for Remembrance — Canberra.



Wall to Wall Ride for Remembrance — Canberra.

Remembrance and the Police family



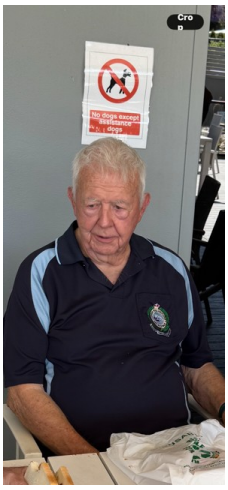
The above is a photo of the Police Memorial in Canberra.



And here's a family group of riders. Left to right: Jo, Mark, Jo's aunt, Jo's cousin and Jo's cousin's wife. All ready to rage on their motor bikes. Oh, what a day this really was!!

The sausage sizzle

On a glorious Spring day, Tuesday, 15th September, 2026, a sizable group of old mates gathered at the Valley Tavern, at Niagara Park, to celebrate yet another great outing, enhanced by the incredible food provided by Head Chef, Brian McVicar and his loyal band of assistants. Not hard to understand why there are no left-overs! But it's not only the food, it's the old mateship and the many tales which are exchanged across the table. And how nice it was to see the girls there: I.J. looking great as always in red and white and Jo with her husband, Mark, in their leather jackets.(Their bikes parked outside – for later photos!) As said on numerous occasions: if you missed it – serves you right!!! See ya next time.



And there is Head Chef, Brian, contemplating the preparation of the day's critical outcome. Fortunately, it all went to plan and recorded another undisputed success.



Here Brian is seen presenting IJ. Toms with her recognition of maturity. And her response was of the standard we have come to expect of her.

Good food and great companionship

And following on are the rest of them. Those who attended and enjoyed the great day it was, great food, great companionship and many tall tales. And we all look forward to the next one.



At the Valley Tavern sausage sizzle — 15 September 2026.



At the Valley Tavern sausage sizzle — 15 September 2026.



At the Valley Tavern sausage sizzle — 15 September 2026.

More from the sausage sizzle





Members enjoying the day at the Valley Tavern.



And there's poor old Peter, caught in the middle of a scrumptious bite.



And here's a group outside. Left to right: I.J., some unidentified teenager, Jo and Mark Thistleton.

Outside with Jo and Mark



On the left: Jo. On the right: Mark. The unidentified teenager in the centre.



And here they all are again. Where did that teenager get the leather jacket from??!!



And here he's trying to commandeer Jo's bike!! Surely you'd have to call the Police – wouldn't you?

The Ladies Coffee Club

The flowers are dazzling, the birds are chirping – at their highest level when they're getting into the bottle brush trees, but Spring brings out the best in everyone, including the ladies in their Spring finery. How wonderful to see them, to acknowledge the great part they have played in our lives and, of course, the guidance and supervision they have given us to enable us to retain our dignity and abilities. Where would we be without them – and how dull life would be. We must be grateful for their guidance – when we have misplaced our glasses or forgotten to hang out the washing – or even to have forgotten the grocery items for which we were given strict instructions. Yes, there's never a dull moment, and sometimes we are even more dull than usual.

National Police Remembrance Day

National Police Remembrance Day was celebrated at the Anglican Church at Wyong, the service being conducted by the Reverend Aleks Pinter and it was attended by a large group of retired Police and their wives, together with numerous Police widows. During the service tributes were read by Irene Juergens and Geoff Talbot on behalf of the Central Coast Branch of the RFPA. I.J.'s tribute was entitled "For Those who Give Comfort". Geoff's tribute was entitled "For Retired Officers". Following the service, the hosts, Tuggerah Lakes Police District, provided food and refreshments and these were greatly appreciated by those in attendance as they mixed with old colleagues and recalled events from bygone days.

A sad feature of National Police Remembrance Day this year was acknowledging the tragic death of a young Policewoman killed in a fatal motor vehicle accident in the Redfern region of Sydney only days before. Constable Mia Lay was only 20 years of age and had only 16 months service at the time of the accident whilst a passenger in a speeding patrol car driven by a work colleague. How tragic this event was for her family, seeing their daughter, sibling, etc., taken from them when she appeared to have such a bright future. May she rest in peace and be long remembered.

The website

Members are advised that they should check the Central Coast web site from time to time to see what messages may be displayed. And there have been changes in the way the site is accessed. The connection may be made as follows:

www.retiredpolice.com.au

Then click on "Member Hub" seen in the centre of the screen. Then click on "Branches" and then on "NSW North". But move your mouse a little further left and you will see the words "Central Coast". Click on that heading and the Central Coast web site will be reached. Apart from messages advising of up-coming events, the latest Newsletters can also be seen on the site.

And don't forget……..check details of Members Discounts and Benefits Scheme as advertised on page 3 of the RFPA Gazette.

The calendar

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

25th November, 2026. Christmas lunch, in the Canoe Room at the Royal Hotel, Wyong, with live entertainment included.

15th December, 2026. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club , Ourimbah. Guest speaker, David Drew – Member Benefits and Discounts Scheme.

19th January, 2027. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Niagara Park.

16th February, 2027. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.

16th March, 2027. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Niagara Park.

And what does the future hold

We are approaching the end of another year, the Melbourne Cup is only days away, the weather is rapidly becoming warmer and Christmas sales are at their height in most of the shops. Soon we'll be making New Year's resolutions. But while we are enjoying life on the Central Coast numerous other areas of the world are being invaded daily, pounded by unthinkable weapons and deprived of even basic rights. Daily television news is horrifying. The Central Coast is a beautiful part of the world, it has a charm all its own and a community always ready to assist those in need. So we need to make the most of every day, enjoy what we have while it is there – and we are capable of enjoying it. Let us hope that the New Year brings humanity closer to world peace and the restoration of dignity and the basics of life that have been taken so forcefully in other parts of the world.

With best wishes to everyone.

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