



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

(Established 1931)

Central Coast Branch February, 2025.

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GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS.

What a world of utter chaos we are living in – and less than 12 months of the first quarter of the 21st century has passed and we are seeing the potential of world wars appearing on the horizon day after day. Will the human race never learn! Surely we have seen the devastation that this uncontrolled mortal combat inflicts on ordinary people. But those with the power seem unperturbed. And so it goes on. In our tiny area of the world we can only hope that we can care for our health and the health of our loved ones and keep those closest to us constantly in our thoughts.

Vale June Wood Jackson - 30th December, 2024.

How sad it is to have lost another of our great ladies. June was the wife of our much revered senior Member, Russ Jackson, and, at the time of her passing, she and Russ were commencing their 75th year of marriage. June was born on 25th June, 1929, to parents Phyllis and William Connors, and she was baptised at St Paul's Church, Sydney. She lived with her parents at Rosebery, she attended Gardeners Road Public School until year 5 and completed her education at Maroubra Junction Home Science School. She was also our Bill Connors' older sister. After leaving school she followed in her mother's footsteps and worked at the David Jones Department store, in Sydney, being engaged in the Perfumery Section. However, one day she was "spotted" and, as a result, she accepted an offer to work at the Paris Perfumery and Underwear shop next to the Trocadero, in George Street, Sydney, later transferring to a branch in Oxford Street, Darlinghurst, when the owners opened a similar shop. June gave much praise to her Jewish employers who, she said, treated her like a daughter.



The photo on the previous page shows June during her younger years and the photo was supplied courtesy of her brother, Bill Connors. And boy! Wasn't she a good looking young woman.

June was a keen tennis player in her teens and played competition tennis. This was where she met Russell and their friendship blossomed into romance. They were married on 4th November, 1950, at St Phillips Church, Church Hill, Sydney, when both had turned 21. They went to live in the family home at Kingsford, following the loss of Russ's mother 12 months earlier and June's duties included caring for Russell's father who was then very ill and he passed away in April, 1951. In 1954 their son, Tony, was born and 10 years later they adopted their daughter, Brooke. Some years after Tony's birth, Russell and June moved into a new home at Brighton-Le-Sands. In 1964 June went back to work, firstly as a shop assistant at Woolworths, Rockdale, later at Quality Stores, at Mascot, and later still she moved into the hospitality industry, working in the dining rooms of various clubs, eventually becoming Dining Manager in several clubs.

Some years later, when the children had left school and were working, Russell and June frequently visited friends living at Gorokan and eventually they bought a small weekender in the district. As Russell's work at that time mostly involved weekdays, they travelled to Gorokan most weekends and soon found they were spending more time at Gorokan than in Sydney. When they returned home one weekend to find they had been robbed, they decided to sell up and move to Toukley, where they bought the home they lived in from then on.

June was an accomplished singer and regularly sang at such functions as Masonic Balls, etc., and she later organized an entertainment group which visited local Nursing Homes to entertain the residents. In recognition of her services to the elderly June was presented with a Certificate of Merit from the New South Wales Premier for her work in that area. In June and Russell's very active life they also managed to take part in ballroom dancing - would you believe: Four nights a week!!

June was devoted to her family and, apart from her own children, the loves of her life were her granddaughters Sarah, Melissa and Nicole. In her life time June was a devoted Wife, Mother, Grandmother and Aunty to her nieces and nephew. A full life well spent. May she rest in peace.

Our deepest sympathies are with Russell and all members of their family.

William Francis Broderick – 22nd January, 2025.

And, barely three weeks later, we lost one of our older Members, Bill Broderick, aged 92 years, born 18th May, 1932, described by his children as a "larger than life character", who would have a go at anything and was very much the larrikin in his younger years. The photo on the next page does give a sense of his personality.

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
FOR THE LIFE OF



...ERICK

Bill Broderick joined the NSW Police on 6th July, 1959, at 27 years old, and became Probationary Constable No. 9369. Much of his service was spent in Traffic Patrol duties, in areas including Regent Street, Sydney, Hornsby, Eastwood, Flemington, Darlinghurst and Parramatta. In June, 1987, he became the Commander of the Motor Vehicle Examination section. Then, in September, 1987, he became the Commander of the Transport Section, just one month after being appointed to the rank of Inspector. He retired at that rank on 19th August, 1989, having completed 30 years service.

According to his family history, Bill Broderick was the legendary “Mr Fix-it”, being able to turn his hand to any service or repair, at all times with an incredible sense of humour. He was also an outstanding responder to children’s ailments or injuries. Bill came from a farming background, having been born in Parkes in western NSW but grew up near a town named Yenda, an area hot and dry in summer, cold and dry in winter and he rode a horse to school when he was in primary school. After primary school he was sent to a boarding school in Sydney, St Joseph’s College boarding school, some 550 kms from home. Having obtained the Intermediate Certificate, after 3 years in high school, he undertook his next adventure, in New Zealand, having all the necessary skills: he could play rugby, he could ride a horse, train a dog, shoot a gun and drive a tractor. What more would he need!

On his return to Sydney Bill met the love of his life, Valerie, (mostly always known as “Val”), they soon married and rented a bed-sit in Bondi. But, as the family expanded, they moved firstly to a house in Carlingford. But, when the family grew even more, they moved to a larger house in Pennant Hills Road. Then, in July, 1959, Bill joined the Police Force. As Police wages, in those times, didn’t quite cover living costs, Bill took on various outside jobs to meet expenses. Holidays were usually spent at Bill’s parents’ property, at Yenda, or sometimes at “Uncle Paddy’s” place at MacMasters Beach, Bill being the only driver and driving all the way.

When Bill retired, after 30 years’ service in the Police Force, it was the intention that he and Val would start travelling. However, those plans came to an abrupt end when it was found that Val had a brain aneurism and Bill became her primary carer. They decided to sell the large house on Pennant Hills Road and they moved to MacMasters Beach, a holiday home purchased by Val many years earlier. They remained together at that home until Val passed away now about 14 years ago. Bill stayed at that property, welcoming any visitors or awaiting the next wave of grandchildren or even caring for his family of native birds on his verandah. Finally, a stroke changed everything in Bill’s life, he was transported to hospital by ambulance and eventually moved into an aged care facility in Epping to be close to family.

It was planned that Christmas, 2024, would be a family gathering at the aged care facility so that Bill could manage with the family present. However, a few days before that, Bill was back in hospital fighting another infection and he passed away a week or so later.

It is clear that Bill's was a life well lived – and lived to the fullest. Our deepest sympathies are extended to all members of his family. May he rest in peace.

Vale Sandra Judith Bown – 15th November, 2024.

We lost a second lady even earlier than the two persons mentioned previously, Sandra, the wife of our dedicated Member, Geoff Bown. Sandra was known as a friendly, happy and hard working girl for the whole of her life. She was born in South East London on 13th April, 1951, and, after leaving school, she did not follow her older sister to the USA but went to work as an au pair in Germany for 6 months before returning to work in London. Because of economic difficulties in the UK in the early 70's, Sandra joined a friend and travelled to Sydney in 1974 and settled in Manly. She obtained work in a typing pool for an insurance company. Because she was an outgoing personality she gained a wide circle of friends through work and other social activities but, because of the tiring practice of travel to the city from Manly, she obtained work at Manly Hospital typing medical records. She enjoyed the work and the additional friendships it created.

Geoff met Sandra in 1975 through a mutual friend at a time when Geoff was living at Manly. In 1976, a leap year, Sandra drew Geoff's attention to the established principle of girls proposing marriage. It seems Geoff could not resist the proposal and they were married on 13th November, 1976. Geoff recalls that Sandra had an exceptional fashion sense, always looking stunning. In 1978 Sandra and Geoff travelled to the UK for her to be reunited with her family and for Geoff to meet them. In the time they spent in the UK Geoff could understand why Sandra left. Sandra became an Australian citizen on 28th September, 1983.

Geoff described Sandra as a devoted wife who tolerated the crazy hours he worked as a Police officer. After a brief time spent in Canberra, for work reasons, Sandra and Geoff moved to Sydney and built their dream home at Wheeler Heights on Sydney's Northern Beaches. Sandra then obtained work with a private radiology business at Dee Why. They spent a number of happy years at Wheeler Heights but, when the children became independent, they moved to a duplex at Collaroy, close to transport and the beach. As time passed and finances became more secure, Sandra and Geoff undertook some travel. As Sandra's mother had passed away, they travelled to the UK every couple of years to visit her father. When traffic on the Northern Beaches became horrendous they left Collaroy and eventually settled on a property at Empire Bay on the Central Coast and Sandra was able to transfer her work at Dee Why to the Central Coast. However, they ultimately moved to a villa at Ettalong Beach.

In the mid 1980's Sandra had been diagnosed with multiple myeloma and whilst this was a shock, the disease remained dormant and Sandra had annual check-ups to ensure it had not become active. However, in October, 2023, after they had returned from their last holiday, Sandra suffered a minor stroke and was later diagnosed with early onset dementia. Subsequently, a scan identified a tumour attached to her heart and connected to the myeloma. A subsequent course of chemotherapy did not assist and she was referred for clinical trials through the Calvary Mater Hospital at Waratah.

These trials were also unsuccessful and eventually she was diagnosed as suffering “AML”, an aggressive leukemia which could not be successfully treated. Eventually she was admitted to Palliative Care at Gosford Hospital where she passed away on Friday, 15th November, 2024, two days after their 48th wedding anniversary.

Geoff recalls that Sandra had a great sense of humour, which she retained even in her last days and he seriously misses her sense of humour and her companionship. Sandra will remain the love of Geoff's life forever.



There would be little doubt the photo above demonstrates the vibrant personality of the lady whose life we are honouring here.

SCHEDULED BRANCH MEETING.

The Branch Meeting was held at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah, on Tuesday, 18th February, 2025, 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:

Geoff Bown, 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, Russ Jackson, John and Anne Kent, Brian McVicar, John Marheine, John and Noelene Nicholas, Ron and Doreen Richmond, Geoff Talbot, Wilma Walsh, Russ Whitcher,

Apologies were recorded.

Visitor:

Our Chairman, Geoff, welcomed our much revered visitor, Les Potter, to the Meeting and we were pleased to see him joining us.

Geoff also welcomed new Member, Ron Richmond, and wife, Doreen, who have now moved to the Central Coast. We look forward to seeing more of them.

Geoff also expressed pleasure in seeing our Member, Wilma Walsh, back with us after a significant absence.

And Geoff also welcomed our guest speaker, Mr Dick Whitaker, to the Meeting. We will deal more with Dick's remarkable address later in the Newsletter.

Deaths.

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

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

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

Treasurer's Report.

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

It was moved by Bill Connors, seconded by Bruce Gibson, that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

Our OBE Roll Call.

Gents:

Ted Aitken, Keith Rhodes, Bruce C. Doust, Russ Jackson, John Green, Kevin Turner, John Marheine, Noel Murphy, Edward (Mick) Arnold, Wally Maher, Ernie Carmichael, Donald Harding, Bruce Gibson, Bill Ide, Barry Clark, Neil Ashman, 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, provided details of those Members not feeling so well.

Barry said that Trevor Carroll is still having treatment for his throat cancer and was actually attending a doctor on the morning of the Meeting. Barry said that Trevor's voice is not getting any better and so far he has not made much progress with the problem.

Barry said that John Nicholas has a new pacemaker and John, who was at the Meeting, said that, since its insertion, he has not been feeling so tired.

Barry told the Meeting that Neil Ashman is not well, is having difficulty walking and cannot drive. Barry said that he had spoken to Neil on the previous day. Neil said that he cannot get to the Meetings, as he is now, and is just able to manage to go to his local RSL club, at Davistown, using his walker.

Barry said that Father Jim and Bill Ide are both having problems with their respective conditions and both are still having treatment.

Social Club.

Russ Whitcher told the Meeting that there are no current plans for mixed outings but it is expected that a get together will be scheduled for July, 2025, and progressive information will be provided in coming months.

John Kent told the Meeting that he has recently visited the Bateau Bay Hotel at which new renovations have been carried out. He said that there are numerous areas in the hotel for dining, an area has been provided for mothers with children and there is certainly accommodation where a mixed group could be under cover. He said the new menu is very good and he said he could certainly recommend the cuisine.

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Extra day out:

On Monday, 13th January, 2025, a beautiful day on the Central Coast, we started our New Year activities with a luncheon at the Davistown RSL club, the location chosen for the benefit of Neil and Lois Ashman. Neil hasn't been travelling so well in recent times and we thought we would help him by getting a little closer to home. It was a great feed and we all had a wonderful day out as the following photo will show. And no! Russ is not trying to strangle Les. He was just caught in a moment of endearment.



General Business:

Bruce Gibson told the Meeting that he had recently met up with Ken Moroney, the former Commissioner of Police, and he said that Ken extended his best wishes to our Branch.

Peter Drinan told the Meeting of the mention in the Summer 2024 edition of the RFPA Gazette of the lady, Joyce (Joy) Masters, who has turned 102, she is the oldest Associate in the Hunter region and the oldest Member of the Association. Joy is the widow of the late Ralph Masters who was frequently away from home for long periods engaged in scientific work. A photo on the front of the Gazette shows Joy with Paul Wynne and Ian Lovell at a lunch in her honour at the Pelican RSL Club.

Our newest Member, Ron Richmond, was invited to tell the Meeting some details of his background. Ron said that he joined the Police Force in 1969 and was initially stationed at Redfern on General Duties. He was subsequently transferred to Yass but later returned to Redfern. Eventually, as time progressed, Ron and his wife, Doreen, became fed up with life in Sydney and they have now moved into a retirement village, "Brentwood", in Kincumber oin the Central Coast.

Peter Caddy reminded the Members that he is a Justice of the Peace and he invited anyone who requires a J.P. to contact him.

Peter also provided an update on his recent spinal surgery. He said that a recent scan shows that a couple of bolts installed in his back have moved and he is required to undergo another scan to determine the situation, although it may well be that the natural healing process will overcome the problem. Peter also extended his thanks to all the Members who telephoned him during his incapacity. He said that it helps greatly to receive calls when things are not going well.

Russ Witcher told the Meeting that a rumour has circulated that Bill Erickson had died but this is not so. He is still alive but is not travelling well.

The raffle was won by our visitor, Les Potter, who donated the prize back.

The Meeting closed at 11.35 a.m.

GUEST SPEAKER.

Our Guest Speaker at the Meeting was Dick Whitaker who spoke on the history of Frank "Bumper" Farrell who was an outstanding Police Officer, as a Detective, in the inner Sydney region in the 1940's, 50's and 60's, and whose history stands as an incredible emblem of policing in those years. And, of course, "Bumper" was a first grade rugby

league player having been the captain of Newtown for some years. We can say, unequivocally, that Dick is a most engaging speaker but the extent of the research obviously carried out for his presentation was extraordinary. Dick particularly highlighted “Bumper” ‘s involvement with the two prominent “ladies” of the time: Kate Leigh and Tilly Devine. If you were not at the Meeting you missed a unique occasion.



The above photo shows Chairman Geoff with Dick Whitaker displaying the book entitled “Bumper”.

Sausage Sizzle.

What a great start to the New Year! On Tuesday, 21st January, 2025, a goodly number of dedicated attendees piled into the Valley Tavern, at Niagara Park, and enjoyed the great cuisine provided by Head Chef, Brian McVicar, and his loyal team of assistants, and the jovial company of those who gathered to swap stories and just generally enjoy the festivities. What a wonderful day it was – as the following photos show. We were pleased to welcome a couple of newcomers but we hope they will become regular attenders. It's a shame if you missed out. It was a great day. Below is a photo of Head Chef Brian, resting before the master preparations begin.





Above is a photo of Russ looking very pleased with the outcome. Obviously a satisfied customer.



And there is Ray, our dedicated Treasurer, in pensive mood no doubt contemplating the benefits of the day.



And there is Barry and Bede, heavily engaged in preparation for a delightful outcome.



And Bill, looking satisfied with the outcome.



Here is one of our two new visitors, "Squizzy" Taylor, looking happy with his sausage sandwich.



And the second of our new visitors, Grant Harridge, also obviously satisfied.



And there's Russ again, looking even happier than before, (probably after a second sausage).



There are four “Johns” in the photos on the previous page. L to R: John M., John R., John S. (“Jock”) and John C. Les is seen in the top right hand corner and, in the bottom left hand corner, I.J. looks very elegant in her white hat. Below, Phil looks very satisfied with the outcome of the day.





Chairman Geoff visited Bill Ide at his current nursing home and presented him with a new RFPA cap. Doesn't he look debonaire in it.

The Ladies Coffee Club.

If we ever doubted their ability to recover, return and out-pace us at every turn, then we obviously have no foresight – or understanding of their ability to respond to all situations

and deal with all problems. How fortunate we were to have met them, in our respective situations, and to have enjoyed their company, their talents, their patience and their assistance and supervision with the many problems which we have encountered over the years – and which still arise. And these girls sit quietly – and patiently – in the lounge while we engage in formal discussions at the Meetings – and take momentous amounts of time to analyse problems which the ladies would solve in a heart beat. Isn't it wonderful that they are on our team. Unlike the Matildas, these girls don't need television cameras to achieve notoriety at the highest level – or to jump up and down every time they score a winning point.

THE CALENDAR.

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

18th March, 2025. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Narara,

15th April, 2025. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.

20th May, 2025. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Narara.

17th June, 2025. Annual General Meeting & General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.

15th July, 2025. Sausage sizzle at the Valley Tavern, Narara.

19th August, 2025. General Meeting at the Ourimbah RSL Club, Ourimbah.

And what does the future hold.

If we were waiting for something wonderful to happen in the world, well it doesn't look like happening in the near or early future – or even in the distant future. In this era of modern technology one could be forgiven for thinking that members of the human race could live in harmony, supposedly being the most intelligent species on the planet. But if you didn't know the world is in chaos, you certainly haven't been watching television. Here in our little isolated corner we are relatively immune from major scourges which are being thrust upon others not so fortunate. And we must be grateful for what we have, we must keep our loved ones close and enjoy every day and whatever benefits those days produce. We hope that, as we sweep into the New Year, you are all in the best health you can be and are making the most of every day.

With best wishes to everyone.

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