



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

**Central Coast Branch  
December, 2024.**

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

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**GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS.**

And so, Christmas is almost upon us and we all look forward to getting together with family and friends and doing all those things that tradition has taught us to do. And we all hope that we can remain safe, being aware of the dangers of the festive season and making every effort to avoid the inevitable tragedies that destroy families year after year – whether it be young family members drowning or being involved in fatal road accidents. Let's make every effort to stay safe during this festive season and to keep loved ones close to us so that we can start the New Year on a happy and positive note.

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**Vale Marilyn Anne Wall – 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2024.**

It is with much sadness that we must report on the passing of two of our outstanding ladies in recent times. The first is Marilyn Anne Wall, widow of the late Gerry Wall, who passed on some years ago. Marilyn was a beautiful outgoing lady, with a lust for life and she left us at age 73 years and 3 months, after suffering brain cancer. Her funeral involved a Requiem of Thanksgiving held at St Patrick's Parish Church, at Gosford on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, attended by our Chairman Geoff Talbot. Marilyn is survived by her daughters Sarah and Simone and her five grandchildren Clara, Eliza, Thomas, Joshua and Sophia.

The following photos show Marilyn as she will be remembered and Marilyn and Gerry in the days of their youth.







Vale Sandra Judith Bown – 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.

The second lady we have lost is Sandra Judith Bown, wife of our dedicated Member, Geoff Bown. Sandra left us only days before our last Meeting. We hope to include details of Sandra's life in our next Newsletter.

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**SCHEDULED BRANCH MEETING.**

The Branch Meeting was held at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah, on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December, 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:

Glenn Andrew, Geoff Burnes, Peter Caddy, Ernie and Bev Carmichael, Peter and Anne Drinan, Bruce and Jan Gibson, Ray Hatcher, Bede Irvine, John and Anne Kent, Bryan Low, John Marheine, John and Noelene Nicholas, John Roger, Phillip Stubbs-Mills, Geoff Talbot, I.J. Toms, Russ Whitcher,

Apologies were recorded.

**Visitor:**

We had one visitor: our much revered friend, Les Potter, from the upper North Shore, and it was great to see him with us on our last Meeting day for the year.

Chairman Geoff welcomed a new Member, Geoff Burnes, to the Meeting.

**Deaths.**

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

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The minutes of the last Meeting held in October, 2024, were read by the Secretary.

It was moved by John Nicholas, seconded by Peter Caddy, that the minutes be accepted.

Chairman Geoff reported to the Meeting that he had attended two funerals: one was the funeral of Alan Sharpe, a former director and life member of Ourimbah RSL Club. The other was the funeral of Marilyn Wall, the widow of Gerry Wall who passed away several years ago. Geoff said that Marilyn's funeral, a Requiem of Thanksgiving, was a very big occasion attended by a very large crowd. Peter Drinan told the Meeting that Marilyn's daughter, Simone, is a nurse working at Wyong but has recently suffered a fractured hip. Peter described the Walls as a wonderful family.

Geoff told the Meeting that Geoff Bown's wife, Sandra, who had been unwell for some time, passed away just a few days before the previous Meeting. Geoff said that Sandra's funeral was conducted by Kate McDonnell, the widow of our late Member, Peter McDonnell, Kate acting as a funeral celebrant.

Geoff also visited Ron Farmilo in hospital and he is home now.

### **Treasurer's Report.**

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

Russ Whitcher gave an apology for the late submission of an invoice in relation to Marj Clark's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. The Treasurer advised that that invoice will appear in the next report.

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

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### **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, 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, Carl Ripphausen, Bede Irvine, Father Jim Boland, Bryan Low.

#### **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 not in attendance at the Meeting. In his absence some information was provided concerning Members and their families not feeling so well.

Father Jim Boland underwent a surgical procedure, in connection with a biopsy, the day before the Meeting and, considering the predicted temperature, he thought it was wise to remain at home that day.

Russ Jackson's wife, June, who is Bill Connors' sister, is quite unwell at present and, again because of the predicted heat, both Members chose to remain at home to care for her. We certainly hope that June's health improves in the near future.

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### **Social Club.**

What a great day it was at the **Royal Hotel, Wyong, on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2024**, when a happy group got together, braving the extremely hot weather outside, and enjoyed the good food and service provided, in the Canoe Room, by the very attentive hotel staff. If you missed out it was a shame. You missed a great day and the following photos show a very happy band of participants. Congratulations to Russ Witcher and Peter Caddy for their organizational skills. It was a good choice of location.

At the Meeting, Russ said that the lunch seemed to have been a thoroughly successful day, particularly including the presentation to Marj Clark, and he thought the Royal Hotel was a good choice for the Christmas lunch next year.

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The photos on the following pages provide a fairly good indication of how the participants enjoyed the day. They are smiling because it was a fun day, with great food – and very welcome air conditioning. Those who attended will remember the sweltering heat outside.







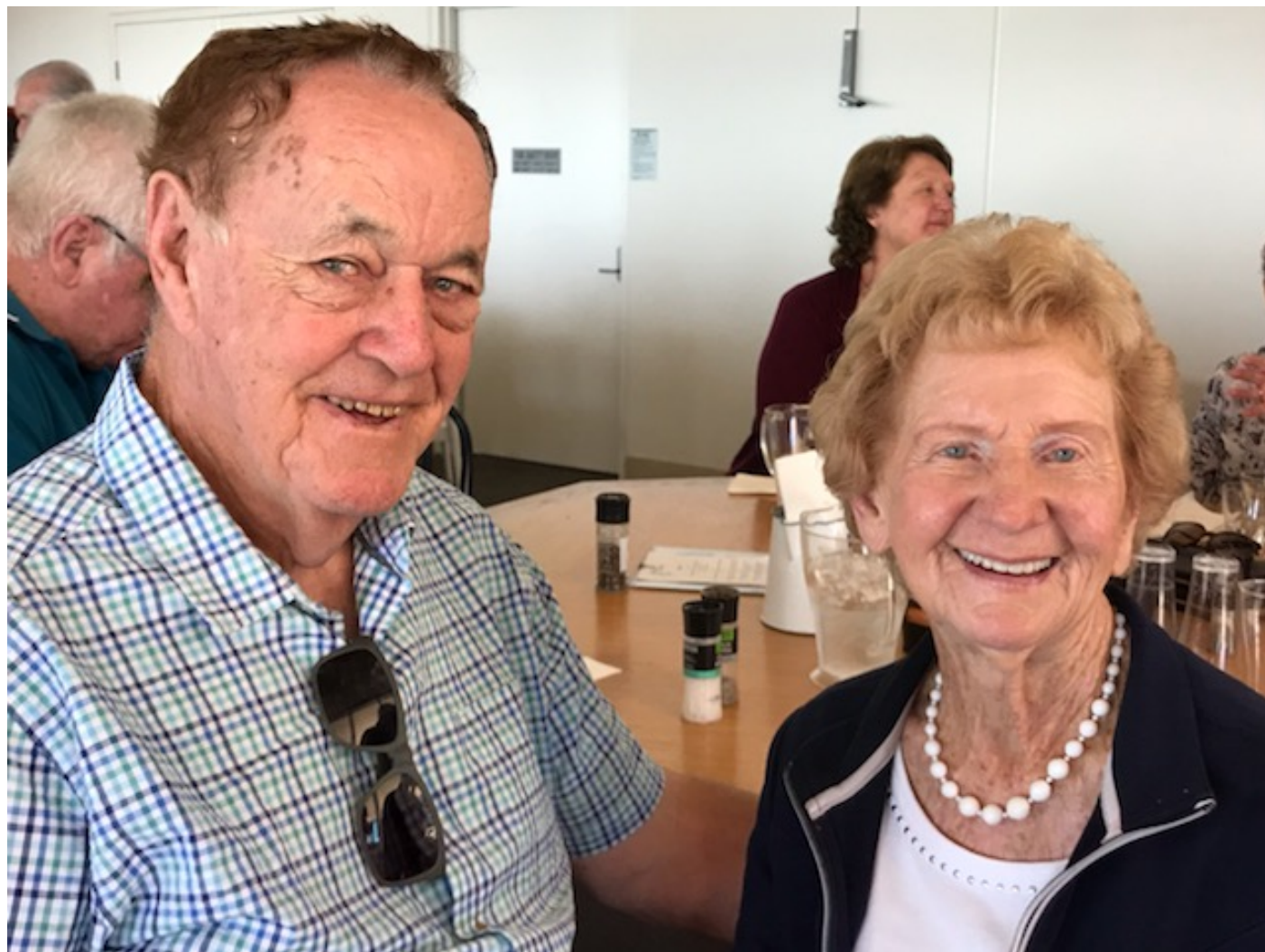


An important part of the occasion was the celebration of the rapidly approaching 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Marj Clark. The following photo shows our Chairman Geoff Talbot presenting Marj with a card and birthday cake and she was able to blow out all the candles on it.....(although we have to admit there were not quite 100 candles on the cake) – but she did a great job. Nothing wrong with her lungs.

The next photo shows Marj flanked, on her right, by Sonia and on her left by Geoff. Hmmm.....nice red shoes. Wonder who they belong to??!







And here is a photo of Barry and Marj taken several years ago. You will note Marj still has that same most engaging smile.

### **General Business:**

John Nicholas informed the Meeting of his unsatisfactory experiences on a recent Princess Cruise, citing a lack of dress code in the dining room, particularly on a “dress up night” occasion when a man wearing a singlet and thongs was allowed to enter into the dining room. John also mentioned that, unlike previous cruises, there had been a choice of only three courses for the evening meals. He doubts he will travel with Princess Cruises again.

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In this segment of the Meeting the matter was raised of the recent criminal trial of the Police officer who used a tazer on the 95 year old dementia patient, Clare Nowland, in an aged care facility in Cooma, the action leading to her death several days later. Various views were expressed, both about the officer’s actions, the responsibility of the senior officer who accompanied him and the subsequent role of the Police Commissioner. As the matter has not yet reached finality it is considered inappropriate to report details of the discussion which took place during the Meeting or the opinions expressed. Accordingly, this matter will be left in abeyance.

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The raffle was won by Bede Irvine who donated the prize back.

The Meeting ended at 11.55 a.m. We were then treated to an outstanding luncheon ordered and arranged by our Chairman, Geoff, and it would be fair to say that all those in attendance, Members and wives, left having been provided with a more than adequate meal.

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### **Sausage Sizzle.**

A happy group gathered at the Valley tavern, at Narara, on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, to enjoy the beautiful late Spring weather, to engage in hearty conversations on past activities and exploits but also to enjoy the brilliant cuisine provided by head chef, Brian McVicar, and his loyal team of assistants who have demonstrated their abilities over a long period. And there were those in attendance showing their age by the extra encumbrances they had to carry: walking sticks, arm supports.....You boys need to take more care, watch your step, look both ways before crossing the road. As the years progress sometimes you’re lucky to get a second chance. Anyway, it was a good day at the Tavern as the following photos indicate.





In the photo on the previous page we see Glenn, Geoff and Cuzzin Pete who obviously needs an arm support to hold his sausage sandwich. And here, above, they are again, this time wearing caps. Don't they look much better wearing caps.





There's Bruce, Jock and John R., all looking pretty happy with their food.



I.J was a little more serious about her food. Not sure if Les is laughing or crying but John M certainly looks happy with everything.



Another three happy customers: Russ J. Bill C. and Russ W. (Of course, Russ W. is a prize winner. Of course he's happy.)



And there's Peter C., looking very elegant in his cumberbund, and Geoff B., adding an engaging smile to a happy event.

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

### **The Ladies Coffee Club.**

Well, the girls are back to their best, some who have recovered from injuries and are now back up and fighting fit. How could you ever stop them. The ladies looked good at the pre-Christmas lunch at the Royal Hotel, in their outstanding Spring fashions, and looking at their best. And how about that young lady, Marj Clark, blowing out candles on a birthday cake. What a wonderful example she sets for us. The editor, for one, is deeply envious of her fitness. She is certainly one good looking chick! But it's great to know that the girls are still caring for us – as time progresses and we become a little less capable of such things as remembering where we left our glasses, remembering to put the garbage out – and on the right day – and remembering to clean the Venetian blinds when we've been asked so many times! (So, so many times!) But they know how deeply we care for them and we know how many allowances they make for us. If they have cared for us this long the chances are they will guide us with even greater patience in the coming years.

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### **A Kid's View.**

Of course, we've all heard some funny stories – which tend to make you think of the future and what the world is likely to be perhaps in the not so distant future. Our Brian McVicar, always deferred to as a man of wisdom, tells the story of his 7 year old great granddaughter who came home from school one day and asked her mother: "When did World War Elean end?" Obviously she has interpreted the symbols "World War II" as "World War 11"; an understandable error for a 7 year old. However, in the current events taking place in so many parts of the world we can only hope that those who come after us never see World War Elean.....and we pray with all our hearts that that is not a forlorn hope. There are so many wonderful places in the world, so many of God's wonderful creatures and so many natural disasters everywhere, it is difficult to understand why some individuals just want to systematically destroy it. Well, it is unlikely we will find an answer in this life.

**THE CALENDAR.**

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

21<sup>st</sup> January, 2025. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Narara.

18<sup>th</sup> February, 2025. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.

18<sup>th</sup> March, 2025. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Narara,

15<sup>th</sup> April, 2025. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.

20<sup>th</sup> May, 2025. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Narara.

17<sup>th</sup> June, 2025. Annual General Meeting & General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.

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**And what does the future hold.**

And here we are, on the brink of a New Year, with so many wonderful things that our world could offer us – if only. If only we did not have those with the power to harass, kill, blow to pieces and to deprive their neighbours of just the right to live their lives in peace. God gave us a wonderful planet, occupied by wonderful birds and animals, above the sea and below it, but it is being systematically destroyed by those with the power to invade and to terminate the lives of others. As we enter the New Year, let us hope that somewhere on earth common sense will prevail and that we will see some improvement in international relations. Whilst, on an international basis, that may be a forlorn hope, in our little corner of the world, our lives are better and we should make the most of every day, enjoy everything we have and keep those dearest to us at least in our constant thoughts if not in close proximity. Let us hope that the coming year will provide improved benefits – at least in our region of the world if not on the wider spectrum.

With best wishes to everyone.

**Editor:**

John E. (Ernie) Carmichael.

**Tel:** (02) 4390 7034.

**Email:** johncarm2@bigpond.com

