



The R.F.P.A. GAZETTE

(Established 1931)
Registered office
PO Box 201
HAWKS NEST 2324
www.retiredpolice.com.au

“RFPANSW PATRON – COMMISSIONER KAREN WEBB APM”

A COLOURFUL GROUP FROM OUR HORNSBY (NORTHERN SUBURBS) BRANCH



Throughout the year our branches all over the State organise meetings, guest speakers, raffles, social outings, welfare visits and just plain old Coffee Catch Ups - all with a common goal – to bring together those former mates and colleagues from the Police Family in an environment which shares “common history”, camaraderie, friendship and welfare. We salute not just the Hornsby Group shown here on the cover, but ALL branches doing the same for the well-being of the Police Family (serving and retired). Well done all branches

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- Committee Report
- Branch Reports
- Notice Board
- The Way We Were
- Articles of Interest
- New Members Welcomed
- Reunions
- Vale





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CONTENTS

2	Police Bank Message	4	Editor's Report	5	Letters to the Editor	17	Notice Board	19	Vale
3	President's Report	4	Welfare Report	5	Articles of Interest	17	Reunions	20	Committee of Management & Branch Contacts
3	Secretary's Report	4	New Members Welcomed	7	Branch Reports	18	The Way We Were		

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



April 15th - along with **Ian Lovell** I travelled to Coffs Harbour to attend the meeting of that Branch and BBQ. This was in keeping with our undertaking to visit as many Branches as we can to meet members face to face and address any issues. Whilst there the Branch Chairman **Garry Heskett** was presented with a plaque in appreciation of his significant voluntary service to the RFPA.

April 19th - By invitation from the Commissioner I attended the Sydney Police Centre for the

Dedication Ceremony of the Police Wall of Remembrance where I laid a wreath.

April 20th - I went to the ANZAC Remembrance Ceremony at the Kokoda Track Memorial Park, Concord West. This service was extremely well attended and among the attendees were Consular Delegates from a number of Countries, Politicians from our three levels of Government, the Commissioner and other Senior Police. Also attending were four WW11 veterans aged 99, 100, 101 & 104. It was a most moving service.

May 15th - with **Ian Lovell**, **George Weissel** and **Ian Moore** I travelled to Tamworth to attend the **Bob Drew** Benefit. See Articles of Interest elsewhere in this issue.

May 21st - May by invitation of the Police Association I attended their Bi-Annual Conference at the Novotel Hotel, Wollongong. I caught up with **Supt. Donna McCarthy APM** from Police Legacy who was at this event. Their State President **Kevin Morton** spoke strongly regarding Police being tasked with the roles of other organisations which greatly impacted on their core role. The Premier and the Commissioner in their presentations addressed some of these issues especially domestic violence which takes up 60% of Police time. Other issues mentioned were Bail Laws and Knife crime. The Commissioner spoke strongly on the time being spent on roles that are not a Police function and having to stop doing work that does not belong in the Police space. She indicated that we need to get back to real Police work just like the Peelers of old.



Donna McCarthy APM and Paul Wynne



PA President Kevin Morton and RFPA President Paul Wynne

June 7th - the ESPM Committee met at Matrville and the planning for the Memorial Service for the 6 September is underway.

June 24th - I again attended the Goulburn Police Academy for the Attestation Parade of Police Class 362 which consisted of 169 personnel. At this Attestation Parade **Detective Amy Scott** was presented with the Commissioner's Valour Award for her courage and dedication to duty at the Bondi Junction incident.

Our AGM is set down for 11am Monday 29 July at Club York, 95 York Street, Sydney and as usual Members are invited to attend.

God Bless,

Paul Wynne JP

E: president@retiredpolice.com.au



SECRETARY'S REPORT

I travelled to Sawtell on 17 June for the Coffs Harbour Branch AGM. It was well attended and some new officials have been elected to help **Garry HESKETT** with the workload. Welcome to the Branch to **Chris HANCOCK, John HARTLEY** and **Gary COMMINS**. The Sawtell RSL is welcoming of the RFPA and is a great venue with good meeting facilities,

Membership of the RFPA stands at 3466 active Members. Of those, around 1072 are **not members of a Branch**. This has a significant negative effect on our ability to pursue Welfare issues, despite our best efforts to do so. Branches are there to support individuals in local areas, where visits and assistance can be provided by volunteer colleagues, and in fact is provided in volumes. Our State Welfare Officer **Ian MOORE** has the knack of seeking out those in difficulty all over the State, (be they Members or not) and visiting them when he can. He finds old Cadets and colleagues who are well known to many and keeps in touch. His job is difficult and made more so when we don't have the information we already have, and use, to keep in touch with **RFPA Members**. Branch Welfare Officers are also unaware in some cases of former colleagues and family who live locally, are RFPA Members, but are **not attached** to their Branch. If you are an Unattached Member, or think we could cover any area by establishing or re-establishing a Branch please call me or other CoM Members using the contacts listed in this edition. Individual Members are encouraged to make a phone call and the process of joining a Branch takes about 30 seconds. **Branch meeting attendance is always optional.**

Recently we have been able to grow the Peel, Coffs Harbour and Manning Great Lakes membership by surveying local populations of Unattached Members.

Wide Bay Branch has had reduced activity over the past twelve months, due to distances and effort required of the long-serving office bearers. **Terry MURPHY** (contacts listed this edition) would be pleased to hear from any Member who lives in the vicinity of Hervey Bay and surrounds who would enjoy the friendship offered by their small group on occasional planned outings. We are aware of Unattached Members who live somewhere near Hervey Bay, and we're working on the survey there.

It is particularly distressing to note that the passing of many Unattached Members goes unreported for some time. The lack of local connection for some bereaved families where a deceased former Member is not connected to a Branch is unfortunate, but in many cases leads to memorials, funerals and the kindness often able to be displayed by former colleagues to the families of the deceased not being available to them. Likewise those who were unaware feel that they should have known, and rightly so. For these reasons, we publish our Vale List on the website [retiredpolice.com.au] and include all former colleagues and those whose passing ought to be known to us, irrespective of Membership of the RFPA. **Joining the Local Branch may avoid much of this distress.**

Our AGM is to be held at Club York, 95 York St SYDNEY at 11am on Monday 29 July 2024. Notices, nominations for office forms and proxy voting forms are on the website. The Agenda and Minutes will shortly be posted on the website. Those Members/Associates whose subscriptions are up to date on the last opportunity for the Secretary to check same (5pm Friday 26 July 2024 when our bank closes for business) will be eligible for our Membership Draw Prize, which consists of a week's free accommodation for two adults with airport transfers and car hire for the week at The Reef Retreat, Palm Cove in far North Queensland. Our sponsors, **Jim THOMPSON and Joanne ROBINSON** have donated for the third time, and we are most grateful. Testimonials and photos from our previous winners are available on our website and the RFPA Facebook pages. Travel to and from Cairns Airport is at personal expense from your local airport.

Good Luck!

Yours in Friendship,

Ian Lovell, APM

E: Secretary@retiredpolice.com.au

Contact the Secretary with any changes to address, phone or email.



EDITOR'S REPORT

We are grateful for the number of photos being sent to the Editorial team. As the old saying goes... a picture tells a thousand words. As you can appreciate the 20 page Gazette cannot include ALL photos so choices have to be made. The group photos are good value particularly when members are **facing the camera and names are included.**

The closing date for the Spring Gazette is 7 September 2024.

God Bless,

Paul Wynne & Sandy Benson

E: Editor@retiredpolice.com.au



WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT

Current NSW Health Dept Warnings

Sepsis is when your body has an extreme response to an infection. **It is a life-threatening condition** and you need immediate medical attention. It can cause death or permanent damage to your body without treatment. Sepsis always starts with an infection. Infections which may cause sepsis can be anywhere in the body, such as chest, abdominal (for example after kidney or gall stones) and urinary infections.

Symptoms

- feeling very sick (the worst you have ever felt) or getting very sick, very quickly
- difficulty breathing or breathing very quickly
- confusion
- not needing to urinate all day
- a new concerning rash or rash that does not fade when you roll a glass over it
- blue, grey, pale or blotchy skin.

Look out for each other and let me know if there is anyone who would like a call or visit.

Ian Moore

E: welfare@retiredpolice.com.au

RFPA BRANDED ITEMS FOR SALE

Item	Contact	Cost
Men's Ties	State Secretary	\$25 inc p&h
Ladies Scarves	State Secretary	\$25 inc p&h
Pocket Badge Holder	State Secretary	\$9 inc p&h
Coffin Sashes	State Secretary	\$70 plus**
Get Well or Sympathy Cards Min 10	Macarthur Branch	\$30 inc p&h

** sash will have branch name on it, but to insert individual deceased names talk to Ian Lovell who can run through the procedure.

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

SURNAME	CHRISTIAN NAME	BRANCH
AVERY	SUZANNE	SYDNEY
EVANS	JAN	MANNING GREAT LAKES
EYLES	WILLIAM DREW	22744 NORTHERN BEACHES
GARLAND	JEFF	30763 CENTRAL COAST
GOODALL	BRIAN	12991 PEEL
HOGAN	RICHARD	35643 HUNTER REGION
LAUGHTON	HOWARD JOHN	11386 HUNTER REGION
LONG BM VA	TONY	21197 CENTRAL COAST
LOWDEN	DAVID	20748 NORTHERN SUBURBS
OUTZEN	IAN JOHN	17797 GOLD COAST
RULE	GRAHAM PATRICK	MACARTHUR
SAIT	MURRAY FRANK	24866 HUNTER REGION
SCOTT	SUE-ELLEN MARY	31869 DUBBO DISTRICT
SICARD	KERRIE ROSE	20722 PARRAMATTA-THE HILLS
SMITH	GREG	14555 MACARTHUR
TURNER	TRACEY MERRYN	19367 SOUTH COAST
WELSH	DENISE	PEEL
WHARTON	MICHAEL PETER	22205 ILLAWARRA
YOUNG	PAULINE MARGARET	PEEL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MYSTERY EQUIPMENT

We have a mystery to solve and I'm hoping that you or one of your colleagues can help. We have a photo of some equipment which we think was taken here at the Academy but we have absolutely no idea what it is or what the equipment was used for.



Sandra Hall
Librarian Goulburn Academy

Ed: Note Can any member identify what this is, what it was used for and apart from the Late John Hamer, who are the other persons in the photo. This information will be passed onto the Goulburn Academy Library as part of their history.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

BOB DREW FUNDRAISER TAMWORTH 17TH MAY 2024



Bob and Gael Drew Tamworth Benefit

The Benefit recently held for **Bob DREW** after his catastrophic injury near his home in March 2023 demonstrates for all the value in which we hold our former workmates. Many of us knew **Bob** personally and many knew him by reputation as an honest, hardworking country detective since the early 1970's.

After his proud career in the Cops was over, he continued to do the voluntary things he had already been doing alongside police work. **Bob** was a mounted steward for the Royal Agricultural Society, wearing the famed 'green coat' for around 40 years. He performed a similar role for maybe a longer period as a mounted steward at country race track, especially his local Tamworth. So I suppose it was no surprise that hundreds of people from all walks of life, but centred around the police and equine interests, took part in Bob's Benefit. **Kevin ANDERSON**, Tamworth MP, led the benefit. See Articles of Interest for further detail.

AS MANY OF OUR RFPA PEOPLE BOUGHT TICKETS ON LINE WE HAVE LISTED THE WINNERS BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

Reef Retreat Palm Cove Holiday Package

Prize Info
(RRP: \$4,500)
Ticket
4482
Winner
Olivia Bruce

New England Gorge Country Excitement Package

Prize Info
(RRP: \$1,750)
Ticket
2954
Winner
Kyle Biffin

Overseer Saddlery Outback Swag

Prize Info
(RRP: \$420)
Ticket
909
Winner
John Walkowiak

Framed Gill Bros Campdraft Picture

Prize Info
(RRP: \$400)
Ticket
719
Winner
Chris Bruce

Pearl Necklace, Bracelet and Earrings Set

Prize Info
(RRP: \$250)
Ticket
5241
Winner
Brett Greentree

Authentic Didgeridoo

Prize Info
(RRP: \$250)
Ticket
6066
Winner
Leon Cummins

\$200 Visa Gift Card

Prize Info
(RRP: \$200)
Ticket
3200
Winner
Anthony Ehsman

\$200 Visa Gift Card

Prize Info
(RRP: \$200)
Ticket
429
Winner
GUY GUIANA

Horse Rug

Prize Info
(RRP: \$150)
Ticket
3524
Winner
Wayne Biffin

Caterpillar Vest

Prize Info
(RRP: \$150)
Ticket
5884
Winner
Dave Thomas

Caterpillar Camouflage Jacket

Prize Info
(RRP: \$150)
Ticket
923
Winner
John Walkowiak

Caterpillar Hooded Jacket

Prize Info
(RRP: \$150)
Ticket
1265
Winner
Janet Doust

Caterpillar Hooded Jacket

Prize Info
(RRP: \$150)
Ticket
1723
Winner
Fred Trench

The event saw guest speakers **Russell Oxford, former Police Commissioner Mick Fuller** and top radio morning presenter for 2GB, **Ben Fordham**. The Police family and the Country community pulled together so well. At the time of writing they raised over \$110,000 to help with Bob's medical care. As we all found out the hard way, NDIS does not touch you if you are over 65 years of age!! Even though Bob gave so much to the community in Policing and Equine duties! Yet we hear that some of our prisoners can access NDIS – where is the common sense?

A spirited live auction, together with a silent auction and on-line raffle combined with other support funding, raised an amount of money we all hope will help **Bob and Gael** to rearrange their lifestyle to allow for a comfortable life post-treatment. Gael's unwavering support for **Bob** has been a feature of his rehabilitation, and no doubt was instrumental in keeping his spirit as it remarkably is now. Great emotion was clear when Bob's many encounters with friends occurred. Watching a beer disappearing through a straw could not be any more significant.

None of this would have been drawn together in helping Bob without the core group of former workmates, all RFFA Members. Phil O'REILLY, Wayne BIFFIN, Steve BRADSHAW from Peel Branch and Matt LYNCH and Grieg STEIR from New England Branch, assisted by Denise GODDEN (still serving) all worked to make the benefit the event that it was. Thank you to all who came along and supported this worthy cause.

Ian Lovell APM

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UPTODATE?

YOU TOO COULD WIN A WEEK'S HOLIDAY PACKAGE AT THE REEF RETREAT RESORT IN PALM COVE QLD

Those Members/Associates whose subscriptions are up to date on the last opportunity for the Secretary to check same (5pm Friday 26 July 2024 when our bank closes for business) will be eligible for our Membership Draw Prize, which consists of a week's free accommodation for two adults with airport transfers and car hire for the week at The Reef Retreat, Palm Cove in far North Queensland.



Lynne Reeves andat the Reef Resort Qld after winning the prize at the 2023 RFFA membership draw

Last year's RFFA member draw for a week in Reef Retreat in Qld was won by **Lynne Reeves** and she took a friend **Tracey Pearce** with her. A feel-good story. Lynne had booked to go to Qld but covid got in the way. The airline honoured her ticket purchase but the accommodation deposit was lost. Then at the RFFA draw at the 2023 AGM **Lynne** won the trip to Reef Resort. It was a bit tricky finding her because she had moved house and RFFA records had her at the old address. But all that Police Training came to the fore and our President took a google snap of the house address, zoomed in on the selling agent's details and contacted them. Of course everyone thought it was a scam until bona fides were confirmed and Lynne was over the moon. All members who are UpToDate with their membership fees at the AGM 2024 have a chance to win this great prize this year.

RODNEY O'REGAN OAM VA

On the 25 May 2024 **Rodney O'Regan OAM VA** was appointed as joint Patron along with **Dr Honor Auchinleck (granddaughter of General Sir Harry Chauvel GCMG, KCB)** of the Australian Light Horse Association Ltd.



Rodney O'Regan OAM VA, a member of the Manning Great Lakes Branch

Rodney has been and continues to be a valued, highly respected, and long-standing member of the ALHA including serving on the Board as Director and Vice President. Rodney's personality, knowledge and camaraderie have seen him bring the Association's existence and we look forward to having his presence onto a worldwide audience with his many contacts in all areas.

INSPECTOR GWENDOLINE (GWEN) ELIZABETH MARTIN (RET'D) VALE 6TH JULY 1930-1ST MARCH 2024

By Supt **Beth Docksey APM OAM (Stirton) (Retired)** – Former PANSW Executive Member



A young Gwen Martin

Gwen was a trailblazing policewoman who joined the New South Wales Police Force in 1960 and was sworn in as a Special Constable. She was one of three women in a class of 90. From 1960-1962, Gwen worked at the Traffic Branch in School Lecturing. **Gwen** was noted as being feisty, funny, and assertive. This was shown by her reaction to working in this Section. "When I applied to join the police force, I thought I was going to be a police officer. Nobody told me I was going to be a schoolteacher!"

From 1963-1964, she worked at the Women Police Office Criminal Investigation Branch. **Gwen** was re-sworn as a Constable of Police in 1965, which enabled her to contribute to the Police Superannuation Fund.

In 1970 **Gwen** was one of three women police to obtain their Diploma in Criminology from Sydney University. When **Gwen** was working in the Women Police Office Criminal Investigation Branch in 1971, she was selected to undertake the Detectives Training Course with Del Fricker. They were the first female officers to do the same training as the men and to be designated to perform General Detective Duties. **Gwen** finished fourth in the class.

The biggest challenge **Gwen** faced during her career was convincing male boss's women were capable of front-line policing. Overall, **Gwen** enjoyed her policing experience, and its challenges, especially when she could prove the doubters wrong.

Gwen and other policewomen after lobbying in 1971 with initial rejection, a Women's Branch was established within the NSW Police Association in 1973. Following on 22nd March 1974 **Gwen Martin** was awarded the WD & HO Wills Trophy for 'Most Outstanding Policewoman in 1973. On 18th June 1975 Gwen was awarded the **Peter Mitchell Trophy** for the highest marks in the Sergeants 3rd Class promotional exam.

1975 was designated International Women's Year and at the NSW Police Association Conference President **Merv Taylor** took up the cause for women to be integrated completely into the NSW Police.



Gwen Martin

Gwen spoke in support of integrating the seniority lists and pointed out that in many other occupations men and women worked together; "Men here say they couldn't take orders from a woman. The idea is to have the best person for the job, whether they are male or female. I'd say that 99 per cent of you already take orders from women - from your wives." **Gwen** said, with a smile, I am sure. It wasn't until 1978 that women were fully integrated into the same seniority list in NSW Police.

Gwen was seconded to the NSW Ombudsman's Officer from 1984-1986. She attained the rank of Inspector at the Police Internal Affairs Branch remaining there until her retirement in 1990 having served 30 years.

Beth

BRANCH REPORTS

BRISBANE AND NORTHERN SUBURBS

Winter is here again all be it and Queensland winter and I am pleased to say that our branch is going well, getting good numbers at our lunches and meetings, with our member base continuing to grow slowly but in the current climate I still think that is a big positive and a credit to our dedicated committee and great group of members.

I encourage members to continue to do what they can themselves to attract new members so that we can continue to grow as a branch and in that regard a full list of who can be members is on the RFPA membership form which is on the NSW RFPA Website. However, I would like to highlight a little-known fact is that potential RFPA members do not necessarily have to be former police or a partner of same, so long as they have a verifiable link to any Police Force or any RFPA Branch then they can join as an associate member.

In that regard I would like to thank our Brisbane and Northern Suburbs RFPA members **James & Joanne Thompson & Robinson** Ph: 0740391744 sales@reeftreat.com.au who again this year generously donated a holiday for 2 for NSW RFPA Annual Draw at their Resort in Palm Cove. All 2024/5 Financial RFPA members had been entered into this draw without any cost and I hope that members will support Jim and Joanne by booking a holiday at their resort at some stage and be sure to mention that you are a RFPA Member.

Our Midweek Tuesday lunch on the 9th April at Moreton Bay Boat Club, Lynell and I were unfortunately unable to attend but from all reports **Ken Fogarty, Sally Matheson, Felicity & Michael White, Gerald Fiddis, Dale Martino, Merv & Carol Melling, David and Leonie Keith, Pieter & Penny Strik, Jeff & Jan Watt, Anne & Chris Long, Grant Cook, Ross Konowalenko** all had a great time.



Saturday the 4th May meeting and lunch was attended by a great group with numbers down with some apologies due to family commitments and this being long weekend.

Present were **Lynell and Steve Turner, Kerry Beggs, Ian and Di Todd, Marilyn and Gerald Fiddis, Bob Leembruggen, Ian and Shirely Whitehall, Sally Matheson and Graham Rutter.**



Chairman and Secretary
Regards

Steve Turner

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CENTRAL COAST

What a wonderful autumn it has been and it is so fortunate that, in this part of the planet, we are free to enjoy it and to be near family and loved ones. It is so sad that this is not possible in so many other parts of the world and so, we must make the most of it, keep those dearest to us close and make the most of every waking minute, keeping fit and active and doing our best to remain mentally alert. The time will come soon enough when we have to rethink our boundaries and the extent of our talents.

How sad it was to see our much endeared **Wilma Walsh** lose her son at such an early age in April 2024.

The Branch Meeting was held at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah, on Tuesday, 18th June, 2024, commencing at 11 a.m., chaired by Chairman **Geoff Talbot**. Attending were **Neil Ashman, Father Jim Boland and Carmen, Geoff Bown, Ernie and Bev Carmichael, Barry and Marj Clark, John and Joan Corbett, Neil Dick, Peter and Anne Drinan, Bruce Gibson, Ray Hatcher, Keith Hockley, Bede Irvine, John Marheine, John and Noelene Nicholas, John Roger, Geoff Talbot, I.J. Toms, Russ Whitcher, Brian Zimmerli**.

On the welfare front the following members are having some difficulties, but slowly on the mend - **Bill Ide, Trevor Carroll Ray Hatcher, Father Jim and Peter Caddy**.

The Chairman, **Geoff**, welcomed a new Member, **John Corbett**, who was invited to provide some details of his Police background. John told the Meeting that he was part of Class No. 104, having joined in August, 1965, he performed service with the State Traffic Patrol but he left the Force and eventually went into service with the State Government Ministerial staff, later leaving to conduct his own business.

Chairman **Geoff** said that he and **Bruce Gibson** had attended a medal presentation at Adamstown a couple of weeks earlier, having attended as guests of the local officer, **Superintendent Jobson**.



The Annual General Meeting was conducted immediately after the General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club on Tuesday, 18th June, 2024. The Meeting commenced at 11.43 a.m. and **Barry Clark** occupied the chair to conduct the Meeting.

Following nominations, acceptance and seconds, it transpired that **all current positions remained unchanged** following the AGM. The Social Committee is to consist of **Peter Caddy and Russ Whitcher**.

The Chairman, **Geoff**, wished particularly to thank the Secretary and Treasurer for their work in the last 12 months and we look forward to the same degree of co-operation in the coming year.

Social Sausage Sizzle - On Tuesday, 21st May, 2024, a happy group gathered at the Valley Tavern, at Narara, for the third sausage sizzle of the year and, on a beautiful autumn day at the Tavern, how could we not have a great time when those gallant troops, so ably trained by our totally dedicated head chef, Brian, produced such incredible food and served it with such smiling countenances.

We invite any members who may be in the area to join us at our general meetings. Just contact the Secretary for details.

Our general meetings are held at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah, starting at 11 a.m. . We look forward to seeing anyone who would like to attend.

With best wishes to everyone

John E. (Ernie) Carmichael

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CENTRAL TABLELANDS

We look forward to your report and photos for our next issue

COFFS HARBOUR

Our last get-together was Tuesday 16th April at the Boambee Reserve for a BBQ. We were honoured to have the NSW RFPA President **Paul Wynne** joined by the State RFPA Sub-Editor and 1st Lady **Sandy Benson** together with our State Secretary **Ian Lovell** APM present at the BBQ.



Branch meeting at Boambee Reserve

Sandy helped **Natalie** on the BBQ and as usual **Barbara Gleave** jumped on board and helped Nat set up the tables. Thank you to all our wonderful women for your help, whilst our men gathered and spoke about the weather.

A number of Veterans Certificates were given to The branch Chairman for those not present.



Greg Seal being presented with his OBE



Robert LOWE being presented his OBE



Unbeknown to me I was shocked to be presented with a plaque by the State Committee of Management recognizing my voluntary service to our RFPA Branch. I was embarrassed but honoured to be recognized. Thank you for this recognition.

For the future, we have dismissed all official Meetings off the calendar, and **going totally social** apart from an AGM. The main purpose of our RFPA is to inspire camaraderie.

Our AGM was conducted on 18th June and again the State Secretary **Ian Lovell** was there and addressed the members. The outgoing Treasurer further spoke on behalf of himself and his lovely wife **Barb** who operated and served us under the cloak and dagger shadow of a wonderful, loving supportive wife, but was in fact the Assistant Treasurer. He thanked everyone for their support whilst they served in their elected roles of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, and further stated if they were younger, they would continue. However, the time had come to step down, and transfer the mantle on.

The President thanked all Executive and Committee members for their voluntary service throughout the year, before standing down so that the election of new branch Committee Members could be carried out.

Ian Lovell took over the chair for the election process with the following results

ELECTION OF BRANCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2024/5

Chairman/Secretary **Garry Heskett**
Treasurer **John Hartley**
Social Organiser **Natalie Salter**
Welfare **Tony Brown, Hedley Gleave, Garry Heskett**
Newsletter **John Hartley**
Raffles **Judy & Murray Smith**

Just prior to closing the AGM, the Chairman invited former Hon. Treasurer **Hedley Gleave** and Assistant Treasurer **Barbara Gleave** to the front, where he presented both former executive members an Appreciation Certificate for their long engagement and voluntary service to the Coffs Harbour RFPA. After applause all round from those members present, The Chairman closed the AGM at 12pm, whereupon all members present, then enjoyed a lovely lunch from the Club Bistro.

Cheers

Garry Heskett

E: coffsharbourrfa@retiredpolice.com.au

DUBBO

We look forward to your report and photos for our next issue

GOLD COAST

Our February meeting was a normal bi-monthly meeting with the following members present: **Garry WILLIAMS, Jim MATHEWS, Terry PERKINS, Bruce & Dora THOMSON, , Jim NOBLE and wife, Jim & Olive CAVANAUGH, Ron GRAHAM , Gary MATTHEWS, Garry WILLIAMS, John BEACHAM, Bob GIBSON, Les ZAHN, Stephen HUBBARD, Geoff CHESTER, John COOKE, Noreen MCMURRAY, Russell ROBERTSON** with apologies from **John SEAWARD, Mahendra BLACKMAN, Col VELMIN, Madeline QUINN, Jeff FOWLER. Garry JARDINE, Wayne STARLING, Garry HUGHES, Tim TARLINGTON, Jim LUTHERBURROW, Roger RUMBEL, John & Joanne WHEATLEY, Garry HAZEL and Bob GODDEN.**

Welcome to 2024 and our first meeting of the year:

Our meeting was chaired by our Deputy, **Gary MATTHEWS** in the absence of our Chairman **Garry JARDINE**, who is doing a **Willie Nelson** "On the road again". And what a great job Gary did running the meeting.



Interludes of personal notes intertwining with news and updates concerning the business of our Branch. Personal memories of those who were mentioned in the Vale list were forthcoming both from the floor and the acting Chairman was at his best recanting some of those stories which made for interesting information.



A warm welcome was made to our visitor **Russell ROBERTSON**, President for past 10 years of the Queensland Retired Police, Gold Coast Branch, which also meets at our same venue and alternating with a meeting at Southport RSL. Russell spoke of his service in Qld Police, retiring as an Inspector at Ipswich and retiring to new digs at Bilambil Heights. After retirement he did a stint in New Zealand with the Earthquake Commission. He noted differences between his and our branch but at the forefront is Camaraderie and Welfare. Thank you Russell for your time and interesting talk.

Secretary **John BEACHAM** has forwarded an interesting article concerning an activity called "Park Run". John has been a member for past 2 ½ years at local venue at Varsity Lakes. It is basically a 5km run/walk course around local areas all over Australia and overseas.

John recently did one in Christchurch, New Zealand and two locations in Poland. A great activity, fun way to see other places, just follow the crowd. No urgency, John likes just to finish, age seems no barrier as they have a post heart valve surgery 84 year old doing the run. After registering you can do the run anywhere the activity is happening.



John BEACHAM doing his "Park Run" at Krakow, Poland

In April we welcomed the following to our branch meeting: **Garry MATTHEWS, Les ZAHN, Jim MATHEWS, John COOKE, Bruce & Dora THOMSON, Greg GREEN, Garry JARDINE, Ron GRAHAM, Graham BISHOP, Garry WILLIAMS, Jim & Olive CAVANAUGH, Stephen HUBBARD.**

WELFARE

Bruce Thomson reported that **Bob GODDEN** has finally moved into his preferred residential care at Eleonora and doing well. **Col VELMIN** is recovering well from back surgery and **Jeff FOWLER** is undergoing treatment for cancer.

Bruce THOMSON stated that 3 couples from our Branch had recently attended the Police Friendship Week at Forster/Tuncurry and had a wonderful time, catching up with friends, making new friends, social activity and is highly recommended for anyone to attend.

John COOKE spoke to the meeting about his service and secondment to the Woodward Royal Commission, and the investigations into money laundering by the Nugan Hand Bank. A powerful insight and interesting presentation. Thank you John.

A well-attended lunch was held at the new Kirra Beach Hotel on Tuesday 14th May. Lovely surroundings, varied menu and drinks certainly enhanced the offerings of this new hotel. Just a couple of photos that share the moment.

Bruce Thomson

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HORNSBY/NORTHERN SUBURBS

Our May gathering was held at Berowra Waters where everyone enjoyed a light lunch and shared many memories. Shown on the front cover are our members standing left to right, **Greg Bertoldo, John & Elaine Schell, Joyce & Dick Smith, Trudi Cole, Alan Doak, Bill Shute, John Graham, Bill Leadbeatter** and, sitting left to right, **Greg Muir, Ross Beattie, Evelyn Doak, Verity Greenwood-Graham, Warren Cole, Bruce Williams**. Missing from the photo is **Bill Johnson**.



Trudi & Warren Cole, Alan Pollock, Clr McIntosh, Bill Shute, John Schell, Alan Greenland, and standing at the rear, Verity Greenwood and Glenn Wootton-Wilson.

We also had two new Veteran Members inducted into the Hall of Fame, being **John Graham** (4 May) and an old workmate, **Les Langburne** (5 May). Congratulations to them both.

Our June meeting was well attended, with guest speakers **Glen Wootton-Wilson** from Westfield, and Clr **Janelle McIntosh**, from Hornsby Shire Council. Everyone was amazed at the problems associated with managing a large shopping complex, particularly in relation to vulnerable persons, crime and self-harm incidents. Similarly it was an eye opener to hear the background behind contentious issues within the Hornsby LGA. In attendance were **Alan Greenland, Peter McDonnell, Kent Vild, Bill Shute, Bruce Williams, Bill Leadbeatter, Verity Greenwood, Warren & Trudi Cole, John Schell, Bill Johnson, Alan Pollock, John Andrews, Greg Muir**.

Apologies were received from **Les Potter, Alan Doak, Tony Sneddon, Phil Stubbs-Mills, Ken McKnight, Ross Beattie, Chris Reardon, Wal Gaffney**.

Photograph shows seated left to right **Trudi & Warren Cole, Alan Pollock, Clr McIntosh, Bill Shute, John Schell, Alan Greenland, and standing at the rear, Verity Greenwood and Glenn Wootton-Wilson.**

Greg Muir

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HUNTER REGION

We've been about a bit in the last couple of months. The Committee has resolved to make a solid base at Cockle Creek, where the Club Macquarie management have made us very welcome, and where we can regularly share the great facilities and dining. The program will now involve probably four meetings there, with Committee activity prior to the customary warm up.



Captain Pugwash (aka Al CRUMPTON) performing a safety briefing on a Nova Cruise

There was our guided tour of the Knights Centre of Excellence, which opened up everyone's eyes and caused pain in every limb as a result of imagining how to use the equipment. Was it the biggest gym in the world, or only nearly. Big thank you to **Simone KARPANI and Jake HARRIS** for the guided tour, and the introduction to the legendary old Stockton footballer, **Peter PARR**, who manages the facility.



Salivating visitors at the home of Lizard Liqueur

Our last meeting saw 28 attending at Club Macquarie, with **Brian REITH** eventually picking up the Lizard Juice after four failed attempts by our host to hit the target. Restocking with 'Dragon's Mirage' liqueur will happen soon. **Vicki RANKIN** has now become mobile after a lengthy rehabilitation and tested out the knees in helping **Lee** with organising the event.

On a sad note, we have lost the following Members/Associates/Friends recently, and our condolences have been expressed to their families....

Ernie KELLY from Belmont, **Jim DICK** of Toronto and formerly Charlestown, **Ken ARMITAGE** from The Bay, **Esma KANE** from the Bay, **Ted MURRAY** from Wentworth and **Lindsay SEARLES** from Wallsend.....rest peacefully friends.

Bob GRAY has undertaken some research in an attempt to locate the ideal location for our gatherings based on residential addresses. He has come up with locations we can use mainly for our 'between' or social outings, and they include some new venues. We will visit the Huntlee Tavern in the next few months, with some regulars (**Ted and Beth OLDFIELD in particular**) often travelling further than they should to say g'day. Hopefully, this will fill the gap left by our inability to persuade Kurri TAFE people to accommodate us at our prices, and might encourage some of the Coalfields folk to test out the new pub.

Regards

Ian Lovell APM, Chair/Secretary

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ILLAWARRA

Ed Note: Apologies to Illawarra Branch members as their reports did not make into the Autumn Gazette. See inclusion in this edition.

Illawarra (Wollongong) Branch, held its Christmas Function at the Corrimal RSL on Monday 27 November 2023. Such a good time was had by all no photos were taken on this occasion, however much "soft drink" consumed.

Our Branch was in recess for JANUARY 2024. However on the 7 February 2024, I attended "Greenhills Estate" Figtree and presented Retired Police Inspector **Barry WHARTON** (member of our Branch) with his "Veteran's Certificate" (OBE)



Ret. Insp Barry WHARTON receiving OBE from Neil Harris

I worked with **Barry** years ago and he did not want a "Big Fuss" made of the occasion, Saying "I wish I could wind back the clock a bit". Also on Wednesday 28 February 2024 I visited our member **Archie STOKOE**, in Estia Aged Care Facility, Figtree at the time he was in company with wife **Shirley** and were about to enjoy a beautiful mead however I insisted on a Photo before they dined. I have contact details for both **Barry & Archie** for old workmates wishing to contact them.



Archie & Shirley STOKOE Estia Aged Care Figtree

On Monday 18 March 2024 Our Branch combined with Members of the Kiama Branch for a Luncheon and "soft drink" at the Windang Bowling Club. With 20 members in attendance.



RFPA 18 March 2024 Windang Bowling Club, Illawarra & Kiama Members

Illawarra Branch meets, 3rd Monday Even Months (June-Aug-Oct-Dec) 11am Master Builder Club, Wollongong. Social outings 3rd Monday odd Months (July-Sept-Nov) venue decided previous meeting.

Neil Harris

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KIAMA

We look forward to your report and photos for our next issue

MACARTHUR

On 10/05/24 the Macarthur Branch of the RFPA held a coffee catch up at the Australian Botanic Gardens, Mt Annan where we had the pleasure of sharing coffee and cake with a surprised visitor; State President **Paul Wynne**. Great venue, great atmosphere, great people and a great day had by all. **Paul** was given a framed and autographed NZ Rugby Team Jersey to take to the **Bob Drew Fundraising event** as an Auction item donated by the Macarthur branch.

On 30th May, 2024 at Lakeside Golf Course the Macarthur RFPA staged the second edition of their Charity Golf Day to benefit the Menangle Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.



Macarthur Coffee Catch Up

This day was arranged to raise money for the acquisition of much needed secure storage cages for their protective firefighting equipment which is currently stored at their respective home addresses and portable firefighting equipment to assist in ensuring the safety and protection of the community. This initiative will play a crucial role in expediting the response times during those emergencies

On the day, we had 32 players who participated in the event and enjoyed a fantastic day with the course in an immaculate condition, the weather, warm and sunny and conducive to playing golf.

After the completion of the game all players, and our special guest **Captain James McFarlane**, of the Menangle Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade were welcomed whilst partaking in the A La Carte Meal supplied by the Golf Club. At the completion of the meal, raffles were drawn, and auctioned item winners announced.



Winning Team Camden Police
Mat West Paul Albury Dan Schiavello Shaun Baker

To conclude the outstanding day, **Team Camden Police** consisting of **Paul Albury, Shaun Baker, Dan Schiavello, and Mat West** were presented with their winning team trophies. Other winners included Nearest to the Pin, **Shaun Baker and Kieran Hayes** (Liverpool Police). Longest Drive, **Dan Schiavello and Brett Hawley** (Liverpool Police).



Special thanks to Local Businesses for their support and acknowledgement to our major sponsors The Police Bank, Masterton Homes, Campbelltown Catholic Club, Club Menangle, Southern Cross Truck Rental and Alex Smith (Deputy Chair NSW Trotting Club Menangle) who all contribute to making these Events possible.



The day was an outstanding success and surpassed our intended Target by achieving \$15,500.00 which will allow us to meet our commitment towards the **Menangle Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade**.

Roger Ford

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MANNING GREAT LAKES

The branch had a great catch up on 9th April, where we had 23 in attendance and **Life member Peter Rankin** presented an OBE to **Dick Spencer**. I was pleased to see **Kevin Naylor** (former HWP Campbelltown) and his partner **Carolyn** join us for lunch.



Kevin and Carolyn Naylor



OBE presented to Dick Spencer

MID NORTH COAST

Our April meeting followed right on top of the Easter break and was well attended considering many members were away or had family and friends visiting for the holidays. Those who attended the meeting were **Al Lukes, Paul Griffin, Jim & Sandra Cranna, Paul Egge, Wayne Evans, Margaret & Ron Hammersley, Garry Jennings, Bruce Saunders, Ian Campbell, Graham & Irene Williams, Rick & Marilyn Walton, Bob Hanlon, Laurie & Marcia McGrath** and it was lovely to see **Trish Affleck-Mooney**. We had a number of apologies including **Betty Hartnett & Peter Wilms, Jeff & Margaret Elliott, Keith Rule, Sid Crane, Jennett Hunt, Marlene Brown & George & Jan McCleery**.

Our guest speaker for the day was **Karen Pickett**, who is a pharmacist by profession with chemist shops at **Lake Cathie and Bonny Hills**. She spoke to us about the different effects some drugs can have on people and the importance of regular drug reviews by professionals be it your doctor or local pharmacist. A very interesting talk which generated quite some discussion with those present.

The month of May saw us all meet for lunch at the Bago Tavern, on the outskirts of Wauchope. Those present included **Paul Egge, Paul Griffin, Rick & Marilyn Walton, Laurie & Marcia McGrath, Graham & Irene Williams, Jim & Sandra Cranna, Jeff & Margaret Elliott, Betty Hartnett & Peter Wilms, Sid Crane & Kerry Bolsover, Ian & Dawn Campbell, Fay Hope & Kath Cooper, Bob & Helen Hanlon & Ron & Margaret Hammersley**. Apologies were received from **Al Lukes, Jennett Hunt, Garry & Anne Jennings, Brian Longhurst, Val Ivlev, Wayne Evans, Keith Rule, Marlene Brown, Mickey Foster, Alan Leek, Bruce Saunders & Trish Affleck-Mooney**.



Great to see a good rollup on what started as fairly cold and miserable day. Particularly pleasing to see **Sid Crane** back on deck after a significant stint in hospital recovering from a broken hip. **Betty Hartnett & Peter Wilms** travelled down by train from Coffs Harbour at 6.30am and following lunch caught up with relatives before catching the 6.30pm train back to Coffs. A long day and we thank them for their dedication and support of our Branch. **Betty** is the former manager of the Port Macquarie Branch of the Police Bank and she is still the Treasurer of our Branch. It was a very nice luncheon and the food and the company were excellent. Our next function will be our "Christmas in July" celebration at the Wauchope RSL, always an excellent day.

Those in attendance at our AGM on the 4th June were **Paul Griffin, Jim & Sandra Cranna, Al Lukes Laurie and Marcia McGrath, Wayne Evans, Bruce Saunders, Garry Jennings, Jennett Hunt, Ron & Margaret Hammersley, Graham & Irene Williams, Bob Hanlon, Brian Longhurst and Ron Nunn**. Apologies were received from **Ian & Dawn Campbell, Rick & Marilyn Walton, Betty Hartnett & Peter Wilms, Tricia Affleck-Mooney, Sid Crane & Kerry Bolsover, Marlene Brown, Mickey Foster, Keith Rule, Paul Egge and George & Jan McCleery**. Reports from the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were received which indicated our Branch was in financially sound position and all members present were quite satisfied with the meetings, outings and BBQs throughout the year. The elections for the 24/25 year resulted in little change with **Al Lukes** returned at Chairman, **Ian Campbell** re-elected as Vice Chairman and Welfare coordinator; **Paul Griffin** as Secretary and **Betty Hartnett** as Treasurer. The Committee of **Bruce Saunders, Jennett Hunt and Ron Nunn** (who joins the committee for the first time) were also elected. **Jim Cranna** was also appointed as the Publicity Officer. We also thank **Wayne Evans** for taking the chair for the election of officer bearers, great work thanks **Wayne**. So we move into the coming 12 months with high hopes of another successful year.

Jim Cranna

MURRAY RIVER

MURRAY RIVER POLICE DISTRICT MEMORIAL SERVICE

On Friday 24 May 2024 a Memorial Service was held for the late **Sergeant Tony Seccull**. This was attended by several Murray River RFPA members, who worked with Tony when he was the Prosecutor at Albury.

It was a lovely service to honour **Tony with the Commander, Detective Superintendent Paul Smith APM** giving an address and **Chief Inspector Scott Russell** giving a tribute to **Tony**. **Reverend Canon Alan Kelb OAM** gave the opening and closing prayer and blessing.

Tony's brother **Patrick** thanked Superintendent **Paul Smith** for the service. "Thank you, our brother **Tony** now tells his story, proudly displayed, and recognised in your wonderful Albury Police history space. Dad, his daughter **Ella**, all family members are indebted to you and your wonderful police family." A framed tribute is displayed with the following.

"**Sergeant Anthony Joseph (Tony) Seccull** who tragically died by suicide on the 1 February 2017 aged 41 years. **Tony** was a proud, diligent, and committed police officer who commenced his policing career in 1994, serving for 19 years. In the latter years he battled with unresolved stress and horrors which had accumulated from a number of traumatic incidents he attended early in his career. Despite this, he went on to become a highly regarded senior prosecutor over his final 12 years of service"

Murray River Branch recent activities

On Thursday, 21st March 2024, we took a trip to Bethanga about 25km from Albury to go to the Bethanga General Store which is across the border in Mexico...oh I mean Victoria. It is a very cute old-style building that has the old Post office next to it and the post boxes out the front of the store.

A new attendee came along as well, that being **Rosie Aitken** who worked closely with Police in a govt dept re kids back in her days of employment in Albury and knows a couple of our members. The last-minute attendee was **David Cottee** who slipped in after he had done the local bus run and dropped the kids off at school, an excellent job for your community. The food and coffee were great. Huge burgers! It was a lovely 'Brunch' & Coffee.

On Friday 12th April 2024 we went to Table 451 for lunch. It is an Indian/Italian/Australian fusion restaurant with some interesting dishes that they created.

We had a birthday day today with 'old man emu' our Branch Chair **Ken Zegiel 'Ziggy'** celebrating his 70th Birthday with us.



Ziggy Zegiel and Annie Smart

On Thursday 25th April 2024, the Albury ANZAC Day March was held in Dean Street. There were military vehicles, hundreds of veterans, family members of veterans, local emergency service workers, local schools, and many local community groups members. The Murray River RFPA were represented again this year with several of our members and family, particularly 4 grandchildren, 2 who proudly marched holding the RFPA banner. After the parade members went up to Monument Hill for the 10am service. Another great ANZAC Day in Albury with the community.

On 1st May we had a lovely sunny Coffee & Chat brunch on the deck of the Submarine Cafe overlooking the HMAS Otway at Holbrook. A beautiful blue-sky day with a lot of chattering going on. A great spot to for a cuppa.



On Wednesday 22 May 2024 the Murray River RFPA members met for dinner at the Springdale Heights Tavern. The members in attendance were **Brian & Cheryl Rosewarne, Graeme & Louise Stephens, Ray Waring, Don Hamilton, Nigel Horne, Annie Smart, Chris Bentley and Chief Inspector Rob Waugh.** For those who don't know **Rob**, he was in a group of six Probationary Constables who began their careers at Albury in 1986. **Rob** was in Albury working and came and had dinner with us. It was great to see him as the ones who know him haven't seen him for many years.

Vale, sadly we saw the passing of the wife of our member **Peter McLaren, Lis Matthews-McLaren**, on 13.4.24. Our member **Les Nugent** who was the longest serving NSW Police Officer; that being 52 years, also passed away on 14.5.24 and was honoured with a full Police Funeral. Rest in peace both of you.

Beth Docksey, APM

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NEW ENGLAND

We look forward to your report and photos for our next issue

NORTHERN BEACHES

Manly Leagues Club Meeting 21st March.

On Thursday, March 21st, our branch held a lively meeting at Manly Leagues Club. Thirty-three members attended, including three new members: **Bill Eyles, Phil O'Brien, and Sean Elliott.** We were also delighted to see **Peter Ellicott**, whom we hadn't seen in some time.

During the meeting, **Tony Wright**, one of our esteemed OBE (Over Bloody Eighty) members, received his Certificate.



As always, our resident jokester, "**Rumpole of the Beaches**" **Oscar Taylor**, entertained us with his latest (lame!) joke. Since our usual jokester, **Bart Snel**, was on holiday, Oscar stepped up to the challenge.

After the meeting, approximately 20 of us gathered at the bistro for lunch, drinks, and spirited conversation. It was a meeting filled with camaraderie, laughter, and shared memories—a true testament to the strong bonds within our branch.

Lunch at the Sands 23rd April

Our April luncheon took place at the Sands Hotel in Narrabeen, where 24 members enjoyed good company, great food, and, of course, a few hearty laughs courtesy of "**Rumpole of the Beaches**," **Oscar Taylor.** These lunchtime gatherings consistently draw a strong attendance, a testament to our members' eagerness to connect with others and share their experiences within the Blue Family.

May 23rd meeting at Manly Leagues

Our meeting in May featured **Noel Phelan**, a volunteer at the Sydney Maritime Museum, as our Guest Speaker. **Noel** gave us a very interesting talk on the Halvorsen Story which resonated with many of our members who worked on the Peninsular and Pittwater and remembered the Halvorsen cruisers. Halvorsen-built yachts also won back-to-back handicap honours three times in the Sydney Hobart race and they also built and raced the first Australian challenger for the America's Cup – GRETEL for **Frank Packer.** But there is more to the Halvorsen story and other branches should experience Noel's presentation.

Riverboat Postman Cruise 25th June.

On Tuesday, June 25th, 29 members of our branch embarked on a delightful adventure aboard the Riverboat Postman cruise. Departing from Brooklyn, we navigated the Hawkesbury River, surrounded by stunning scenery. The day was filled with good company, laughter, and memorable stories, some of them even true!

Our group included members from far and wide, some travelling from as far as Moss Vale, Cessnock, Rathmines, and Emu Plains. 22 members travelled on the bus from Brookvale, expertly driven by Bill Bush, our Treasurer and self-proclaimed "White-Knuckle Express" pilot.

A warm welcome awaited our newest member, **Greg "Sheepdog" Morthorpe**, and his wife **Anne**, who travelled from Moss Vale. With all the other old 14 Division HWP/STP "Cockroaches" on board, it felt like a reunion of the afternoon Clearway shift at Manly!

Special thanks go to **Liz Whiteman**, who played a pivotal role in organizing this great outing. And, of course, we appreciate **Bill Bush**, our reliable driver and his navigator **Christine Bush.** **Julie Bert's** suggestion led us to this memorable experience, thanks **Julie.**

Our fellow attendees included **Deb Anderson, Bill and Christine Bush, Jeff Brady, Harold and Beth Hanlen, Julie Bertoldo, Tony and Kerry Wright, Alex and Margie Vogt, David and Lea Drew, Brien and Marlene Gately, Garrie and Karen Watt, Barry and Chris Miles, Bill and Irene McIntosh, Dave and Liz Whiteman, Greg and Anne Morthorpe, Ken and Lyn Bulger, and Bruce and Chantana Alderton.**



On Friday 21st June, our Northern Beaches RFPA branch Chairman (and RFPA Webmaster) **Dave Whiteman** and RFPA State President **Paul Wynne** were invited to attend Class 326 Attestation Ceremony (Passing Out Parade for the oldies) at the NSW Police Academy Goulburn where Detective Inspector **Amy Scott** was awarded the Commissioners Medal for Valour.



Alan LE SURF

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NORTHERN RIVERS

We look forward to your report and photos for our next issue

PARRAMATTA -THE HILLS

At our April meeting we had the following persons attending -**Eric Etienne, Paul Wynne, Neil Purvis, Sandy Benson, Kent Vild, Phil Connor, Steve Bensley, Darrell Maher, Gary Raymond, Shirley Anderson, Brian Haim, Mal Brown, Steve Bensley, John Rand, Elaine Bennett, Janis McKinnon, Michael Berwick, Ian & Barbara Lindsay, Naomi Baldwin** and received apologies from **Sheila Jackson, John & Susan Wakefield, Nick Pavlov, Annette Willett, Anne & Fred Camage, Colleen Purvis, Phil Martin, Lester Robey, Paul Smith, Tom Baena, Norm Tattersall, Lloyd Taylor, David Hain.**

On 18 & 19 March along with **Sandy Benson** I attended the Police Friendship Week at Forster-Tuncurry, where we joined with members from other Branches. As usual **Charlie Halloran**, the Secretary of Northern Rivers Branch had everything well organized for the 62+ attendees. An attraction at the week was the fully restored VIP Police Cycle which member **Richard Blunt** brought along.

On Sunday 7 April along with **Sandy Benson, Gary Raymond and Neil Purvis** I attended Ebony & Ivory House in Waterfall to prepare a BBQ for the arrival of the Ride For Justice Motor Cycle riders. The ride is co-ordinated each year by Ch9 9 News reporter **Simon Bouda**. Riders pay a fee to enter the ride which commenced at Graces Place, Doonside and travelled to Thirroul and then to Ebony House. The ride was escorted by 10 HWP cyclists and a HWP sedan. The ride is generously supported by the Police Bank with Police Bank Director and Parramatta the Hills Branch member, **Robert Redfern** partaking in the ride.

Upon arrival the riders purchase BBQ Sausage Rolls and soft drinks which had been prepared for them. All funds raised on the day assist the Homicide Victims Support Group in continuing their most valuable cause. GUEST SPEAKER: Introduced by **Gary Raymond**. Our guest speaker today is **David Breust** a wine expert from Dan Murphys. Great information on history of wine, wine types, wine sales, wine growing & wine production. Sample tasting gave members the skills to appraise the wine.

On 20 April along with **Sandy Benson, Darryl Maher, Dave Hain, Lloyd Taylor, John and Susan Wakefield** he went to the Kokoda Track Anzac Memorial Service at Concord West. A most moving service attended by more than 200. There were four veterans over 100 Years old in attendance including **Reg Chard** who you might remember was previously an excellent guest speaker at this Branch.



Anzac ceremony 2024 at Kokoda Track in Sydney

Thursday 16 May is the Guardian Funerals Blacktown Biggest Morning Tea we expect a good representation as Guardian Funerals have supported this Branch since its inception.



Paul Smith, Joan Hamilton, Lester Robey at the Biggest Morning Tea

WELFARE REPORTS: **Gary Raymond** advised that the branch Welfare Officers had made phone calls, home visits, attended coffee mornings

GUEST SPEAKER **Renee Vincent** of The Link Foundation is a former member of the New South Wales Police Force who took early retirement and had an interest in rehabilitation of those affected by Drug and

Alcohol abuse. The Link Foundation's vision was to establish connection for families and individuals impacted by substance misuse to create a community of support, empathy and recovery. At the Link Foundation, they recognise the profound mental impact that substance misuse can have on family members. That's why they offer counselling not only to individuals struggling with substance use but also to their families. Their trained counsellors understand the importance of addressing the holistic needs of the entire family unit. A very interesting and informative talk by the founder, **Renee Vincent**.

On 15 May **Paul Wynne and Sandy** and travelled to Tamworth to attend the **Bob Drew** Benefit. See Articles of Interest in this edition.

On 23 May we had 12 attend the Lithgow Small Arms Museum and after morning tea and an introduction we had a tour of the 2 floor museum. A most interesting and informative day in which we learnt that the Lithgow Small Arms Factory not only produced weapons for the military and of course handcuffs for the Police, but also other items such as the Pinnock Sewing Machine and the Sunbeam Mixmaster. Today the factory, although reduced in size, manufactures under licence the Steyr AUG (Universal army rifle) used by the Australian Military and other NATO Forces. After the tour we adjourned to the Lithgow Workers Club for a most delightful lunch. A thank you to **Daryl** who drove the Club Blacktown bus and knew exactly where pull over for the comfort stops.

Our June meeting was held at Grace's Place Doonside due to renovations at our usual meeting room. ATTENDEES (28) - **Eric Etienne, Paul Wynne, Sandy Benson, Annette Willett, David Hain, Elaine Bennett, Janis McKinnon, Phil Connor, Nick Pavlov, Naomi Baldwin, John & Susan Wakefield, Gary Raymond, Joan & Ivan Hamilton, Tom Baena, Mick Berwick, James May (Visitor) Brian Haim, Ron Balkin, John Rand, Lloyd Taylor.** APOLOGIES – **Joe & Jenny Turner, Paul Smith, Mike Neilsen, Chinn Gounder, Shri Ram, Robyn & John McInerney, Robert & Robyn Oswald, John Fletcher, Kris Sweic, Russell Oxford, Angus McDonald, Bill Chaffey, Ray McConnell, Richard Thomas, Maurie Whitton, Graham Stone. Norm Tattersall, Paul Reynolds.**

The Chairman introduced **Brian Johnson**, the Caretaker of Grace's Place who spoke of the planning and construction of Grace's Place by **Martha Jabour** whose vision it was to establish a place of recovery and new beginnings for child victims of homicide and their families. Grace's Place has accommodation for 12 families. **Brian** showed a short video which depicted the conception and construction of Grace's Place here at Doonside.

Prior to the conclusion of the Meeting, **Nick Pavlov** addressed the meeting and thanked all those who contacted him during his hospitalisation and recovery and a special thanks to **Lester Robey** who kindly mowed Nick's lawns.



Branch meeting at Graces Place

After a tour of the Grace's Place Facility we returned to their meeting room for lunch consisting of various pizzas.

Eric Etienne

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PEEL

We look forward to your report and photos for our next issue

PENRITH BLUE MOUNTAINS

We look forward to your report and photos for our next issue

RIVERINA

We look forward to your report and photos for our next issue

SOUTH COAST

Fourteen RPPA South Coast Branch members enjoyed a luncheon at the Ulladulla Ex-Servos Club on Thursday 16 May 2024.

A great time of Friendship, Fellowship and Comradeship was enjoyed by all, especially the short stories and jokes delivered by member.

Future bi-monthly meetings will be held as a luncheon at the Rinks Restaurant at Club Nowra (Nowra Bowling Club), where most of us are members.....and the food there is great!

As such this will be the venue for June, August & November meetings on the third Thursday of the month. Hope to see you there!

John Crockett

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SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

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

SOUTHERN TABLELANDS

We look forward to your report and photos for our next issue

SYDNEY

Club York was the venue for our quarterly meeting on Tuesday 21st May and as tradition dictates we continued socializing over lunch in the Zabou Bar & Grill. We are missing some of our regular attendees who are holidaying in the northern hemisphere enjoying the summer weather. We wish you all a safe trip.

Our "Roving Coffee Catchups" allow our members and former police colleagues who can't attend the city meetings to keep connected with one another. Any RPPA member or former/retired police are most welcome to join us. We're a friendly bunch and we'd love to have your company.

On Tuesday 16th April we attended the East's Club, Bondi Junction. It was great to see a few new faces, **Bill Harrigan Snr and John Greaves**, as well as Branch stalwarts **Vaughan and Adriana Reid, Allan Simpson, myself and Bruce Howe.**



East's Bondi Junction - L to R – Bill Harrigan Snr, John Greaves, Vaughan & Adriana Reid, Allan Simpson, Belinda Dunn-Toemoe, Bruce Howe.

The June coffee morning was held at Revesby Workers Club on Tuesday 18th June with a small group attending. We had a new attendee, **Dr Tony Moynham** who many of you will know, together with **Greg Thane, Allan Simpson, Don Eib and myself.**



Revesby Workers L to R – Greg Thane, Allan Simpson, Tony Moynham and Don Eib

Both coffee mornings had apologies due to illness and those who are currently travelling overseas, intra and interstate.

Dates for the 2024 Diary - Meetings at the Club York

Tues 20th August (AGM)
Tues 19th November 2024. (General meeting)
Rolling Coffee Catchups start at 11am (All RFPAs and former Police are welcome) -
Tue 16th July, 2024 – Dooleys Club, Lidcombe
Tue 17th September, 2024 – Hotel Pennant Hills
Tue 15th October, 2024 – Ramsgate RSL Club

Belinda Dunn-Tomoe

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WATER POLICE

On Thursday 23 May 2024, the Water Police Sub-Branch held its quarterly meeting at Club York, 99 York Street, Sydney. The meeting was attended by seventeen members.

Our guest speaker was Supt. **Joe McNulty**, Commander, **Marine Area**



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

Command. His presentation focussed mainly on the present-day activities of the MAC. It was good to hear how the MAC has progressed since us old fellas ruled the waves in old wooden boats.

The Water Police Sub-Branch has now volunteer welfare officers who are able to keep in touch with members in areas over most of the state. They report to **Grant Thompson** Water Police Sub-branch welfare co-ordinator, who in turn conveys any welfare issues to the RFPAs for their attention.

Our sub-branch has been without a permanent secretary since the passing of our inaugural branch secretary **Dave Buckley** in January this year. It was pleasing to see **Vic Rulewski** put his hand up to take on the position of branch secretary. Thank you, Vic.

Frank Mahony

Chairman
waterpolicerfpa@retiredpolice.com.au

WIDE BAY

We look forward to your report and photos for our next issue

NOTICEBOARD

2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NSW RFPA

When: Monday 29th July 2024 at 11.00am
Where: Club York, 95 York St Sydney

WALL TO WALL RIDE AND RAFFLE

When: Saturday 14 September 2024
Where: From the Domain Sydney to The National Police Memorial in Canberra

The Wall to Wall Ride for Remembrance will once again see motorbike riders from all around Australia ride to the National Police Memorial in Canberra, supporting Police Legacies around the country.

FRIENDSHIP WEEK FOR 2025

When: 15th to 22nd March 2025
Where: Top of the Town Holiday Park, High St Stanthorpe QLD
Bookings: Advise them you are with Retired Police they apply 1 free night when you book for 7 nights.
Information: For more information about the accommodation and the park please follow the link <https://topoftown.com.au> Look forward to catching up for a great week again in 2025. Phone 07 4681 4888.

Charles Halloran

UPCOMING REUNIONS

GO TO www.retiredpolice.com.au FOR THE MOST RECENT AND UPDATED INFORMATION

40 YEAR REUNION CLASS 204

When: Saturday 14th September
Where: Goulburn Including A Tour Of The Academy
Contact: **Sue Vine (Hartup)** 0415 661 761
Patrick Wunsch 0402 000 582

60 YEAR REUNION – CLASS 101A OF 1964

When: Suggested date 30 October 2024.
Other suggested date would conflict with Melbourne cup dates.
Where: Coronation Club Burwood - also known as club 88
Contact **John Seward** 0419292209.
John.newington@bigpond.com
Meal and drinks at bar prices.
RSVP Please advise if interested so booking can be confirmed.

46 YEAR REUNION – CLASS 156

When: Weekend 15,16,17 November 2024
Where: Bayview Hotel Woy Woy
Contact **Denise Behringer, Sandra Herd** – go to Facebook – NSW Police-Class 156 (1977) or email Ken.Houseofgordon@gmail.com

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE NSW MOUNTED POLICE (oldest continuous Mounted Police Unit in the world)

When: First Saturday in May 2025
Where: To be advised

THE WAY WE WERE



NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE ACADEMY
METHODS OF INSTRUCTION CLASS NO. 54
13 OCTOBER, 1983 - 28 OCTOBER, 1983

Back Row:- Dennett S.(Bankstown), Whittington G.(Crime Prevention), Bedgood S.F.(Merrylands), Reid L.R.(Police Academy), Williamson J.W. (Aborigine Liaison), Tonich A.(Chatswood), Grestoren N.R.(Rescue Squad).

Front Row:- Jennings D.(Weapons and Training), Campbell P.G.(Mona Vale), Blake R.(Instructor), Hamer J.(Instructor), Brown C.(Hornsby), Murphy F.(Fire Brigade), Granland I. (Planning/Research).

Class 54 1983 Methods of Instruction



SERGEANTS' COURSE. CLASS 4 OF 1971.
NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE ACADEMY.
16TH AUGUST, 1971 to 1ST OCTOBER, 1971.

BACK ROW: R.B. GOULD (Instructor), M.L. JACOBSON, P. McLACHLAN, D. McINTYRE, K.J. HIGGINS, B.L. HODGE, B.J. HOCKING, D.V. O'BRYAN, A.S. MILLWARD, L. P. SWEENEY, J.D. O'CONNELL, R.G. SAMUELS (Instructor)

FRONT ROW: L.I. THATCHER, J.W. BUXTON, K.W. WYDNE, R.D. ROBERTSON, S.S. PITT, (Course Supervisor), B.W. DUNN, D.F. DACK, P.A. CHILTON, P.R. McDUGAL, C.L. SWANSON.

SERGEANTS COURSE OCT 1971



THOSE WERE THE DAYS - FORMER HOMICIDE SQUAD. APART FROM PETER COTTER BACK ROW 2ND FROM LEFT, NOW DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, CAN ANYONE NAME THESE "UNTOUCHABLES" AND ARE ANY STILL SERVING?



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
ARMITAGE	Kenneth 'Ken'	86	10614	Hunter Region	27/5/2024
BARNESLEY	Leslie Collin Simoen	92	9050	Northern Rivers	3/5/2024
BYRNES	William Donald	87	8265	Central Tablelands	4/3/2024
COMMINS	Thomas John 'John'	86	9548	Unattached	26/5/2024
GLEESON	Michael Henry	81	10078	Unattached	21/3/2024
GODFREY	Allan Frank	73	15284	Macarthur	7/3/2024
GRAHAM	Arthur John	76	12642	Northern Rivers	22/4/2024
HILLIER	John Jackson Welfare	80	10522	Macarthur	28/3/2024
HOCKING	Eileen Clement (Bonnie)	89		Sydney	28/4/2024
HOLDEN	Anthony Francis (Tony)	94	9138	Central Tablelands	23/5/2024
JONES	Margaret Annie	86		Brisbane & Northern Sub	16/5/2024
KANE	Esma	89		Hunter Region	1/6/2024
KAY	Alan James	84	9185	Mid North Coast	22/6/2024
KELSON	VA Colin Michael	75	17357	Penrith Blue Mountains	18/4/2024
LARKIN	John Ralph	77	12203	Unattached	1/6/2024
LENTON	Robert Bruce	90	7537	Unattached	9/4/2024
MURRAY	Allan Edward (Ted)	87	8834	Unattached	4/6/2024
NUGENT	Leslie Michael	71	14839	Murray River	14/5/2024
RUTLEDGE	Bruce Edward	78	12621	Unattached	24/5/2024
SCOTT	John George	73	14997	Unattached	29/3/2024
SYKES	Donald Arthur	82	9942	Mid North Coast	20/5/2024
WHEELER	Aileen Joyce	100	21	Northern Beaches	14/6/2024

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Committee of Management

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Southern Tablelands	Ian Radford	02 4822 1942	stablelandsrfa@retiredpolice.com.au
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The RFPA Gazette is the official publication of the Retired & Former Police Association (RFPA) of NSW Inc. The editor is Paul Wynne. The RFPA of NSW Inc. publishes material in good faith from various sources in the belief that it is authentic and accurate. The RFPA cannot accept any responsibility for any inaccuracies. The statements and opinions expressed by contributors to the Gazette are not necessarily those of its members or the Committee of Management. The Editor reserves the right to refuse to publish any material submitted for publication.