



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

Central Coast Branch
August, 2024.

Chairman: Geoff Talbot. Secretary: John Marheine Postal address: 37 Northcott Ave,
Watanobbi, NSW, 2259. Tel: 0400 724 768

GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS.

On the Central Coast we have been fortunate to have enjoyed a wonderful autumn and winter, with only the occasional spasm of wind – and, yes, some rain, to spoil it. If only that element of bliss could be applied to the rest of the world with humans perishing in their thousands at the hands of merciless invaders. And, if the world is not in enough turmoil now, can we even imagine what it will be like once the American presidential election ramps up – without even imagining what it will be like when it is actually finished. In the mean time, make the most of every day. Each day is a gift and we should keep those closest to us always in our minds if not in close presence. The Central Coast is a gifted area. We should make the most of it while we are here.

It is with much sadness that we must report on the loss of our following Members:

Vale Gregory James Ashurst – 10th July, 2024.

Greg Ashurst joined the NSW Police Force on 3rd August, 1970. Following completion of his training he was appointed to No.1 Division, performing General Duties at Central and Pyrmont where he was promoted to the rank of Constable 1st Class on 14th September, 1975. In December, 1977, he was appointed to Licensing Duties within A District, based at Central. In February, 1978, Greg was transferred to No. 32 Division, Flemington, on Licensing Duties. Then to No. 16 Division, Hornsby, on Licensing Duties. On 14th September, 1979, he was promoted to the rank of Senior Constable.

In March, 1983, Greg was transferred to Licensing Duties at Gosford Police Station. On 4th May, 1986, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. In September, 1988, Greg was transferred to General Duties at Chatswood Police Station, then returned to Licensing Duties at Eastwood in March, 1989. In January, 1992, Greg was transferred to Beat Duties at Eastwood. On 29th November, 1994, he was promoted to the rank of

IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE



Greg Ashurst

23RD JULY 1947 - 10TH JULY 2024

Senior Sergeant, Patrol Tactician Eastwood Patrol. On 16th October, 1999, Greg was promoted to the rank of Inspector – Duty Officer Grade 2 – Burwood Local Area Command. On 15th July, 2000, he was promoted to the rank of Chief Inspector – Duty Officer Grade 1 – Brisbane Water Local Area Command. On 15th April, 2001, Greg commenced duties as Superintendent – Commander Brisbane Water Local Area Command, where he remained until his retirement on 23 July, 2002, at that time having completed 32 years service with the NSW Police Force.

The photograph appearing on the previous page shows Greg in the uniform of Senior Sergeant, the rank to which he was promoted on 29th November, 1994.

During his service Greg received the following Awards:

The National Medal and the first clasp to the National Medal.

The NSW Police Medal and first, second, third and fourth clasp to the NSW Police Medal.

The National Police Service Medal.

Vale Graeme John Williams – 18th July, 2024.

Graeme Williams was born on 29th November, 1940, and sadly left us on 18th July, 2024, at 83 years of age, just a few months short of his 84th birthday. In his early years he was a truck driver but he turned his hand to mechanics and, in that field, completed an apprenticeship. Graeme's father had wanted him to have a secure government job and, in order to keep faith with his parents, he applied to work in a bank. However, on his way home, he signed up to join the NSW Police Force, in 1960, and became registered No. 10872. Graeme worked at a number of locations but resigned from the Police Force in 1971, at the rank of Detective Sergeant, then stationed at Fairfield.

Following his resignation Graeme worked at a number of jobs including delivering bread in the Holsworthy and Smithfield areas, then as a security officer at Lindemans Wines. But his passion was always with mechanics. It is said that he had enough spare parts to repair most vehicles – but most were kept for his extended family.

Graeme and his wife, Helen, were married for 63 years and lived in the Umina area. They have 3 children, Glenn, Jodie and Sharon, 10 grandchildren and now – 15.5 great grandchildren.

Graeme was a well liked and valued Member of the Central Coast Branch of the RFPA and Members would often enjoy a meal with him at the conclusion of Meetings. Graeme will be sadly missed, both by his extended family and our Members who knew him. Rest in peace, old mate. Your duty is done.

Graeme's photo appears below.



May those who have passed rest in peace. Our thoughts and prayers are with their loved ones.

SCHEDULED BRANCH MEETING.

The Branch Meeting was held at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah, on Tuesday, 20th August, 2024, commencing at 11 a.m., chaired by Chairman Geoff Talbot.. A summary of the matters dealt with at the Meeting is set out hereunder.

Attendances:

The following Members, wives and partners were in attendance:

Neil Ashman, Father Jim Boland and Carmen, Peter Caddy, Ernie and Bev Carmichael, Barry and Marj Clark, Bill Connors, John and Joan Corbett, Neil Dick, Peter and Anne Drinan, Bruce and Jan Gibson, Ray Hatcher, Keith Hockley, Bede Irvine, John and Anne Kent, Brian McVicar, John Marheine, John and Noelene Nicholas, Chris Olen, John Roger, Phil Stubbs-Mills, Geoff Talbot, Russ Witcher,

Apologies were recorded.

The Chairman, Geoff, extended a warm welcome to Paul Wynne, President of the State RFPA and Editor of the Police Gazette, and Sandra Benson, Paul's wife and Sub-Editor of the Gazette, and Ian Lovell, Secretary of the RFPA. It was pleasing to see them attending our Meeting. Geoff also extended a welcome to our guest speaker, Quentin Anthony, and to Dick Whitaker, who brought Quentin to the Meeting and who has previously been a guest speaker. Geoff also welcomed the two serving officers who attended, Chief Inspectors Paul Nicholls and Colin Lott, from the respective local Police Commands. He also welcomed the visitors who also attended the Meeting.

Deaths.

The names of Members who have passed away since last Meeting were read out and a minute's silence was observed.

The Secretary, John Marheine, read the minutes of the last Meeting held in June, 2024.

It was moved by Peter Drinan, seconded by Brian McVicar, that the minutes be accepted.

Treasurer's Report.

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

It was moved by John Nicholas, seconded by Peter Caddy, that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

Our OBE Roll Call.

Gents:

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

Ladies:

A. Staunton, Myrlene Hauser, Adele Dale, Pauline Braithwaite, Kitty Dowse, Maureen Groch, Marj Clark, Wilma Walsh, Bev Carmichael, Jan Gibson, Virginia Connolly.

WELFARE REPORT:

The Welfare Officer, Barry Clark, was asked to provide details of Members not feeling so well.

Barry reported that Trevor Carroll was in hospital in Sydney having specialist treatment for his throat cancer, which has been troubling him for some time. Apparently he is progressing well and hopes to be home next week. He would appreciate a phone call from Members – as would any other Member in hospital.

Barry said that Peter Caddy is still having problems with his right knee and is using a walking stick but he was present at the Meeting and it was good to see him back in action.

Barry told the Meeting that Bill Ide is still suffering a lot of pain but is currently on a new treatment which seems to be helping. Barry had spoken to Bill on the previous day. He said the pain is being managed well and he is progressing satisfactorily.

Social Club.

What a great day! On a beautiful winter's day, a significantly happy and elegant group gathered at The Entrance Hotel for a wonderful lunch on Wednesday, 24th July, 2024, and enjoyed the company and food, both worthy of the highest commendation. The social committee, headed by Russ Whitcher and Peter Caddy, are certainly to be congratulated on an outstanding selection for the venue. We are all looking forward to the next event. The following are some photos taken by Chairman Geoff Talbot.



















Russ also advised the Meeting that the Branch's Christmas mixed lunch will be held in the Canoe Room at the Royal Hotel, Wyong, on **Wednesday, 6th November, 2024,** Wives, family and friends are all welcome and we are looking forward to a large gathering.

General Business:

Chairman Geoff informed the Meeting that he had attended the Annual General Meeting of the RFPA, held at Club York, in Sydney, on 29th July, 2024, and had a copy of the financial report from the State Branch should anyone wish to examine it.

Geoff also told the Meeting that he and I.J. Toms had attended the funeral of the late Greg Ashurst, referred to earlier in the Newsletter, and that he had attended the funeral of the late Graeme Williams, also mentioned earlier, and, on the day before the Meeting, had attended the funeral of the late Glen Marks and had caught up with Paul Smith who had been in the same class as Glen Marks. Geoff said that memorial sashes had been given to the families of all the deceased personnel.

Geoff circulated a cap bearing the RFPA emblem and advised Members that these caps can be obtained for \$20.00. Members should contact Geoff if they would like one. He said that Members of the Northern Beaches Branch are producing an RFPA hat and anyone interested should also contact him.

Geoff said that, through the CEO of the Ourimbah RSL Club, an arrangement has been made with Mackay Funerals for the reduction of funeral costs for our Members. Again, any Members interested should speak to Geoff.

Bruce Gibson informed the Meeting that Bill Galvin, now long retired and living at Noosa, is suffering serious blood cancer. Obviously the prognosis is not good.

Peter Caddy wished to thank all those Members who rang him while he was in hospital. He said that he spent 5 weeks in hospital while doctors attempted to find out what was causing his intense pain, the problem being like a time bomb in his spine. He said that receiving a phone call when you are hospitalized for a long period is very helpful.

In this segment, our guests from the State Branch, Paul Wynne, Sandy Benson and Ian Lovell, each addressed the Meeting, expressing their pleasure at the opportunity to attend and to see the presence of two serving officers, particularly as Retired Police Day is fast approaching. Paul especially thanked his wife, Sandy, who holds the role of Sub-Editor of the RFPA Gazette, for the work she has performed in supporting him in his duties as President of the RFPA and Editor of the Gazette.

Chief Inspector Lott advised the Meeting that Retired Police Day will be held on Thursday, 5th September, 2024, at the old Gosford Police Station, now the Conservatorium of Music, the service commencing at 11 a.m. The service will continue until about 1 p.m., followed by light refreshments and a tour of the building.

Chief Inspector Paul Nicholls then informed the Meeting that Police Remembrance Day will be celebrated on Friday, 27th September, 2024, (because 29th is a Sunday), at St James Church, at Wyong, service commencing at 10 a.m. Further details to be notified at a later date.

The Chairman, Geoff, sought reimbursement for the cost of embroidery on the sashes used at the respective funerals and later presented to members of the families. It was moved by John Nicholas, seconded by Peter Drinan, that relevant payment be made to the Chairman.

The raffle was won by Ian Lovell, our visiting State Secretary.

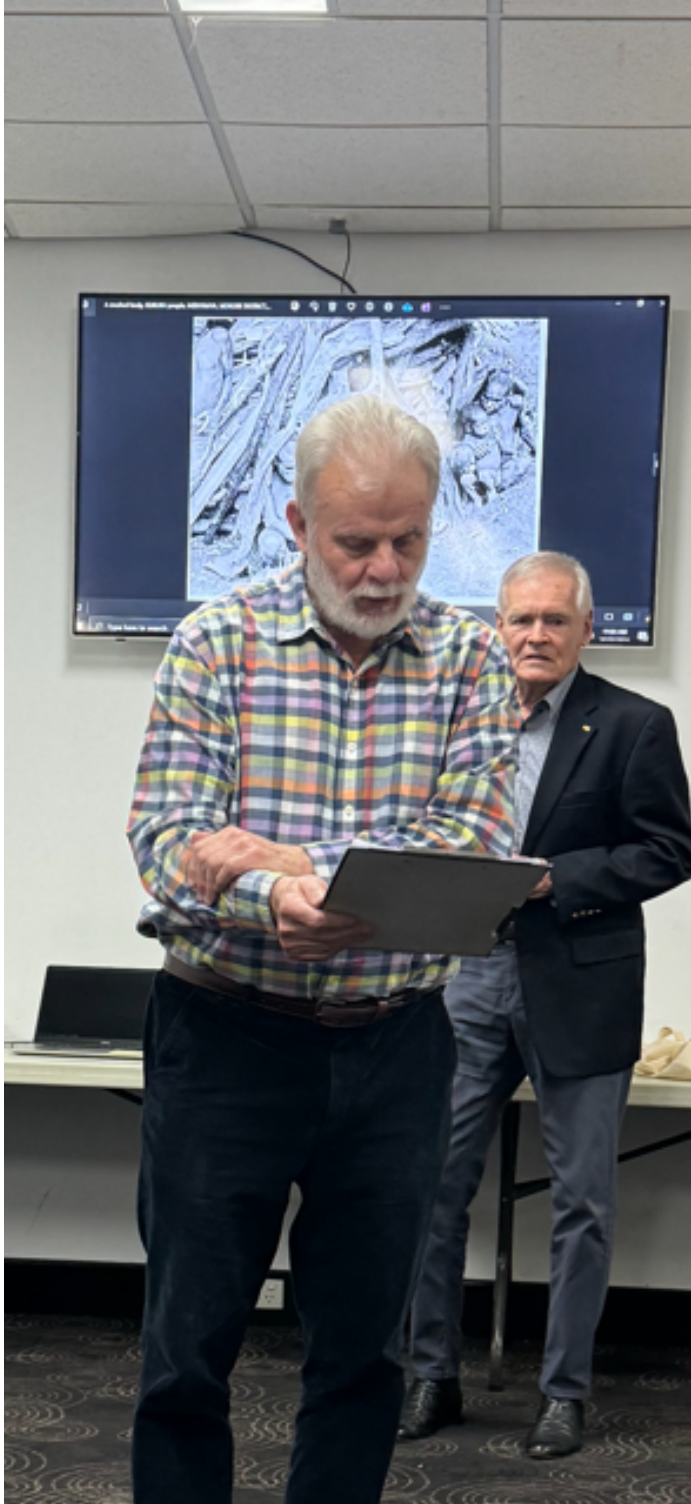
The Meeting ended at 11.45 a.m.

GUEST SPEAKER.

Our guest speaker at this Meeting was Mr Quentin Anthony who was introduced to the gathering by Mr Dick Whitaker. Dick has an extensive background as a meteorologist and has previously been a guest speaker at one of our earlier Meetings. In fact, Dick brought Quentin along to the Meeting.

Quentin, who told us he was born in Sydney in 1932 but certainly does not look that age, said that he lived with his parents in Papua-New Guinea during his early years, his father having been a World War I veteran, but was involved in World War II when the Japanese invaded Rabaul in January, 1942. He said that his father was a survivor of that invasion, escaped through the jungle and gathered a group of stragglers who later escaped on a small boat, under the noses of the Japanese, and eventually reached Port Moresby. In his later years, Quentin became involved in policing and security activities in Papua-New Guinea and he provided numerous anecdotes associated with his work in the land which is so close to our shores.

Those present would have certainly appreciated Quentin's outstanding talents as a speaker and he most definitely lived up to the accolades given by those who had seen him before.



In this photograph Dick Whitaker is seen introducing Quentin Anthony to the Meeting.





In the photos on the preceding pages, Quentin is shown explaining photos projected onto the projection screen in the Meeting room, (page 19), Dick and Quentin are seen responding to the gifts presented to them on behalf of the Branch, (page 20). In the photo below Quentin and Dick are seen responding happily after Chairman Geoff had made the first presentation.



And in the next two photographs those who attended are seen watching the guest speaker, thoroughly enthralled by his delivery.





Sausage Sizzle.

On an intensely cold day, 24th July, 2024, a dedicated group of followers attended the 4th sausage sizzle of the year at the Valley Tavern, at Narara, to support the return of Head Chef, Brian McVicar, who has been missing for some time. It was great to see him back, distinctive in his red jacket, and it was wonderful to see him contemplating how things might have been improved. Well, Brian, in your absence, the team has worked hard and you might well be proud of what they have achieved. Some photos of those who attended the sizzle are shown from hereon.













As always, the editor apologizes for his limited computer capacity in dealing with the photographs.

The Ladies Coffee Club.

And so, the ladies coffee club was back to its best, doing what it does so well, caring for and guiding us through all our difficult times, whether that be looking for our golf clubs or our winter balaclavas – or even our rain coats – because we can't go out in the rain without our coats! Everyone knows that, (don't they??) As the years have passed we have learned not only to respect those ladies for the work they do, for the effort they apply in supporting us but also for the wonderful additions they have made to our lives: for their dress sense, for the way in which they have decorated our homes and their guidance in the raising of children. How dull life can be without them as, sadly, some of us know already. We must value and admire them at all times. We all know they are not only indispensable but entirely..... irreplaceable.

THE CALENDAR.

Members might note the following dates and perhaps include them in your diaries:

5th September, 2024. Retired Police Day, old Police Station, Gosford.

17th September, 2024. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Narara.

27th September, 2024. Police Remembrance Day, St James Church, Wyong.

15th October, 2024. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL club, Ourimbah.

6th November, 2024. Christmas mixed lunch at the Royal Hotel, Wyong.

19th November, 2024. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Narara.

17th December, 2024. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.

The Law of Common Sense.

The Motor Traffic Act does not state that a speed limit is a mandatory speed but it also has Regulation 125 where a driver may be regarded as obstructing traffic if the driver is driving abnormally slowly. This may be at the discretion of the police and courts to decide in a particular case.

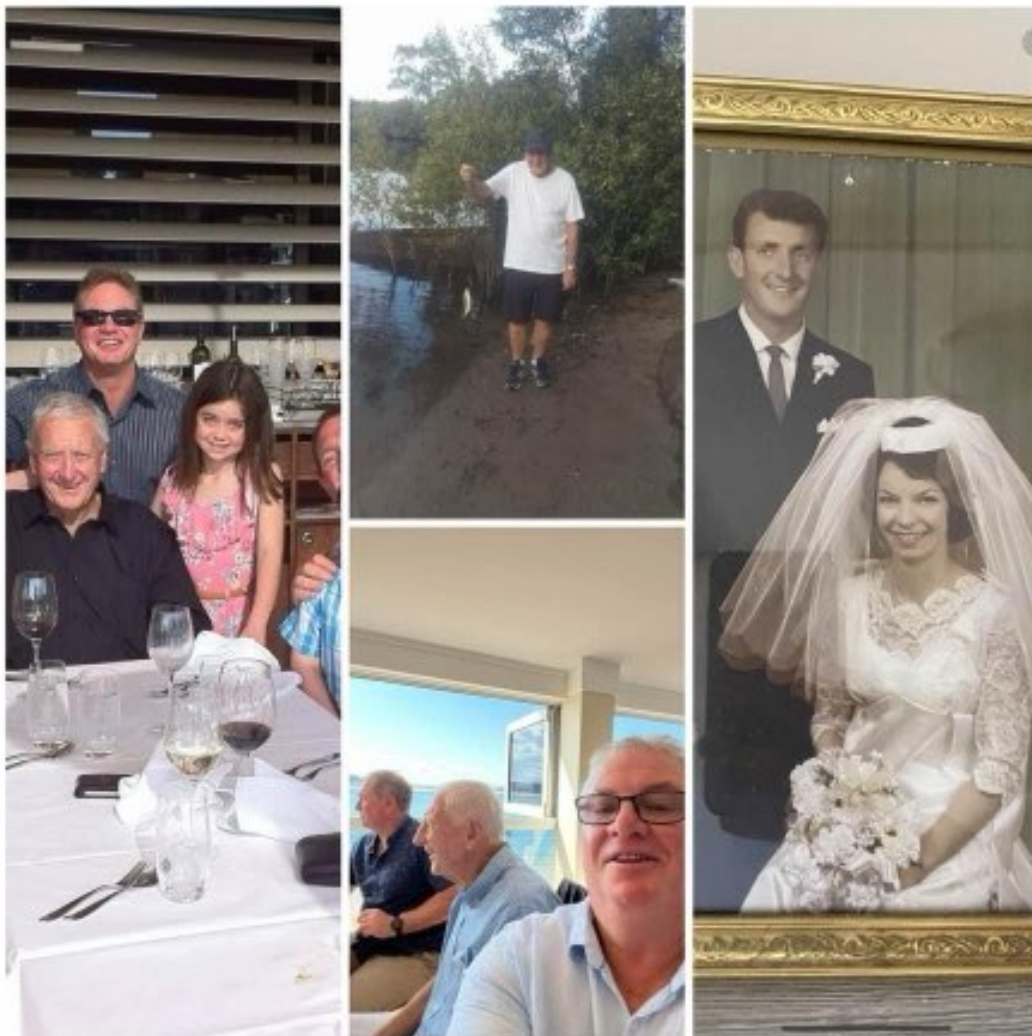
It's not just the Motor Traffic Act rules which must be followed but also common sense rules. The latter is too often forgotten on our roads. Slow driving on single lane roads with few overtaking opportunities just encourages dangerous overtaking.

The above is a copy of a segment of a letter appearing in the NRMA Open Road magazine and is included with the courtesy of our Member, Bede Irvine. And how true it is.

And sadly, there's one more. Vale Ron Evers – 21st August, 2024.

At the time this Newsletter was about to be printed information was received of the passing of Ron Evers, a much respected former Police officer who was well known to those who worked on the Central Coast. He had worked at Gosford and Brooklyn. At this stage no further details are available but they will be provided when they come to hand.

The following group of family photos was provided by Russ Whitcher.



And what does the future hold?

There's little doubt you would have noticed: Spring is almost upon us and is anyone sorry to be putting those winter woollies away – hidden in the cupboard for another year. And what a year it has been. With conflict in the Middle East and the looming United States elections, how fortunate are we to be “Down Under”, in that segment of the world where we are relatively immune from the terrible events in other far off places. And here on the Central Coast we are even more blessed, with areas mostly avoided by serious criminal events and even major accidents. So we must make the most of the great advantages with which we are gifted, keep loved ones safe and strive to retain our health and fitness. It doesn't last all that long. Make the most of it while you can

With best wishes to everyone.

Editor:

John E. (Ernie) Carmichael.

Tel: (02) 4390 7034.

Email: johncarm2@bigpond.com