



The R.F.P.A. GAZETTE

(Established 1931)

Registered office

PO Box 201

HAWKS NEST 2324

www.retiredpolice.com.au

“R.F.P.A. NSW PATRON – COMMISSIONER KAREN WEBB APM”

MEET OUR OLDEST R.F.P.A. MEMBER AT 102 Y.O.

Joyce Masters 102 – Our Association’s oldest member with Paul Wynne and Ian Lovell at a celebratory lunch in her honour. For full story see The State Secretary’s and Hunter Branch reports.



HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- Committee Report
- Branch Reports
- Notice Board
- Vale
- Articles of Interest
- New Members Welcomed
- Reunions
- Members Benefits scheme info



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RFPA Member Benefits Scheme now active

DISCOUNTS NOW AVAILABLE

The RFPA Member Benefits Scheme has officially launched, offering an array of exclusive deals tailored for our financial members. Enjoy superior discounts on top-tier travel experiences with **Viking Cruises** and **Scenic Luxury Cruises**, as well as preferential rates at six **JAX Tyres** locations across the Sydney metropolitan area. Additionally, escape to **The Reef Retreat in Palm Cove**, Queensland, at a reduced cost & **Specsavers** are our latest partner (Australia wide).

We are actively engaging with select companies to broaden our offerings to include **captivating tours of Asia**. Once these partnerships are finalised, we will inform all members of the processes necessary to take advantage of these offers.

To obtain the discount you simply have to show your **RFPA Membership card AND show Photo ID to validate the Membership cardholder**. Only financial members of the RFPA are entitled to the discounts and benefits.

For full details of the Scheme visit the RFPA website at **retiredpolice.com.au**, click on **Membership** and then click on **RFPA Member Discounts and Benefits**.

For any questions or queries about the Scheme, please contact RFPA

Benefits Scheme coordinator, **David Drew** on 0426 818 177.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The last few months have been active by myself as your President. With September being Police Remembrance month The RFPA again conducted on Friday 6 September a Memorial Service at the Police Wall of Remembrance within the Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park . There are 31 NSW Police and 4 Colonial Troopers interred within the grounds of that location. I would like to say thank you to the Sub Committee members of **Bruce Howe, George Weissel, Paul Smith, Gary Raymond, Det Sergeant Bill Green,**

Ch. Inspector Tracey Ford and Ch. Inspector Adam Pearce for their contribution in again making this Ceremony one befitting the memory of those Fallen Police.

A similar service was conducted by the Southern Metropolitan Police Associates Branch at the Police Wall of Remembrance within Woronora Memorial Park in Sutherland.

On the 16 September I attended a combined luncheon of the Illawarra and Kiama Branches at Windang Bowling Club. There I presented Awards for Significant Voluntary Service to **Kel Schreiber, Gordon Weaver and Neil Harris**.

Despite the inclement weather the RFPA was well represented at the Domain Police Wall Remembrance Service where I laid a Wreath in memory of our Fallen Colleagues.

On 7 November I attended the newly constructed Parramatta Police Station for the Dedication of their Training/Meeting Room in memory of Constable **Brett Sinclair VA** who was murdered at North Parramatta in 1988.

The Police Legacy Christmas Function was conducted on 22 November at Doltone House, Darling Harbour. The lunch was attended by hundreds of Police Widows /Spouses some of who had attained ages between 90 -100. The MC for the occasion was **Irene (Ij) Juergens** who was magnificent in the role.

The Police Bank AGM and 60th Birthday Celebration was on Thursday 29 December in Sydney and I attended along with our Secretary **Ian Lovell and Snr Vice President George Weissel**. The speakers at this event specifically recognized the Retired & Former Police Association for their involvement in the successful growth of the Bank.

Parramatta – The Hills Branch held their Christmas Function on the 30 November at Toongabbie Bowling Club. At this function I had to remove my Branch Chairman's hat and replace it with my President's hat to present **Sandra (Sandy) Benson** with the Award of Significant Voluntary Service for her contribution as Sub Editor of our Gazette and also her service to the Parramatta –The Hills Branch.

On the 6 December I was invited to attend the Attestation Parade of Class 364 at Goulburn Academy. This was the largest Class in more than 10 years. This is possibly because the recruits are now being paid during their training as you and I were when we joined. I have been informed that the next Class in May will be near capacity.

The Northern Beaches Christmas Function was conducted at Manly Leagues Club on Thursday 12 December to which **Ian Lovell** and I were invited. At that event we presented Awards of Significant Voluntary Service to **Bill McIntosh and Brian (Friendly) Friend**.

On 14 January I travelled with **Ian Lovell** to the Pelican RSL for a Hunter Branch luncheon. I was honoured to present **Joyce (Joy) Masters** with a Certificate of being at 102 years (not out) the oldest member of our Association.

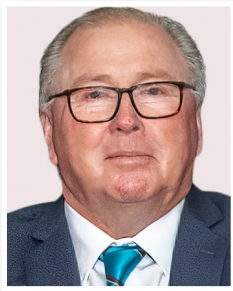
The year 2025 promises to be a year of further progress for the RFPA in the area of membership growth and benefits for our members. Our Committee man **Dave Drew** has been magnificent in attaining benefits for our members in the areas of travel, accommodation, tyres, optical and hearing with further to come.

God Bless,

Paul Wynne

E: president@retiredpolice.com.au

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Members/Associates.

Our Member Benefits scheme has taken off, with **Dave DREW** having prompted every known commercial establishment where a benefit may be found for us. Several memoranda of understanding and other formal agreements have been struck. The detail of what's available is on our website and listed under **MEMBERSHIP>RFPA Member Discounts and Benefits**.

Our most generous partners are **Jim** and **Joanne** at the **Reef Retreat, Palm Cove**, where VIP membership has been available to RFPA Members for several years now. They have also provided our annual **Membership Draw prizes** and a generous donation to the **Bob DREW** fundraiser in 2024.

Newly-minted Associate, **Brooke PRENTICE** of **MTA Travel** can make your holiday plans a reality at a lower cost than you thought, and **Shaun KAVANAGH**, also an Associate these days, can organise some of the best ocean and river cruising you could wish for on favourable terms for financial RFPA Members/Associates with **Viking Cruises**.

If your vehicle needs tyres or related attention, look up the listed **JAX Tyres** outlets for the RFPA deals.

The next poorly-kept secret is Asian Travel. **Don't book with anyone else.**

Although **Dave DREW** is doing the footwork, it is my job to ensure that what he has done, and what is available to all of us, is communicated to everyone who might derive a benefit. Dave hasn't finished with his scheme yet, with many enquiries still in train. Watch the RFPA Member Discounts and Benefits pages to see what's new from time to time. **Spread the word. Tell your RFPA mates. Go for that well-deserved holiday and spend the cash you save on something else you deserve.**

We have arranged around 20 **Significant Voluntary Service Awards** in 2024, and have asked Branches to let us know who may be deserving of such an award. To plagiarise the Northern Beaches Chair, **Dave WHITEMAN's** comments, **'you can't buy these. You can only earn them'**.

Effort worthy of recognition is seen every day, and those who actually get things done for our Members have earned their awards.

Members of the Committee of Management [CoM] have visited many Branches in the past few months, and these visits are undertaken without cost to the Association. They generally evolve from invitations, and the CoM asks for more of them, with a view to forming personal relationships and rekindling old ones. They can be just like short holidays for us. My own travel in recent months has included meeting with Northern Beaches, Northern Suburbs, Central Coast, Peel, New England and Manning Great Lakes people, and all have been great experiences. Travelling further North is on my agenda for 2025.

It has been disturbing to find that many of our 'Unattached' Members and Associates have passed away and we haven't been able to inform our membership through the Vale notices on the website or to offer condolences to family. Branch Membership has the great advantage of being in regular contact with others, with the appropriate emphasis on Welfare and just keeping in touch when things are not going well. There is also a communication advantage, be it through localised messaging or simply seeing friends at meetings or social events, which is likely to provide an appropriate outcome in times of need, emergency, or sadness. Please consider connecting with a Branch if you haven't already done so. There is no compulsion to attend meetings or socials. What I have found disappointing is that I often can't find an 'OBE' recipient, and that gazettes are occasionally 'returned to sender' because we have lost contact.

We recently had a luncheon at Pelican RSL with **Joyce 'Joy' MASTERS** our senior Associate in the Hunter Region. Joy spent many of her 102+ years working as the wife and family manager for our former colleague, the

late **Ralph MASTERS**, raising their family and waiting for him to come home from his sometimes several weeks dealing with scientific enquiries in the North West of the state. Things were primitive and communication in the region was negligible. Life was not easy. Joy likes going out for lunch, and was treated by **Police Legacy** to a 102nd birthday party back in October.

The Com was able to hear a 1980 interview between **Ralph and an ABC Radio** person from Wollongong, in which Ralph says just what he thinks, and delivers some uncomfortable advice to **Cec ABBOTT**. Despite this, Ralph was subsequently promoted. In 1990, well after retiring, he was awarded a **Star of Courage (SC)** for confronting a bank robber with a firearm at The Junction. He was seriously injured by the offender in doing so.

As is usually the case when we get together, we can celebrate the lives of those who came and went before us, and with those who are still with us, and enjoy our company.

Ian Lovell
Secretary

E: secretary@retiredpolice.com.au

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



EDITOR'S REPORT

Great work members and readers. Again we have too many articles & photos. Some are already in the next issue. **The Gazette is going digital!** This means that you can opt in to **have ONLY Digital, BOTH digital and HARD copies** or remain with the **HARD** copy only. The digital version will appear on the RFPA Website.

To change your Gazette preferences just email secretary@retiredpolice.com.au

God Bless,
Paul Wynne & Sandy Benson
E: Editor@retiredpolice.com.au

Deadline for receipt of your photos and articles for the Autumn 2025 (Jan Feb Mar 2025) Edition is 17th March 2025.



WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT

I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas and New Year period and have settled into the New Year. While some of you did not enjoy the Christmas and New Year period because of sickness or ill health, I do hope you have improved somewhat and continue to get better. I have spoken to quite a few members

and they have in most cases assured me that things are improving and the person in need is on the improve. I have tried to contact some members by telephone with whom I have needed to, but they have failed to answer. I ask you to ensure your telephones are made available for any contact that needs to be made. The Ex Police Cadets Function (Lunch) is being held on the 19th February, 2025 at Club York, 95-99 York Street, Sydney, commencing at 11am. \$90 per head. Name with payment. Police Bank Acc. 241807s1 or if drawn from outside Police Bank, Account No. 100220578.

I hope everyone takes care and looks after each other.

Ian Moore
E: welfare@retiredpolice.com.au

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

SURNAME	CHRISTIAN NAME	BRANCH
BRYANT	Geoffrey William	Hunter Region
CARR	Christine	Hunter Region
CORBETT	John Hunter	Central Coast
CURRY	Gael	Hunter Region
DAKIC	Dusan	Dubbo District
DAWBNEY	Stuart Leslie	Penrith Blue Mountains
FLEMING	John	Parramatta-The Hills
FORREST	Robert Keith	Illawarra
HALLORAN	Kerry-Ann	Northern Rivers
HILL	Benjamin	Central Tablelands
HUDSON	Paul Grahame	Hunter Region
HUTCHESSON	Cyril Lindsay	Hunter Region
HUTCHESSON	Diana Marea	Hunter Region
LEACY	Kenneth Robert	Hunter Region
MCMANUS	Danny Joseph	Sydney
MURPHY	Donna Maree	Sydney
OLIVER	Gary	Hunter Region
PLEWS	Brian Hector	Hunter Region
PROUTEN	Sandra Robyn	Hunter Region
RAND	Bridget	Parramatta-The Hills
ROBERTSON	Russell William	Gold Coast
ROBINSON	Barrie John	Hunter Region
TAYLOR	Chris	Hunter Region
TSANG KCGSJ JP	Patrick Pak-Chu	Parramatta-The Hills
WEEKLEY	Kylie	Murray River
WHITE	Troy Michael	Brisbane & Northern Sub
FITZGERALD, OAM	Bob	Parramatta-The Hills
FLEGG	Stephen Albert	Hunter Region
KELLERT	Susan	Macarthur
KIDD	Kerry	Northern Rivers
LALOR	Lesley Joy	Hunter Region
LEE	Brenton Joseph	Hunter Region
PRENTICE	Brooke	Northern Beaches
WALES APM	Norman William	Murray River
WALLACE	Stuart	Northern Rivers

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Paul & Ian,

I write this letter to sincerely thank you both and your committee for the recognition and wonderful presentation of the engraved plaque presented to me at our annual RFPA Xmas dinner last Saturday. The presentation was in recognition of my voluntary contribution to our organisation.

I must say I was absolutely overwhelmed when Rhonda announced it and presented me with it, as it was never expected, although very much appreciated.

I was foundation treasurer and two years later took over the secretary position for the next 13 years and loved every minute of it.

We do not volunteer to do these things for rewards but receive immense pleasure from looking after the welfare of fellow members, wives and partners and the friendships and fellowship that come with it.

I am not in the best of health as far as my mobility is concerned and on two walking sticks, so I seldom go out of an evening. I cannot impress upon you how close I was to not be attending the function as I was just not up to it and as late as 2-30pm I tried to talk Judy out of going. My son arrived shortly after and gave me a haircut which was overdue and encouraged me to go. I had a cold shower and agreed to go as I knew Judy was looking forward to it and seldom gets out with me now.

We attended the Jacaranda Room at the RSL where many members and their wives/partners were already present, and a good night was assured.

I was absolutely surprised and gobsmacked and had no warning of what was going to happen although I later found out Judy and my son were aware of it and kept it a secret as requested.

The presentation was very well received by members, and we had a lovely meal and company.

I congratulate Rhonda and her committee for organising a very enjoyable evening and encourage them to keep up the good work.

The RFPA is a wonderful organisation, and your members derive much pleasure and comfort from it. It was an honour and privilege to hold the positions I held and be able to assist in growing the association in our region.

Judy and I wish you and your committee a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Keep up your excellent leadership going forward.

Yours sincerely,

Ross Tighe

Dear Paul,

I refer to an item in the most recent edition of The RFPA Gazette. An article Titled "Mystery Equipment" on page 5. I can perhaps help with a little information.

The Late **John Hamer** was a keen videographer. When the NSW Police took over the Goulburn campus the Property came with Audio/Visual facilities. In 1987 John Hamer was appointed OIC of the NSW Police Video Unit taking over from the irrepressible **Col Colman**. At that time the Video Unit was housed in the "Hat Factory" at Surry Hills and had a strength of 4 personnel under the operational command of Insp **Frank (Cranky Franky) Newman** of the Training and Examination Branch.

After **John Hamer** took the reins The Video Unit was tasked with producing 13 training films for the PREP program and the education of new recruits. The equipment in the photograph shows **John Hamer** sitting in front of an early Character Generator and editing equipment in the Video editing studio at the Academy. The Character Generation allows the user to produce text and visual effects which can be added or overlaid on video images. An example would be credits which roll up the screen at the end of a film. The equipment seen in the picture was obsolete, but in its day was state of the art and worked perfectly well at the time. Unfortunately I don't know who the other two people in the picture are.

Best Regards

Chris Kolder

Det Snr Const (Retired)

Editor's Note – this information has been passed on to the Librarian at Goulburn Academy

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF POLICE BANK

In late 1964, a small group of visionaries from the NSW Police Division Number 1 got together and started a credit union, which we now know as Police Bank.

Having the option to take out a loan is something many of us take for granted, but back then it was a different story for police – some of you might even remember – as the profession was considered “high risk” to lenders.

Police Bank’s key values of helping the police community have remained the same for more than sixty years now. Our mission is to take the financial strain away from those doing the most important work for the community – especially when times are tough.

Our focus has always been on our members, and while our membership base has broadened, the majority of our 75,000+ customers still have a strong connection to The Force – either as members or family members. In fact, we now have third generation members, who have proudly followed in the footsteps of both a grandparent and a parent to join the Police Force.



Boyd Stewart, Paul Wynne, Ian Lovell and George Weissel

Blue is part of our DNA, and we are always thinking of ways to better support the police community. Our most important future goal is to deepen our existing connection to our members – they are the very reason we’ve existed for 60 years and will hopefully exist for many more.

Through our targeted products, service standards, and our partnerships, we’ll continue to strive to be the best bank for police so they can continue their vital work keeping our communities safe.

We thank the **Retired & Former Police Association of NSW** for its work and are grateful for our ongoing relationship. Here’s to many more years together!

Greg McKenna,
Chief Executive of Police Bank

BRANCH REPORTS

BRISBANE

Hi everyone,

Our **Brisbane and North Suburbs RFPA lunch** at Bribie Island Surf Club on Tuesday was a great turn up and a great lunch but also sadly it was also a send-off for **Shirley and Ian Whitehall** before they move to Banora Point on Thursday to be closer to family.

Kerry Beggs said some wonderful words and presented a gift on behalf of our branch which included those who were unable to attend due to health reasons and travel commitments.

After lunch, **Lynell** and I took advantage of being so close to the beach for a swim and of course an ice cream.



Most of us then had an uneventful trip home except for our RFPA member **Troy White** who had to come to the aid of uniform police who were unable to complete the arrest himself of the felon due to his injuries caused during this arrest. **Troy** physically subdued the felon and handcuffed him so that he could be transported by police, great work Troy, you made all of us proud.

Thanks to **Ken** for the photos and to those who attended who were **Steve & Lynell Turner, Sally Matheson, Kerry and Marlene Beggs, Penny and Pieter Strik, Ken Fogarty, Angela and Stephen Cosgrave, Russell Gray, Shirley & Ian Whitehall, Dayle de Martino, Ross Konowalenko, Troy White, Anne and Chris Long, Leslie Robinson and Peter Mortimer, Dawn and Graham Devaney.**



Lynelle & Steve Turner with Troy White

Regards
Steve Turner
Chairman and Secretary
E: brisbanerpa@retiredpolice.com.au

CENTRAL COAST

GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS.

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.

The December Branch Meeting was attended by **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.**

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.

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 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 McDonell**, the widow of our late Member, **Peter McDonell**, Kate acting as a funeral celebrant.

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

Social Activities - What a great day it was at the **Royal Hotel, Wyong, on Wednesday, 6th 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. You missed a great day and the following photos show a very happy band of participants. Congratulations to **Russ Whitcher** and **Peter Caddy** for their organizational skills. It was a good choice of location.

An important part of the occasion was the celebration of the rapidly approaching 100th 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.

A happy group gathered at the Valley Tavern, at Narara, on Tuesday, 19th 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.



Bryan Low being presented with his O.B.E. Certificate

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.

John E. (Ernie) Carmichael
E: centralcoastrfpa@retiredpolice.com.au



Sonia, Marj Clark age 100 and Geoff



CENTRAL TABLELANDS

We look forward to your contributions for our next gazette

COFFS HARBOUR

In October we gathered at the Coramba Hotel for lunch.



Coffs Harbour Nov meeting



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

14th November Coffs/Clarence Police District Awards Ceremony was held. And I was honoured to attend on behalf of our RPPA at the CEX Stadium, where **COURAGE – HONOUR – DUTY** were recognized and awarded to our local Police. Congratulations to all. Stay safe.



Russell Oxford, Nick Kaldas, Myself, Debbie Wallace and Col Dyson

A company called Carexcell who take care of veterans' et al' put a new advertising gig together, and asked me if I would like to be involved. I got a shock to see my ugly head on the side of a bus leaning up on one of the old piles that hold the old wooden pier up chatting to one of the organisers.



Coffs Harbour Busways advertisement

On the 22nd November I attended the **CIB Detective's Reunion Dinner** at the International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour. The theme was acknowledging the past. It was great to catch up with retired and former colleagues.



CLASS 364 Xavier Hedley Gleave attested 6 December 2024.

Cheers
Garry Heskett
E: coffsharbourrppa@retiredpolice.com.au

DUBBO

We look forward to your contributions for our next gazette.

GOLD COAST

Our **September social** was at the Miami Tavern, was well attended and everyone enjoyed the beach view and the quality of the food that was presented.

Our visit to Tweed Heads Police Station for **Retired Police Day in September**, was another outstanding day for all of those who attended. Morning tea, BBQ lunch with all the trimmings was another triumph for all the staff at the Station. A presentation of a recent event was very interesting.

Many thanks to Tweed/Byron District.

Our meeting in October was a normal bi-monthly meeting and we had the pleasure of the company of **Terry and Betty PERKINS, Bruce and Dora THOMSON, Gary MATTHEWS, Jim and Liz LUTHERBURROW, Jeff FOWLER, Garry JARDINE, Max ROBERTS, Geoff and Vikki MAXWORTHY, Garry WILLIAMS, Jim MATHEWS, Steve HUBBARD, Ken and Esther JENKINS, Russell ROBERTSON, Graham BISHOP, Jim and Olive CAVANAUGH, and Les ZAHN.**

Our Welfare Officers reported on a few of our members that are battling infirmities. **Bruce THOMSON** reported that **Gina BLACKMAN** has been released from hospital and back home with her beloved **Mahendra**. Still a long road to recovery for **Gina**. **Jim CAVANAUGH** informed us that **Noreen McMurray** is in Pinjarra Hospital and will be there for some time. **Brian FRIEND** had heart surgery and on the mend. **Geoffrey COATES** recently passed away and support was offered from our Branch. **John COOKE** has been in a Brisbane hospital for several weeks but is very slowly improving.

A new member to join our ranks is **Russell ROBERTSON**, a retired Queensland officer who was President of the Queensland Retired Police, Gold Coast Branch. **Russell** has been recently attending our Branch meetings and enjoying the camaraderie. **Russell** also attended the Retired Police Day at Tweed and was thoroughly impressed and enjoyed the experience, which is not available for retired police in Queensland. **Russell** was going to contact their State president recommending the possible similar event for Queensland.

Our guest speaker at the meeting was **Paul EAGLE, Leading Firefighter from NSW Fire & Rescue** who gave a very informative talk about fire safety, and **lithium batteries** in electric vehicles, E scooters and E bikes, as well as those in power tools and phones. He pointed out the importance of good quality batteries especially when replacing batteries and to use genuine replacement parts. Videos were shown on lithium batteries exploding. His lecture certainly dominated after the meeting with luncheon discussions about the information that had been learned. Thank you **Paul** for your time.

Our **November social** luncheon was held at the Burleigh Sports Club with more than 20 members attending and enjoying the occasion with excellent food provided. Always a pleasure to enjoy the company of our members.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 11th February, 2025 – any visitors to the area are most welcome.

Bruce Thomson
E: goldcoastrppa@retiredpolice.com.au

HUNTER REGION

We've been about a bit in the last couple of months. The Committee has overseen the changes in our Branch designed to rotate our venues as evenly as we can between residential areas, and reduce the formality of meetings. Combined with a revitalised Committee and the entering of beneficial arrangements with our main host, Club Macquarie, our numbers are up and all goes well.

Unfortunately, we have seen the passing of a number of our loyal friends, and it is timely that we replace them at our gatherings with new faces. We remember and revere those who have left us, and have done so formally as a group.

Celebrating the life of our oldest **Associate, Joy MASTERS**, is our next event at Pelican RSL and we have invited some special guests, including Joy and the late Ralph's children and other family members. Having spent many years as the wife of a very active and prominent policeman, **Joy** has plenty of stories. Her daughter **Lesley** has guided us through the process of arranging the lunch at a venue of Joy's choice, and has provided an astounding interview, recorded in 1980 between an ABC Wollongong reporter and Ralph, who didn't hold back in his commentary on the Police Executive of the day, offering blunt suggestions to the Commissioner of the day (**Cec ABBOTT**) on how the world sees police and how police could then fix a few things. Surprisingly, he was promoted almost straight away.



Our new Secretary, **Rene MARKERINK**, had some health issues recently, and is on the recovery road, eating, as he puts it, a new dietary regime. Let us all know if it reduces one's circumference **Rene**, and we'll give it a go.

Recent visits to Club Mex at Mayfield, Club Macquarie at Cockle Creek and the Huntlee Tavern at Branxton have all been well attended.

Welcome to our newest Hunter Region Members and Associates during 2024, including **Allan McCUDDEN, Michael ELVIN, Tony HAYWOOD, Richard HOGAN, Howard LAUGHTON, Murray SAIT, Margie RICHARDSON, Chrissie MARKERINK, Barrie ROBINSON, Brian PLEWS, Christine CARR, Gael CURRY, Paul HUDSON, Geoff BRYANT, Ken LEACY, Chris TAYLOR, Gary OLIVER, Cyril HUTCHESSON, Di HUTCHESSON, Bill BEEKMAN, Brenton LEE, Christine BARTLETT, Steve FLEGG and Lesley LALOR.**

Regards

Bob Gray

A/Secretary

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ILLAWARRA AND KIAMA

In recent issues we missed putting in **a great photo of a combined (Illawarra & Kiama) social luncheon** at the Windang Bowling Club which was held on the **18 March 2024**, a total of 20 members from both branches including the bloke who took the shot. Social events are so important to our members and joining with other branches is a great way to meet with other members.



Group photo, Kiama Illawarra RFPA 18.3.2024 Windang Bowling Club

On Monday 16 September 2024, members of the **Kiama and Illawarra (Wollongong) Branch** of the RFPA met for a luncheon at the Windang Bowling Club. This function was well supported by members of both branches. Also present was **State President Paul Wynne**. During this gathering Paul presented 3 Awards to members, **Kelvin Schreiber and Gordon Weaver (Kiama Branch) and Neil Harris (Illawarra Branch)**, for "Significant voluntary service with the R.F.P.A. of N.S.W."



Kelvin Schreiber, Gordon Weaver & Neil Harris

These awards were a surprise to those that received them and it was obvious that it was a recognition at keeping our "Local Branches Active" especially with all of our membership getting older and they contributing years of Service to the same.

At the Illawarra (Wollongong) Branch Meeting on Monday 21 October 2024 at Wollongong Master Builders Club, Secretary **Neil Harris** presented our **Chairman/President Dave Routledge**, with Award for "Significant Voluntary Service with the R.F.P.A. of N.S.W." Dave was also surprised by the same and added he like all of us "Had a Genuine Interest in Our Local Branches, and Social Functions apart from the "Formal Meetings" form a VERY IMPORTANT ROLE in keeping Branches Active.



Dave Routledge & Neil Harris

On Monday 18 November 2024, at 11.30am our Branch held "Social Luncheon" at Wollongong Master Builders Club during which **Michael Ryan** was presented with his Veterans Certificate (OBE) many present remember Mick as a Senior Sgt "expert" fingerprint man stationed at Wollongong. Mick enjoyed the catchup with old workmates. Also present was **Beryl Hammond**, celebrating her 95th birthday.



Beryl Hammond 95 yrs Young & Chairman Dave Routledge



Michael Ryan (Vet. Certificate OBE) & Chairman Dave Routledge

Our Branch meets every second even month, **FEB, APR, JUN, AUG** etc. and Social meetings the odd months. Master Builders Club, 3rd Monday in Month at 11am - Dave Routledge 0414339424 or Neil Harris 0411487813.

Regards

Neil Harris

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MACARTHUR

At our October meeting we had the following present: **Dennis Smith, Allan & Marnie Carr, Ian & Jo Baloglow, Roger & Lorraine Ford, Joe Stanioch, Ron Reuben, Bob Barnett, Michael Timms, Gary Clark, Gary Jorgensen, Alan Moule, Les Green, Allan Randall, John Carroll, Kevin Barr, Geoff McNevin, Shane Howard, Bill Pinkerton, Mal Sinton, Sonya Mathew, Sonia Roberts, Kevin Hill, Graham Rule, Phil McIntosh, and George Seymour.**



At the Macarthur AGM and Christmas Luncheon at the Menangle Country Club on Friday the 13th December 2024, young Geoffrey McNevin was awarded his Veteran Certificate by his former work colleague John Carroll

Apologies received from Kerry Reuben, Peter Edwards, Bruce Williams, Brent & Sue Thomas, Jim & **Karyn Johnson, Paul McDonald, Wendy Walsh, Max Madgwick, Peter & Susan Millar, Rob Thomsett, Gary & Denise Moffitt, Richard & Lillian Cordwell and Brian Harding.**

We are introducing a \$5 subsidy voucher for usage to organised events. The voucher will only be distributed with attendance to our Meetings.

We are getting a lot of good press with our latest Charity drive when we purchased a **Ground Monitor for the Menangle Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.**

Along with other Brigades they attended a large shed fire with over 300 bales of hay well alight. With the implementation of the Ground Monitor they immediately removed 6 firemen from the firefighting hazard. With our assistance they are the only brigade in the region with the equipment that can produce that result.

WELFARE REPORT: Apart from Covid, the Flu etc there are no major Welfare Reports to report.

On Wednesday 16th October, 2024 a group of our members attended a **Whale Watching experience** from Circular Quay to outside the Sydney Heads. The day was overcast, with a 2 metre sea swell and the waves rather choppy when stationary watching the Whales. All on board were seasoned ocean travellers but one (guess who) who thoroughly enjoyed a great adventure.

On Saturday 2nd November, 2024 the Macarthur RFPA Branch had a **Family day at the Sydney Search Dogs at Rossmore.** After an enlightened presentation that endorsed the ability and skills displaying the capabilities of the dogs in locating Missing Persons as well as loss of life during Natural Disasters we were made aware of their abilities with a display incorporating walking across a ladder and up a flight of stairs to a platform.



Sydney Search Dogs

The Kids integrated with the display by hiding in barrels awaiting to be found. We were also made aware of a Drone search, by having the Kids supervised but hiding in bushland to again be located.

An enjoyable day had by all.

Roger Ford

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An aside.

The Sydney Search Dogs are a Volunteer Organisation that relies on **donations etc to exist.** Unfortunately, they do not receive any State or Federal funding to be able to continue with their Community endeavours.

MANNING GREAT LAKES

We look forward to your contributions for our next Gazette.

MID NORTH COAST

October 2nd saw our Branch go to the Abundance Cafe at Sancrox for lunch. The cafe is located in a very well presented garden nursery and sits on the side of a waterlily covered lake, a very nice setting for a day's outing. Those who attended were **Bruce Saunders and Denise Huntley, Ian & Dawn Campbell, Laurie & Marcia McGrath, Sandra & Jim Cranna, George & Jan McCleery, Bob and Helen Hanlon, Ron & Margaret Hammersley, Paul Griffin, Rick Walton, Jennett Hunt, Trish Affleck-Mooney, Paul Egge and Ross Radford.** Our Chairman **Al Lukes and Sid Crane and Kerry Bolsover** had to withdraw at the last minute due to medical appointments. **Paul Egge** was presented with his OBE (Veteran's) Certificate as well as a **plaque from the Retired and Former Police Association** acknowledging him for his many years of voluntary work for the Mid North Coast Branch. It was a very well deserved honour to Paul who was one of the driving forces behind the establishment of our Branch back in 2006. During the presentation to him he was described as one of the 'founding fathers' of the Branch. A good day was had by all.



Members at our lunch at the Abundance Cafe, Sancrox.

On the 8th October nine of our members visited the Birdon Group shipyard at Port Macquarie. The number was restricted because it a very busy work site and safety was the key issue. Those who attended were **Betty Hartnett & Peter Wilms, Jim Cranna and Phil Gloede, Laurie & Marcia McGrath, Wayne Evans and Ian Campbell.** We were given a 45 minute presentation on the beginnings and growth of Birdons and what an eyeopener it was. Birdons was founded 45 plus years ago by a man named **Jim Bruce.** He had one dredging vessel and operated along the coast of NSW. It has now grown to a huge shipbuilding/anything marine business with offices, dredging vessels and shipbuilding facilities all over the world. It employs over 750 people and is about to employ another 100 at one of their shipyards in the USA to service a 1.6Billion dollar contract they won to build vessels for the US Coastguard and the US Navy. After the presentation we toured the site having a look at, amongst other things, at a new vessel being built named the New Endeavour. It's a tall masted sailing ship which will be used in the training of navel cadets and other young people, it is approximately 12 months from completion.



Birdon guided Birdon tour group L to R Wayne Evans, Birdon man, Ian Campbell, Laurie & Marcia McGrath, Al Lukes, Birdon man, Betty Hartnett (obs) Peter Wilms

The Port Macquarie facility services all types of vessels in their drydock ranging from Sydney Harbour Ferries to Navy vessels and everything in between. It was a great tour and we thank the Birdon Group for doing it solely for our members. It gave everyone a real feeling of satisfaction to know that what was once a very small Australian company, which is now being run the founders son and daughter, has expanded into a worldwide leader in the building and development of marine equipment. A real Aussie success story.

On the 12th November our Branch had a coffee and chat at the Port City Bowling Club. Although there are major renovations going on at the Club we managed to squeeze into the Drift Cafe. Those present were **Graham Williams, Al Lukes, Wayne Evans, Jim Cranna, Val Ivlev, Garry Jennings, Paul Egge, Paul Griffin, Bruce Saunders and Bob Hanlon**. Apologies were received from **Jennett Hunt, Marlene Brown, Sid Crane, Kerry Bolsover, Warwick Laney, Trish Affleck-Mooney and Keith Rule**. A very pleasant morning for those in attendance.

Jim Cranna

Publicity Officer, Mid North Coast branch
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MURRAY RIVER

OBE Presentation Melbourne - Margaret Westaway

Our Murray River RFPA Branch members met in Melbourne at the Mail Exchange Hotel on 3 September 2024 for our dinner and OBE Presentation to one of our pioneering policewomen, **Margaret Westaway**. I first met Margaret in the mid 1980's when she was conducting the IROC Course (Initial Response Officers Course re sexual assault) in Liverpool St Sydney. Margaret was the first policewoman in NSW to sit for a promotional exam and one of the first dozen or so women to do the Detectives training course in NSW Police.

In 1965, Margaret at the age of 21 years old was the youngest woman to join the Victorian Police Force when they dropped their recruitment age and allowed women to join. She worked for about 3 years in various locations for VicPol before she left and applied for the NSW Police Force where she worked for just over 30 years.

Margaret has been coming to all of our get togethers in Melbourne ever since we welcomed all of the unallocated Victorian members to our branch some 5 years ago. So good to have you here. We had about a half and half with a few of our Albury and surrounds residents travelling down to Melbourne for the dinner.



Margaret Westaway OBE

OBE Presentations at Woomargama - Peter Croucher & Daryl Carl

On Sunday, 20th October 2024, 30 members, family & friends travelled to Woomargama for the Murray River RFPA Luncheon to make 2 OBE presentations to our members. When I say travelled, we had our member & recipient **Peter Croucher and his wife Di** travel down from Corindi Beach (near Coffs Harbour), **Phil & Chris Eddes** travel up from Melbourne, and **Mick & Vicki Mott** travel down from near Richmond in Sydney, **Allan Grogan** actually crossed the Victorian border from Yackandandah which he never usually does...I think he was lost and **Ken 'Ziggy' Zegiel** travelled all the way from Albury. Why travel? Because they all started their careers at Cabramatta, when it was a little 6 person call box and were great friends and continued that friendship.

Our other OBE recipient was **Daryl Carl**. He travelled all the way from a couple of streets away as he lives in Woomargama. Daryl was in the Sydney Water Police for years and after leaving he owned and ran the Woomargama Hotel for many years. He of course has sold it a few years ago and has retired to live in this cute little town. The OBE presentations were made to our proud recipients by our honourable **Chair Mr Zegiel**.



Daryl Carl & Chair Ken Zegiel presenting the OBE



Mick Mott, Peter Croucher OBE Recipient, Ken Zegiel, Phil Eddes, Allan Grogan the Cabramatta Crew.

Retired Police Day at Albury.

We had a good turnout of retired and former police, admins and family at the Albury Police Church for Retired Police Day in Albury hosted by the Murray River Police District **Supt Paul Smith**. Retired Police Pins to **Terry Leahey, Peter Barker & Hal Smith**.

We then listened to a presentation by Senior Sergeant **Peter Beacroft** (Ret'd) on the Temora Air Disaster that he was involved in when he was attached to Temora. 11 locals, including a work colleague & family were killed in a plane crash in Sydney in 1980 impacting him, other officers, and the town. Extremely challenging and brave of him to recount it.

A great get together for all mingling with the current young & mature Police Officers attached to the district.



L-R Supt Paul Smith, Beth Docksey, John Holstein, Hal Smith, Don Hamilton, Terry Leahey, Chris Bentley, Max Merkel, Lyndelle Tubie, Ian Elworthy, Brian Rosewarne, Ken Zegiel, Peter Beacroft, Peter Barker.

NSW Police Remembrance Day 2024 ceremony was also held at Deniliquin Police Station. Photo courtesy of Supt Paul Smith.



L-R C/Insp Juay Brown, Supt Paul Smith APM, Paul's father C/Insp Roger Smith APM (Ret'd), Bill Drummond, Peter Beacroft, Police Chaplain Tim Fogo, C/Insp Mick Fuller.

Coffee & Chat.

On 8 October 2024, the Murray River RFPA branch members met at La Maison for a coffee and chat. We had a lovely choice of scones or Portuguese tart.

Veterans' Health Week Bowls activities on 17th & 24th of October 2024 at the Commercial Club Albury went really well and there was good attendance on both days. Murray River RFPA members were invited along. Bunnings and Open Arms provided a number of prizes for the two days and many fun games were played to determine who would take home the prizes. Thanks again for both days being facilitated by Bowls Gr8 for Brains champions Darryl Coventry & Paul Cole.

Remembrance Day 11.11.2024 at Albury. Murray River RFPA Branch.

Today the City of Albury RSL Sub-Branch held a commemoration service at St Matthew Church to commemorate the armistice that occurred during World War I and to remember those who sacrificed their lives and wellness during the war. Murray River Branch was represented by the Chair **Sgt Ken Zegiel (Rtd)** who laid a wreath on behalf of our branch. It was a lovely service with over 200 local community members attending. Thank you all armed services members for their service, many of whom have also been police officers during their lives.

Coffee & Chat 8.11.24 Narelle Spinks Visit

Murray River Branch had a former Albury officer **Narelle Spinks** come to town for a family occasion and she also wanted to link in with our police family, so we put on a coffee and chat for her and our local police family all rushed to Nanina's Cafe in South Albury.

We had near on 2 dozen turn up to see **Narelle** and catch up with her: Her favourite Sgt from work was there for a reminiscence and cuddle. So cute.

Corowa 20th November Lunch with Neville Bent

On Wednesday 20th November 2024 Murray River RFPA members ventured out to Corowa to meet a former Corowa Police Officer; **Neville Bent**. He was down from Hervey Bay and wanted to catch up with some former workmates. Wow Nev has been out for over 3 decades, but he was still able to catch up with a few who worked with him and/or knew him. And for the rest of us who hadn't or had only linked up over Facebook, it was very nice to meet you. Lovely guy. Great food, great company with lots of laughs.

Beth Docksey, APM

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NEW ENGLAND

We look forward to your contributions for our next Gazette.

NORTHERN BEACHES

The branch meeting on the 26th September had a good roll up of 35 members. **Terrence (Terry) William MOSS** was presented his OBE by our branch secretary, **Alan Le SURF**.



OBE for Terrence William Moss

Our final formal meeting of the year was held on Thursday, November 21st, with over 30 members in attendance. We were honoured to welcome **Lilian FILMER** the wife of our recently departed member; **Dick FILMER**. Lilian has now joined our branch as an associate member. **Barry MILES** presented her with a beautiful sash, a heartfelt token we offer to the families of our late members.

Members in attendance were; **Bill WILLIAMS, Bob LINNEY, Alan Le SURF, Oscar TAYLOR, Anne MULLINS, Bill BUSH, Barry MILES, Julie BERTOLDO, Chris PRESCOTT, Lilian FILMER, Bob INSKSTER, Garrie WATT, Harold HANLON, Geoff KAY, Ken and Lyn BULGER, Phil OBRIEN, Brien GATELY, Mystery Person-18, Bruce SMITH, Dave WHITEMAN, Col and Jenny COLMAN, Belinda SNEL, Daryl DONNOLLEY, Bart SNEL, Bill and Irene McINTOSH, Andrew JENKINS, Greg THANE, Alex VOGT, Reg ANDERSON, Bob WARLAND, Ian FINLAYSON.**

Thank you all for your support and participation throughout the year—it's your involvement that makes our branch so special!

As another eventful year comes to a close, we reflect on the wonderful activities organised by our ever-busy Social Secretary, **Liz WHITEMAN**. On October 22nd, many of our members enjoyed a relaxed and enjoyable catch-up at the Fishbowl in Dee Why RSL. These bi-monthly casual gatherings are growing more popular with each event—it's so lovely to see more of you joining in!

Our member **Garrie WATT** has been a proud competitor in the **NSW Police Games** since they began in March 1983 at Narrabeen Fitness Camp. While the early years featured larger Track & Field and Swimming events, Garrie has consistently focused on Track & Field, competing in the NSW Police Games, APES Games, and World Police & Fire Games in Melbourne (1995) and South Australia (2007). He also served as Track & Field Coordinator for the 2008 APES Games in Coffs Harbour.



Garrie Watt with Medals

Though participation in his age group has declined over the years, **Garrie's** motivation has always been personal improvement—running faster, jumping further, and throwing better. For him, the games are about fun, fitness, and reconnecting with friends and colleagues.

Now nearly 75, **Garrie** recently competed in Wollongong at the **NSW Police Games**, grateful to remain active and part of this incredible community.

Well what can we say about **Brian FRIEND** our long term Vice-Chairman. He certainly is a trouper! Whilst playing in a Masters Rugby League competition on the Gold Coast, mind you he is over 80, he suffered a mild heart attack. He was taken by ambulance to Pindarra Hospital on the Gold Coast for medical attention and advised he would need an open-heart surgery procedure called Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG). He was transferred to John Flynn Hospital at Tweed Heads for the procedure and then spend a few weeks there before coming back to his home in the Northern Beaches. Whilst in the hospital he had a number of visitors and had coffee with an old friend **Judy BOTHAM** from the Northern Beaches. The good news is he is on the mend.



Brian Friend John Flynn Hospital

On a sad note one of our veteran members, **Peter BURGESS** passed away earlier in November. Peter was 86. Stay safe

Ian Finlayson & Julie Bertoldo - Branch Reporters.
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NORTHERN RIVERS

Greetings from the Northern Rivers Branch. Well hasn't the year flown by. We have only had a couple of meetings this year but our Branch is very much active.

In November we had our Christmas meeting followed by a very enjoyable lunch at Cherry Street Bowling Club Ballina. Enjoying branch fellowship were **Charlie Halloran, Barry Hurren, Robyn Hurren, Bill Nugent, Ron Maher, Mal Towers, Chris Wallace, Glenys Parker, Con Vernardos and Glenn Taylor**. A number of our members had their wives or partners attend for the luncheon. Thanks to the staff at the Bowling club for catering for us. Our next meeting won't be till late February 2025 at Yamba.



Northern Rivers Christmas function

We wish all members of R.F.P.A a very enjoyable Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Regards

Glenn Taylor, Branch reporter

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NORTHERN SUBURBS (FORMERLY HORNSBY & DISTRICTS)

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy and prosperous 2025. Another year that has flown by so quickly. We had a Coffee Club at The Asquith Club in November attended by (l to r) **Greg Bertoldo, Alan Doak, Bill Leadbeatter, Greg Muir, Les Potter, Dick Smith (obs), Bill Shute (obs), Verity Greenwood, John Graham, Bill Johnson**.



Northern Suburbs Branch encapsulates the areas of the previous No's 6, 16, 17 and 25 Divisions. Those Divisions were more often than not covered by Police who resided outside the area, notably the Central Coast, Newcastle and the Northern Beaches. Our Branch subsequently struggles to attract former police who worked in the Northern Metropolitan Region. We already have regular visitors who previously worked in the area and who travel from the Blue Mountains and beyond. It would be great to have former workmates visiting our meetings on the odd occasion to renew acquaintances and revisit the past (the good parts).

Our Christmas lunch was attended by 29 starters who enjoyed each other's company as well as the huge raffle that was a resounding success. It was great to meet **Carl Cameron's** daughter and grandson on the day and to catch up with my cousin, **Phil Taylor**, visiting from the Central Coast. **Phil, Bruce Williams and Peter McDonnell** relived funny times from their days at No. 25 Division and VKG.

The first photo shows (l to r) **Tony Sneddon, Les Potter, John Barber, Warren Cole, Alan Pollock, Ross Beattie (standing), Ken McKnight, John & Elaine Schell, Trudi Cole, Philip Scott, Bruce Williams, Phil Taylor, Peter McDonnell, Bill Shute, Carl Cameron** and daughter **Nyree** (standing). The second photo shows (l to r) **Tricia & John Andrews, Evelyn & Alan Doak, Greg & June Muir, Verity Greenwood (obs), Greg Bertoldo, Steve Bensley (obs), Bill Leadbeatter and Bill Johnson**.



Greg Muir
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PARRAMATTA - THE HILLS

Police Remembrance Day - On the 27 September 2024, several members of our Parramatta/The Hills RFPA Branch attended the NSW Police Remembrance Day commemoration in Sydney Domain. **Our RFPA Patron, Commissioner Karen Webb APM** was also generous with her time and welcomed our continued devotion to the memory of Police fallen in the Line of Duty.



Police remembrance day

Social BBQ - The weather gods smiled on a well-attended Spring BBQ held in October at the Showground Precinct, Blacktown. Many tall tales (but true?) were told in an atmosphere of friendship, camaraderie and mutual respect. Also very pleasing to welcome some new members to the Branch and renew friendships with returning members.



BBQ for Legacy

Our Weekly Coffee Catch Ups are a popular event held at various locations - A good roll up for Thursday coffee mornings at various venues in Western Sydney.

Remembrance Day commemorating the end of WW I – remembering the 11th November 1918 when “the guns fell silent” – Several branch members attended our local service was held at the Seven Hills RSL.



Remembrance Day L to R; Barry Sutcliffe, Tom Baena, Annette Willett, Paul Smith Lester Robey, MP Mark Taylor, Faye Ambrose, Nick Pavlov and Naomi Baldwin

Police Legacy presentation. At our November meeting we enjoyed an informative presentation by **Supt. Donna McCarthy** explaining the various ways Police Legacy assists **our Blue Family**. A ‘cheque’ representing a \$500.00 donation by the Branch was presented to **Supt. McCarthy**. At the same meeting our ever smiling **Joe Turner** was presented with his OBE at the conclusion of the meeting.



Supt Donna McCarthy and Paul Wynne



Joe Turner receiving his OBE

And so it is Christmas.... A good roll up of 45 members to our 2024 Christmas Party at the Toongabbie Bowling Club. Those present, gave the new venue, the entertainer and the food the “thumbs up” So many prizes for the Christmas Raffle and everyone received a “Goodies Bag”. Thanks to the Social club team for their organisation. It was a night of fun, good music, good food (and lots of it) and in an atmosphere of fellowship and camaraderie.



Some of our Christmas Dinner revellers

Nick Pavlov, Branch Reporter
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PEEL

Peel RFPA Branch Christmas Lunch and Awards Presentation

Members of the Peel and New England RFPA branches, along with several friends from the area Fire and Ambulance services, gathered at the South Tamworth Bowling Club for a festive Christmas Lunch and special awards presentation.

State RFPA Secretary **Ian Lovell** and RFPA Webmaster **Dave Whiteman** were special guests, joining in the celebrations and presenting some of the awards.

Branch Secretary **Phil O'Reilly APM** (Radar) presented **Harry Tunnicliff** and **Kevin Welsh** with their OBE (Over Bloody Eighty) certificates.

Following this, Significant RFPA Volunteer Service awards were presented to **Phil O'Reilly APM**, **David Walker**, **Greig Stier**, **Steve Bradshaw APM**, and **Matt Lynch** for their outstanding initiative in the successful fundraiser for New England branch member **Bob Drew**, who became a paraplegic after a horse accident.

Bob was on hand to share in the occasion and thanked all those who came to his aid after his tragic accident.



Group hanging out for Xmas Lunch at table 78, South Tamworth Bowlo



Harry TUNNICLIFF receives his OBE from Peel Chair **Phil O'REILLY** aka 'Radar'



Radar serves up **Kevin WELSH** with his OBE



Dave WALKER with his Significant Voluntary Service Award (SVSA) presented to him by **Bob DREW** and **Gael DREW**



Radar receives his SVSA from **Gael** and **Bob**



Greig STIER receives his SVSA from **Bob** and **Gael**



Steve BRADSHAW APM receives his SVSA from Bob and Gael



A very emotional pair; Matt LYNCH receives his SVSA from Bob



Visitors Dave WHITEMAN and the Secretary with South Bowlo Club Manager Radar

Phil O'Reilly
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PENRITH BLUE MOUNTAINS

Wednesday 20 November 2024 Morning Coffee at Glenbrook Bowling Club. The group settled in when the Fire Alarm was activated (practice drill) our group was asked to leave but refused without their Coffee, we were declared "NON COMPLIANT" and were informed tongue & cheek our food will be burnt, a great gettogether.



Penrith Branch Coffee Catch up

Cheers

Dick Hurst & Ian Berry

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RIVERINA

Sadly, our report starts with the death in October of two Police Officers within our branch **Veteran member Kevin Brian GOLDSPINK and non member Brian John DIXON** of Wagga Wagga passed away on 29th October 2024.

Both men were well known and respected by their peers and their communities. They will be sadly missed. They both fought the good fight. May they rest in peace. Members of our branch attended both funerals.

At our bi-monthly meeting in October, our special guest speaker was **Jacqueline Jennings, Community engagement Officer for Services Australia**. Her presentation was on how to access and use MYAGED CARE facilities and information. Handouts and written information were handed out to all members and wives of attending members.

Our Welfare Officer, Kevin Barber, has been kept busy with home visits and phone calls to our members who are not 100%. Those on sick report are **Ron BEARD, John WENDT, Bob HOGNO, Ray GREEN, Liz REEKS and Peter REEKS, Sandy MELLIS and Barry CHAPMAN**. A special get well wish to all those members.

A total of twenty members and wives attended a Coffee and Lunch Day at the Young Services Club on Monday 18th of November 2024. After coffee we moved into the bistro area for lunch. We were all amused that the young lady looking after us had booked the table in the guise of 20 people from the POLICE ACADEMY. I might add that for most of us it would be at least fifty years since we went through the ACADEMY. A great day was had by everyone attending and I believe that there were plenty of delicious cherries purchased on the way home. The photo attached of the group shows **Steve and Joy ROSS, Jeff and Lorna ABELL, Graeme and Margaret HOLMES, Kevin and Louis BARBER, Frank and Helen FULLER, Barry and Janet SCOTT, Chris and Christine BROWN, Keith and Julie GIDDINGS Fred and RAE LONERAGAN, Col WATERS and Denise GUERIN**.



Graeme Holmes

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SOUTH COAST

We look forward to our contributions for our next Gazette.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

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

SOUTHERN TABLELANDS

Our past Chairman **Mick Donnelly** has ongoing mobility concerns but a change in medication seems to be resulting in a positive direction. We wish him well.

On 27th September members attended the **Police Remembrance Day Service** at the NSW Police Academy chapel. **Peter Willard and Ian Radford** laid a wreath to honour our departed comrades. Of particular relevance to the Southern Tablelands Branch was the passing of our Veteran Member, **Jack Williams** on 23rd September.

In October the branch held a Coffee Outing at the Meridian Café, Marulan where chairman **Peter Willard** introduced his new fur friend “**Elle**” to our members. “Elle” is a young Labrador pup who is in the process of being home trained with a view to being trained to become an assistance dog for Peter.

On the social front, our Social Officer, **Faye Ambrose** has transferred back to the Parramatta-Hills Branch. Our Treasurer, **John Kowalenko** has put up his hand to fill the vacancy and becomes our first dual office holder.

At our meeting on 18th November we met **Floyd Ballard** who has recently moved to the Southern Tablelands. He is currently transferring his membership from the Coffs Harbour branch. Floyd has indicated his enthusiasm for the RFPA by accepting a vacant Committee position in our branch.

We held a coffee and visit outing on 09 December 2024 at the **Federa Olive Grove, Federal Highway, Collector**. The Grove is owned and run by **Spiro (Jeff) Konstantinou** who harvests over 6000 trees here each year plus neighbours. He provided an excellent tour of the facilities to our members. By the way, the coffee and meals with the outstanding views made it a worthwhile visit. Members attending were **Peter Willard** and assistance dog **Ellie**, **Ian Radford**, **Michael Kennedy**, **Greg and Debbie Moore**, **Bill and Judy White**, **Linda Lockwood and Brett** and **John and Louise Kowalenko**.



Federa Olive Grove

Visiting RFPA members are welcome at any of our meetings which are held at the At the Goulburn Soldiers club.

Ian Radford and John Kowalenko

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SYDNEY

On Tuesday 17th September we met at Pennant Hills Hotel for a “Roving Coffee Catch-Up”. Attending this get together were: **Vaughan & Adriana Reid, Bill Shute, Kent Vild, Les Toemoe & Belinda Dunn-Toemoe, Greg Thane, Sandy Benson (RFPA Gazette Sub-Editor), Paul Wynne (RFPA State President) and John Clark**. The coffee morning had a number of apologies due to illness and those who are currently travelling.



On 19th November, 2024 at our General Meeting and Christmas luncheon at The Club York two of our esteemed Branch members Chairperson, **Kent Vild**, and former Branch Secretary/Treasurer/Creator & Editor of the Sydney newsletter, **Bruce Howe**, were presented with their “Recognition of Significant Voluntary” awards for their outstanding contribution to the Sydney Branch.



Dates for the 2025 Diary - Meetings at the Club York commencing at 11am-

- Tues 18th February 2025 (General Meeting)
- Tues 20th May 2025 (General meeting)
- Tues 19th August 2025 (AGM & General Meeting)
- Tues 18th November 2025 (General Meeting)

Rolling Coffee Catchups start at 11am (All RFPA and former Police are welcome) -

- Tues 18th March 2025 - Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club
- Tues 15th April 2025 - Easts, Bondi Junction
- Tues 17th June 2025 - Revesby Workers Club

Belinda Dunn-Toemoe

Treasurer & Social Secretary

WATER POLICE (SUB BRANCH) (FORMED 21 MARCH 2013)

Meeting held Thursday 21 November which was our last meeting for the year at 99 On York, which was attended by 18 members, for our Christmas luncheon.

Our welfare officer reported on a few members doing it tough, **Bill HARLEY** 3rd toe removed and his wife **Joan** has had a double bypass in September. **Mick POOLE** had a bile duct tumour removed (size of golf ball).

Terry FITZGERALD has a number of health issues and says that Wyong hospital is his new holiday home.

Col TRITON is in a nursing home at Batemans Bay, suffered a stroke and doesn't recognise family or friends.

We had a guest visitor appear for lunch being **Christine BUCKLEY**, the spouse of our departed Secretary **David BUCKLEY** who wanted to pass on her thanks and regards for all the support and the things that were done to help her get through.

Photo shows left to right are **Greg Aldred, Hilton Penfold, John Cox, Tom Bradley, Grant Thompson, David Buchanan, Bruce Vickers, Frank Mahony, Martin Kelly, Jeff Gilchrist, Darren McGuire, Dave Upston, Vic Rulewski, Len Ware, Christine Buckley, Larry Malone, Terry Irvin, Garry Hodson and Dave Ritchie.**



WIDE BAY

We look forward to your contribution in our next edition.

NOTICEBOARD

REUNIONS HELD

Members of **Class 101A/1964** attended club 88 at Burwood for a class reunion. Those in attendance **Clarrie Lemme, Ike Ellis, Bob Warland, Lindsay Tritton, Ray House, Andy Southall, John Seward, Bill Snow, Terry Psarakis, Col Graham, Peter Beacroft.** Sorry **Norm (Big Fella) Dean and John Connal** unable to attend due to illness. Don't worry Big Fella you were centre of a lot of discussions - common was how **Ike** and **Clarrie** copied off the cadets so they could pass. Great day guys travelling from Qld. and NSW country to attend. All agreed to return next year.



45 YEAR REUNION OF CLASS 165 – ATTESTED ON 10 DEC 1979

On Sunday 1st December 2024 members of Redfern Police Academy Class 165 held their 45 Year Reunion at Revesby Workers Club. A number of our Class members were overseas or interstate, enjoying their retirement, whilst others were unfortunately unable to attend due to health issues. We wish them all a speedy recovery.



Back Row (l to r) – **Tony Baldock, Andrew Jenkins, Mark Wade, Neil Saville, Bill Anderson, John Read, Craig Whitmore, John Ahern, Paul Beudeker.**

Middle Row (l to R) – **Stuart Davey, Charlie Muscat, Terry Pledge, Jason Parkinson, Stephen Spencer, Ron Balkan, Narelle Willis, Tim Morage, Stephen Fuhrmann.**

Front Row (l to r) – **Belinda Dunn, Ben (Richard) Hall, Ron Mudford, Greg Elkes, Ian Watson, John Inkson.**

Belinda Dunn-Toemoe

FRIENDSHIP WEEK 2025

Where: Top of the Town Holiday Park,
High St Stanthorpe QLD

When: 15 to 22 March 2025

Phone: 07 4681 4888

Info: For more information about the accommodation and the park please follow the link <https://topoftown.com.au>

Booking: Advise them you are with Retired Police they apply 1 free night when you book for 7 nights

Charles Halloran APM

UPCOMING REUNIONS

**ALSO GO TO YOUR RPPA WEBSITE
FOR THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION.
www.retiredpolice.com.au**

EX POLICE CADETS LUNCHEON

When: 19 February 2025, 11am

Where: Club York 95 - 99 York Street Sydney

Cost: \$90 per head

Payment: Police Bank BSB 815-000 A/C 241807 (S.I)

Contact: Ian Moore – 0404 881 513

40 YEAR REUNION CLASS 211

When: Tuesday & Wednesday 8 - 9 April, 2025

Where: Goulburn NSW

Dinner: On 8 April and Academy Visit on 9 April 2025

Contact: Ken Schneiders 0411489186 (kensch10@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

59 YEAR REUNION – CLASS 106 OF 1966

When: 11th and 12th September, 2025

Where: Central Coast. Venue to be determined

Contacts: Lee Rankin 0407206327 lvrarkin@bigpond.com

Irene Juergens (I) 0402063140 tomsie3@bigpond.com

Phil Martin 0413771770 phil.martin@optusnet.com.au

RSVP: Please advise if interested so a booking can be made.

An information package for venue, accommodation and times will be available as soon as numbers are confirmed.



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
AITKEN	Keith Anderson	89	7714	Sydney	7/10/2024
BENNEY	Bruce	57	24114	Gold Coast	31/10/2024
BURGESS	Peter Charles	86	10442	Northern Beaches	14/11/2024
CALANDRUCCIO	Edwin	77	13965	Northern Beaches	27/12/2024
CHRISTIAN	Barry Noel	79	11827	Unattached	22/12/2024
COATES	Geoffrey	79	11560	Gold Coast	23/9/2024
COOK	Lawrence William	82	9983	Penrith Blue Mountains	7/10/2024
CRUMPTON	Margaret Rose	78		Hunter Region	20/9/2024
FLETCHER	John Edward	76	14051	Parramatta - The Hills	12/11/24
GERSBACK	Francis Leslie	90	10535	Unattached	28/9/2024
GOLDSPINK	Kevin Brian	82	11159	Riverina	5/10/2024
HARDMAN	Harry Frederick	89	8690	Gold Coast	6/10/2024
HARRINGTON	Colin Robert	86	12672	Riverina	26/12/2024
HAYNES	Laurence David 'Laurie'	80	12144	Sydney	27/10/2024
HENDERSON	Stephan James	70	19669	Sydney	2/12/2024
LAMOND	Maxwell Stuart Angus	95	6522	Hunter Region	8/12/2024
LEANEY	Barry Kevin	83	9533	Penrith Blue Mountains	3/09/2024
LEWIS	Donald Clement	94	7230	Coffs Harbour	20/11/2024
MAHONY	William James	81	11100	Central Coast	25/9/2024
NICOLL	George Terrence 'Terry'	91	8777	Kiama	8/12/2024
PROUD	Lawrence Clifton (Peter)	93	6551	Mid North Coast	13/9/2024
THOMSEN	Michael John	70	17228	UNATTACHED	1/09/2024
WILLIAMS	John Patrick 'Jack'	88	10474	Southern Tablelands	23/9/2024
WORTHINGTON	Robert John	84	9826	Unattached	27/10/2024

Retired & Former Police Association of NSW (Inc.)

RFPA Website

retiredpolice.com.au

RFPA Secretary

secretary@retiredpolice.com.au

NSW Police Legacy Events



29 March Blue Ribbon Ball at the International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour

NSW Police Legacy gala fundraiser

Ticket link: <https://events.humanitix.com/blue-ribbon-ball-2025>

9 August: Beat the Blue at Sydney Motorsport Park

Free and open to all; raising money for NSW Police Legacy

Highway Patrol Vs General Public on a controlled course

Website: <https://beattheblue.org>

13 September: Wall to Wall Ride for Remembrance

Motorbike ride to the National Police Memorial in Canberra, raising money for Police Legacies around Australia

Website: <https://walltowallride.com/>

RFPA Benefits and Discounts Partners

Visit the RFPA Website for details on how
Financial RFPA Members can access exclusive RFPA Member
discounts from these RFPA Business Partners



The RFPA Member Benefits Scheme

The RFPA continues to uphold its core principles of Friendship, Fellowship, and Welfare, benefiting retired and former members of the NSW Police Force. In addition to these core values, the Committee of Management has been working diligently to provide even more substantial value to its members. We are excited to announce new partnerships with various business partners to offer additional exclusive RFPA benefits and member discounts.

How the Scheme Works – Obtaining Member Benefits

Essentially there are three scenarios when a member seeks to obtain a discount or benefit from an RFPA Business Partner.

- A retail transaction where a member visits a supplier to obtain a discount or benefit. This engagement is immediate and for example, a member visits a caravan park and requests an RFPA member benefit.
- A longer process where a member approaches the supplier of a more substantial and involved service such as an overseas river cruise or other travel service.
- An online service where a member joins a supplier organisation as a member, and because the RFPA member is provided a discount or benefit, they are given an exclusive code to quote. This is similar to the Hertz CDC code given to members of the Police Association.

The RFPA does not benefit financially from any transaction under this scheme. Any transaction is a commercial one between the RFPA Business Partner and the RFPA Member. The RFPA cannot and is not liable for any dispute between the RFPA Business Partner and the RFPA Member. Any dispute should be dealt with under the applicable State Consumer Laws.

How to shop for your RFPA Discount...

Remember you must be a current financial member of the RFPA to obtain the benefit.

1/ Visit the RFPA Business Partner

2/ Mention that you are an RFPA Member and would like the RFPA discount to purchase xxxxxxxxxx

3/ You will need to show your RFPA Membership card with the RFPA Member ID on it.

4/ You will need to show some form of Photo ID to validate the name on the RFPA Membership card.

5/ The business may choose to contact the RFPA to ensure your RFPA Membership is current.

6/ Complete the sale.

Membership Status Validation – The Process

There will be three requirements from the RFPA Member seeing a benefit from a supplier.

1. A valid RFPA Membership Card showing their RFPA Member ID. Older cards do not have the RFPA Member ID yet but Members should know their RFPA Membership Number and this can be found on the Mailing Label of their Gazette or the member can request a new card from the Secretary, at cost.

2. A photo ID such as a current drivers licence (card or digital) to validate the name on the RFPA Membership card. This ensures that RFPA Membership cards are not given to other persons just to obtain the benefit.

3. As the RFPA Membership cards do not have an expiry date the question of whether the member is an Active paid-up RFPA member and is entitled to a benefit needs to be determined. This can be done by checking the RFPA Membership ID with the RFPA Secretary. This could be a time consuming process and not practical in the case of a retail transaction. In such cases, the supplier may at their discretion proceed with the transaction without checking. In any case, for retail suppliers, a sale is a sale so it may not be a consideration.

In the case of a more substantial transaction such as an over seas cruise etc. where time is not an issue, the supplier may contact the RFPA Secretary and confirm the membership validity of the Member. This can be done either a phone call or an email to the Secretary and the benefit applied accordingly, or not in the case the Member is not current.