

# RFPA COFFS HARBOUR/CLARENCE



## News from the Chair

Garry Heskett

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### **CHAIRMANS MESSAGE**

An update by Chair Garry Heskett

#### **POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Local activities update on Coffs Harbour/Clarence District Event.

Letter from Local Community

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

What to look forward to in the coming months

Hello Coffs/Clarence RFPA members,

Hoping that this Newsletter finds you all well.

I am currently in the Ipswich Shire in Qld, welcoming my newest granddaughter into the Heskett clan. She will be the 5th addition to my tribe which I stand as the Tribal Elder. She is beautiful of course.

Our last get-together on Tuesday/20th August saw us gather at the Old Butter Factory at Bello. It was a great day with good company. I thank Natalie for facilitating this social event for our group. Whilst on the subject of our social functions, I'm looking at a lunch at two places for our next get-together.

1. Stef Beachstone Pizza Italian Restaurant on the edge of Sapphire Beach. Coffs Harbour. This Restaurant only opens from Wednesday to Sunday, not on Tuesdays which is the day we have always held our past functions,

2. The Coramba Hotel which also has a great menu to be experienced.

I will make the necessary inquiries and make a decision. Watch this space. ....

On the 5th September, myself with other members attended RFPA Friendship Day. We gathered at Coffs Harbour Police Station in Lyster Street, which is now turned into a Training Facility used by Police in the Clarence District. Our new Editor John Hartley APM has the goss on this, which he will cover below.

The next function on the 24th September, I attended Silvios Restuarant in the Park Beach Plaza for Coffee with a Cop. Barry Walker, Doug Tysoe and I attended, where we spoke with local police. It also gave me an opportunity to catch up with Supt Joanne Schultz APM the Commander of the Coffs/Clarence Police, where we discussed closing the gap between us retired and former Police and current serving local police.

On Friday/27th September RFPA members together with current serving members gathered to commemorate National Police Remembrance Day at the Anglican Church in Coffs Harbour. Our Editor has more information on this. I thank John Hartley APM for stepping up in my absence, and also Anthony (Tony) Lawler. A Wreath was laid, and bible reading were conducted by these 2 x gentlemen.

Thank you to all members that attend our RFPA functions. I will be organising our next social event in October, so keep an eye out for the information.

I don't know where this year has gone. Christmas is almost upon us, and again I will be facilitating our Coffs/Clarence RFPA Christmas Lunch at the Sawtell RSL in December with Russell Oxford APM our most welcomed Guest Speaker.

I take this opportunity to wish everyone the very best of health and look forward to catching up with you all in October. Venue and Location is forthcoming.

Cheers  
Garry.



## NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY

### Letter from the Community

#### Honouring NSW Police Officers on Police Remembrance Day

Yesterday 27/09/24, we came together to honour and remember the brave members of the NSW Police Force who have tragically lost their lives in the line of duty.

On behalf of the Coffs Coast Multicultural Society, we express our deepest gratitude to all current police officers serving our communities, to those who have retired after dedicated service, and to the officers who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting us. Police Remembrance Day is a solemn occasion to reflect on the immense courage of these individuals who dedicate their lives to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community.

Hearing the names of officers who gave their lives for our safety leaves us humbled, and no words can truly express the depth of our appreciation for their service and sacrifice.

The annual National Police Remembrance Day service was held today at St. John's Anglican Church in Coffs Harbour, a moment to pay tribute to the officers we have lost and to recognize the daily risks faced by all who continue to serve. This day serves as a powerful reminder of the constant dangers police officers confront while protecting us.

While this is a day of remembrance, it is also a day to show our unwavering support to all serving officers. We thank you for your dedication, commitment, and relentless service to our communities. Because of your efforts, we are able to live in peace, even as the challenges and threats we face become increasingly complex. We especially remember those who work behind the scenes, playing crucial roles in keeping our communities safe. Their contributions are equally invaluable and deeply appreciated.

We can never forget those who have paid the ultimate price in service to others. The NSW Police Force performs outstanding work every single day, and for that, we extend our heartfelt thanks. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the grieving families of the officers we have lost. The magnitude of their loss is unimaginable, but they remain part of the NSW Police family, who will continue to support them through their grief.

With deepest respect and gratitude ,

Htun Htun Oo (H2O)

Coffs Coast Multicultural Society



The Remembrance Day Ceremony was conducted at St John's Anglican Church, Coffs Harbour and attended by many past and present officers. It was conducted by our Police Chaplain, a former serving officer. The District Commander Superintendent Joanne Schultz APM along with her senior command and officers welcomed all and provided a professional and heart felt ceremony. Wreaths were laid on behalf of us as well as the Command, Local Member Gurmesh Singh MP, Police RSL Sub-Branch and local community representatives.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

As per Garry's letter there are a couple of proposals for lunch this month:

Beachstone Pizza Restaurant Sapphire Beach

Coramba Hotel

Always looking for input if you have any suggestions.

This is my first newsletter so be kind....

It's been a busy few weeks for us all with Open Day here locally, Remembrance Day, Wall to Wall Ride and sadly the passing of some of our close colleagues. Hopefully it will be smooth sailing for us all for the rest of the year.

AS ALWAYS " If you need help shout out"

John Hartley



Coffs/Clarence RFPA Friendship Day 2024. We were invited to the Training Facility situated in the former Police Station and Court house.

On behalf of our group I extend my thanks to Sen/Const Richard Allison and Sen/Const Alan Tunicliff for taking us through new training methods like Tasers and introduction to new weapons and familiarisation of same.

A big Thankyou to public Servant Ebony Dean from the Administration Team, who cooked up a lovely lunch, as well as relieving Commander Matthew Hinton for his presence and input.

It was a great a day reliving old war stories and funny yarns.

Cheers

Garry



Try explaining this to the safe driver panel!

## When Cops Retire

When a good cop leaves the 'job' and retires to a better life, many are jealous, some are pleased and yet others who may have already retired wonder. We wonder if he knows what he is leaving behind, because we already know.

We know, for example, that after a lifetime of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing for those past times. We know in the law enforcement life there is a fellowship which lasts long after the uniforms are hung up in the back of the closet. We know even if he throws them away, they will be on him with every step and breath that remains in his life. We also know how the very bearing of the man speaks of what he was and in his heart still is.

These are the burdens of the job. You will still look at people suspiciously, still see what others do not see or choose to ignore and always will look at the rest of the law enforcement world with a respect for what they do; only grown in a lifetime of knowing. Never think for one moment you are escaping from that life. You are only escaping the 'job' and merely being allowed to leave 'active' duty.

So what I wish for you is that whenever you ease into retirement, in your heart you never forget for one moment that 'Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall be called children of God,' and you are still a member of the greatest fraternity the world has ever known. There are those that think they understand, and then... there are cops.

St Paul's Retired Police Association Minnisota

Thanks Hodgie

