

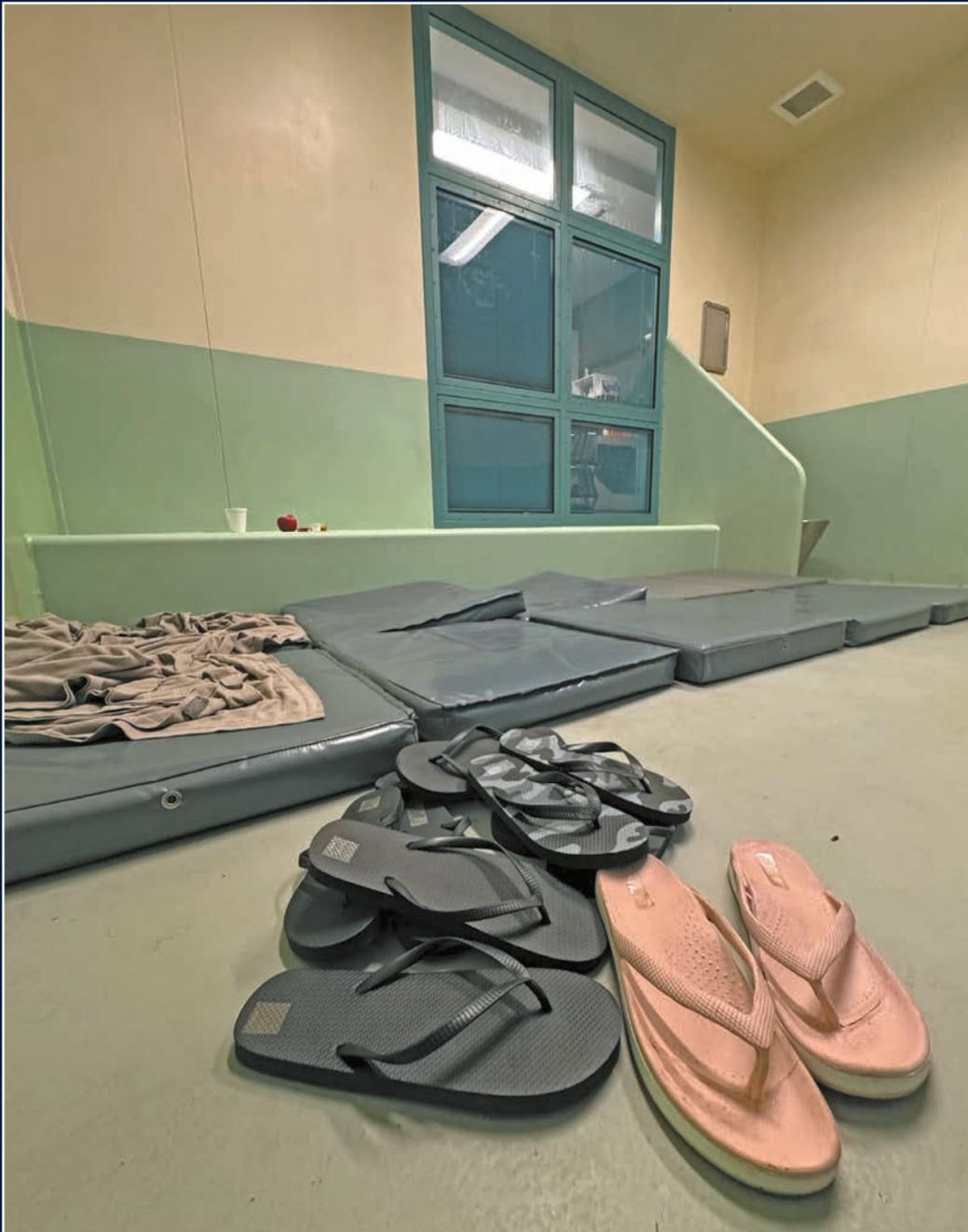
POLICE

SUMMER 2023

JOURNAL



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE QUEENSLAND POLICE UNION



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COVER STORY

Page 18

WHEN THE HOUSE IS OVERCROWDED

The QPU initiated action in October 2023 to highlight unacceptable overcrowding in Watch Houses across the North of the State with President Ian Leavers giving a blunt assessment that police cannot just close the cell door and pretend the problem doesn't exist because there is a death in custody waiting to happen.

It must be distinctly understood that any expressions of opinion by correspondents in our columns must not be considered the opinion of the Editor, and no responsibility arising from there can be accepted.

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IAN LEAVERS

Farewell Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk after leading the State from 2015. It takes great integrity, leadership and humility to call time on your career as the primary office bearer in Queensland.

Irrespective of her politics Ms Palaszczuk was very good to our police during her time as Premier. It's important to note that Premier Palaszczuk honoured election commitments made to the QPU which have seen industrial rights and benefits flow to police that were previously threatened.

Through advocacy from the Queensland Police Union the Premier approved presumptive legislation for all police for (PTSD), this was later expanded out to all first responders. Body Worn Video has been provided for all police along with personalised body armour with knife and ballistic rating that was previously denied by the Newman Government.

Professional development has been made fit for purpose for policing not academics, progression as well for Constables to Senior Constable rank. There's also been additional leave for the Commonwealth Games and COVID responses.

The Premier also approved Safe Night Precinct funding despite failures by QPS management to plan and budget. Extended Polair capability, an RPAS fleet and modern BAOC Training Facility.

Police have also benefitted from significant wage increases and extra pay bands that are the envy of every other jurisdiction, 18% superannuation benefits on penalty rates and skills based allowances on top of the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) which was another QPU initiative subsequently extended to all Public Servants.

In terms of enhanced laws the Premier supported Deeming Legislation for hoon offences and Wandering Legislation

allowing police to scan for knives in SNP's and transport hubs. Another QPU initiative was the Engine Immobiliser Trial in North Queensland and the issue has been placed on the agenda for discussion at National Cabinet.

These developments came about because the QPU put forward substantive persuasive cases to the Police Minister Mark Ryan and the Premier who took each item to Cabinet for approval.

The Premier and I have not agreed on every issue but we have achieved many things for Police and community safety while she has been in office. I wish Ms Palaszczuk all the very best into the future.

Congratulations to Steven Miles as the fortieth Premier of Queensland. In recent times Dr Miles has supported the QPU in relation to the judiciary not letting young criminals in the north of state out of custody because of insufficient space in detention centres.

New facilities are being built but there's an understanding we cannot arrest our way out of the problem of youth crime and we have to be honest with ourselves and stop being politically correct which is serving no purpose whatsoever.

There's also been further positive news with the reshuffle of the Cabinet with confirmation Mark Ryan will continue as Police Minister in the new Miles Government.

I have long advocated for the police portfolio to be a stand alone ministry owing to its importance, complexity and inter-connectedness to all other facets of Government.

The police portfolio is undergoing an ambitious reform agenda and I am hopeful if this is properly focused on actually providing better working conditions and legislation for police, rather than the current misguided focus of constantly denigrating, complicating and inexplicably making policing harder for police to do their job, it will yield results that provide better outcomes for hardworking, professional and dedicated police who risk their lives daily to keep Queensland safe, particularly those police on the frontline.

This new standalone police ministry is a clever move by the Premier and Deputy Premier to ensure a senior minister such as Mark Ryan, who has a deep understanding of the portfolio, continues in the role of Police Minister unencumbered by distractions from corrective services and emergency services.

NATIONAL FIREARMS REFORM

In early December National Cabinet agreed to a funding plan to bring the gun registers of the eight State and Territory jurisdictions into a single database to provide real time data accessible for all frontline police.

The system will be able to detail the firearms owned by a licenced firearms holder and where those guns are registered. This will cover the nearly 900,000 registered firearm owners in Australia and the four million registered guns known to be held in the system.

This will eliminate previous gaps where computer networks didn't exchange information and bring jurisdictions still using paper recording systems online.

It's humbling to have had an idea that I raised with the Prime Minister, the Federal Attorney-General, Leader of the Nationals, the Queensland Premier and Queensland Police Minister and Attorney-General, to achieve such significant success.

It was no easy feat, requiring me to lobby politicians every single day, however I remained determined to not let the murder of two police be in vain.

In December last year I set out on the task to complete the work former Prime Minister John Howard started in 1996 and now I can say that I've been able to achieve the mission.

The sharing of information across Australia, in a format every jurisdiction can understand, is the key to keeping both police and the community safe.

I am proud of this achievement and I thank all those leaders who have helped turn my vision into a reality. It's my hope that this reform will be a legacy that will continue to keep people safe long after we have all retired.

WATCH HOUSE OVERCROWDING

In what sort of world is it acceptable to allow watch houses to exceed their 100% capacity?

Senior QPS Managers need to be replaced and moved on for this disgraceful attitude allowing watch houses in the Far North to hit a capacity of 219% and their only solution is to bring in more mattresses rather than redistribute the prisoners to other facilities or demand Corrections take responsibility for their custody prisoners.

The QPU brought this to the attention of the Police Commissioner and Commissioner of Corrections as a matter of urgency to get directly involved and start making changes before a life is lost. There is no way either of the Commissioners would face a Coroner if there was a death in custody instead it would be a Constable, Duty Sergeant or Watch House keeper hung out to dry.

The reality is many of the people in custody across Townsville, Mt Isa and

Cairns have First Nations heritage and they often arrive at watch houses in poor health, needing medications or assistance with substance abuse. Without proper services and support our people are being set up to fail.

It was our diligent representatives and concerned members, that raised this as an issue not senior management.

I haven't forgotten about the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (1987-1991). *It found that "... there appeared to be little appreciation of and less dedication to the duty of care owed by custodial authorities and their officers to persons in custody. We found many system defects in relation to care, many failures to exercise proper care and in general a poor standard of care. In some cases the defects and failures were causally related to the deaths, in some cases they were not and in others it was open to debate...in many cases death was contributed to by system failures or absence of due care".*

I'm told while the ELT responded initially, at the time of writing this article Mt Isa Watch House is again at 198.5% and I fear the expense of transfers and relocations is now a focus for these Senior Managers but air travel is part of being in a decentralised State.

I care significantly for our First Nations people and I want them offered the best support possible while they are in our care and I want our members protected and never put in a situation where overcrowding results in a death in custody.

MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

In December I joined the first meeting of the Independent Ministerial Advisory Council to provide input of frontline police and the impact youth crime in particular is having on victims.

This Council will provide advice to Government on the justice system and victim support.

This Advisory Committee is a rare opportunity for frontline police to have a voice on the impacts of youth crime. Police will always arrest offenders but

believe victims should be the focus for support and recovery.

Sometimes change doesn't always produce the intended outcome, I'm intending to give honest advice to the committee on the reality of any proposed changes and what it will mean for police dealing with young criminals. Police are the only agency responding to calls for help 24 hours a day and dealing with the offenders and victims.

I look forward to working with all the various stakeholders to provide positive outcomes into the future and I will provide updates on our discussions where possible.

PATH TO TREATY

In October I put forward an opinion article to a newspaper suggesting the continuation of the process was flawed because bipartisan political support had collapsed and nothing would be enacted by the Government at the end of the process.

Quite simply I suggested rather than waste \$400 million dollars over five years on an inquiry that would just line the pockets of lawyers how about that money be invested directly into First Nations communities to improve a range of outcomes and perhaps not only improve their standard of living but also reduce the number of First Nations people coming into the criminal justice system.

It rapidly became clear that you scratch the surface with honesty and the inner city latte sippers take aim at you and their first position is to label anyone with a different view as racist.

Second stage is try to incite people so the problem is never discussed or fixed. They want to wedge First Nations people and silence anyone from speaking up.

I want to make positive change in the lives of First Nations people. Take them out of the poverty cycle. The people I represent are on the frontline 24/7, often they are only ones left when things go bad in communities to ensure safety, security and protect young people and women.

If that \$400 million is spent on an Inquiry, not one cent of it will go to making the lives of a First Nations person born last year, this year or for the next decade any better.

Police are the only people responding and offering solutions at the moment as other agencies are missing outside of business hours.

I want substance over symbolism.

COST OF LIVING

All police will have received the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) that was paid into accounts during September.

This was possible because the QPU through Enterprise Bargaining (EB10) negotiated a safety net clause for our members if inflation continued to climb. It was important to do it at the time because if we didn't no changes could be made during the three years of the Agreement.

We had to think outside the square of traditional Industrial Agreements and we actually changed the entire industrial landscape for workers in this country through this COLA deal.

All police received an extra 3% on their base pay if inflation climbed higher than the 4% pay rise for 2022-2023 agreed to. When the March inflation figure for Brisbane hit 7.2% it triggered the COLA benefit.

The same could be repeated next year if inflation is above the 4% agreement and similarly in the third year when the pay rise is slated for 3%. If inflation goes down there will be no extra COLA payment.

This was a QPU initiative and it's now spread to paramedics, doctors, nurses, teachers and all public servants in Queensland. So next time you hear a non union member whinge remind them they are receiving benefits inspired by your Union. The same could be said for members who complain what's the Union ever done for me...

Our colleagues at the Victorian Police Association are attempting to utilise our same COLA formula in their wage

negotiations with the government. We wish them well in their campaign and hope they achieve the same result as Queensland.

WIEAMBILLA

The pain and loss we all felt when Constable Matthew Arnold and Constable Rachel McCrow were murdered in 2022 has hit us again like a sledgehammer in December with the first anniversary of that terrible event.

We cannot change what happened and no words we offer can truly ease the hurt felt by their families but we can ensure their names and their lives are never forgotten.

Randall and Keely are back at work continuing to protect their communities and we will continue to offer them support.





I recently travelled by road from Mount Isa to Brisbane and stopped in at police stations all the way and it was pleasing to see so many day-rooms at rural and remote stations with tributes and acknowledgements of Matt and Rachel's service attached to walls, filing cabinets and shelves. Thank you for continuing to honour and remember their sacrifice.

On the anniversary of their deaths I represented all serving and retired police by joining with police colleagues, friends of the Arnold and McCrow families along with the Deputy Premier and Treasurer in an informal ceremony and one minutes sacred silence at the State Police Memorial in Brisbane.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COLLEAGUES

We stand as one alongside our Police colleagues in South Australia as they mourn the death of Brevet Sergeant Jason Doig who was shot and killed on November 17, 2023.

Jason died from his injuries after attending an incident with a resident allegedly using a firearm at a rural property. Another officer was injured and a third will probably suffer trauma for the rest of her life.

In Queensland this tragedy affected us all as Sergeant Doig's death was so close to the anniversary of the loss of Matt and Rachel. These are very challenging times and it shows the difficult, dangerous and unpredictable nature of police work and the risks we take each and every day and we should never take anything for granted.

CHRISTMAS

Thank you to all members of the QPU who continue to do an amazing job 24/7 across the entire State and relentlessly put themselves in harm's way to protect the community and I hope over the festive season you get to spend some time with those who are close to you.

We must also never forget our families who carry a significant burden while you are at work, never underestimate the relief they feel when you return home safe after your shift.

Sometimes the festive season can be difficult for those in fractured relationships, please remember Blue Hope stands ready to assist. Call 1300 002 853.

May 2024 bring us all happiness and good times.

Ian LEAVERS

General President & CEO
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SHANE PRIOR

As we prepare to welcome 2024 I am compelled to reflect on the year that was.

2023 delivered a lot of challenges to Police across Queensland, I wanted to take the opportunity to acknowledge the work that police did across all aspects of the organisation, especially those on our frontline.

Domestic and Family Violence continues to be a significant source of calls for service and stress for our members.

Twelve months on from the Independent Commission of Inquiry (COI) into Queensland Police Service responses to Domestic and Family Violence, our people are working tirelessly to manage the many recommendations made from the Inquiry.

Let me be clear, the demands made of police from various Commissions of Inquiry, Taskforces, Inquiries and Coronial matters number over 1000 recommendations to be implemented. The QPU consistently advocates for common sense to prevail and for the roll out of these recommendations to be balanced against the needs of frontline police.

Maintaining this balance is hard and we have seen some of the consequences for rushed decision-making play out.

Recommendation 15 of the 'COI' springs to mind "

Recommendation 15: Within three months, the Queensland Police Service develop and implement a procedure which requires Officers in Charge to ensure that all frontline officers who attend domestic and family violence occurrences meet with a designated senior officer to receive feedback in relation to a sample of their body worn camera footage at least every six months

The QPU continues to work with the Service to manage this challenge.

WIEAMBILLA ANNIVERSARY

Like many in the Queensland Police Service, I reflect on the difficulties around the first anniversary of the Wieambilla incident and the tragic loss of Constable Matthew Arnold and Constable Rachel McCrow.

Their families are still grieving and all of our people still keenly feel the tragic loss. The QPU continues to support the Arnold and McCrow families and we maintain contact with Constable Randall Kirk and Constable Keely Brough to support them as well.

NATIONAL FIREARMS REGISTRY

I wanted to acknowledge the passion of members concerned about the National Firearms Registry and what it will mean for licensed gun owners. As QPU President Ian Leavers has made clear in the media late in 2023 the need for the registry is about community safety and ensuring that police are aware of what weapons are out in the community.

Forewarned is forearmed and our members should have the most up to date information at their fingertips as they interact with the community. The success of a national database will give police the blueprint to better coordinate information around other issues of concern, domestic and family violence springs to mind.

It would be incredible if a national database of domestic and family violence matters could be designed off the achievement of a national firearms registry. The impetus for change is clear and lawfully abiding licenced firearms owners have nothing to fear. We want a national system that is electronic

in nature and makes the buying and selling of firearms and ammunition easier in the long run.

2024 – THE YEAR AHEAD

With a holiday period of severe weather slated for 2023/2024 I want to acknowledge the hard work everyone in disaster impacted communities will undertake to keep Queenslanders safe.

In 2024 we have the Local Government and State Government elections and I expect to see a number of promises made by politicians of all persuasions to appeal to voters, including police.

It is not my place to tell people who to support or how to vote at the upcoming election. I have some key things that I will be keeping an eye on that I encourage everyone to consider as well. I will write about these items in future editions of the QPU Journal.

I am always wary of anyone who promises more workers without being able to deliver them, recently the PFA hosted a national recruitment and retention summit. It is clear that there are workforce shortages across every policing jurisdiction in the country.

Politicians who simply promise more employees without having a plan to ease workforce pressures should be regarded cynically.

We need to see clear commitments from our political leaders around workload management and support for the frontline. Efficiencies need to be based on innovations for the workload of General Duties and how we can design a multi-disciplinary system that supports the first responder methodology of the QPS.

Police are the stewards of public safety and are best placed to de-escalate situations, where the system needs improvement is in the servicing of at-risk victims who need support from specialists who are not police. We need to see politicians talk more about this response and to stop loading police up with all the community's problems.

On the issue of youth offending, we know that tough laws can only go so far. The community must feel safe and we need to see pressure placed on the judiciary and other agencies to build the long-term solutions.

Investments in programs to support expectant mothers from at risk communities must be developed and the State must take a more active role in parenting for children in its care.

The majority of repeat offenders are wards of the state, we need to see solutions that empower local communities to manage their kids and use alternative justice strategies to take

offenders away from the cycle of crime and into support services. All of these programs are expensive and slow to demonstrate success. Good politicians recognise that the only way the cycle breaks is with long term investment and a commitment to stay the course.

Investments in police are only effective if we can maintain the experience we have inside the service.

It is my view that our politicians have to start speaking up more in support of police. We have seen the actions of a small few negatively impact the men and women who work tirelessly on behalf of Queenslanders.

The need for political leaders to support the majority of dedicated hard-working police has never been as important as it is now. I am sure that we will work constructively to negotiate the best for police no matter what 2024 throws at us, and I'm so proud of the hard work you are doing day in and day out.

I wish every one of our members and their families a very happy Christmas period and a great start to the new year in 2024.

If you ever need assistance, I am always available to meet with members and attend meetings across the state.

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SHAYNE TREASURE

Over the last 18 months I have flagged with QPU members that the catalyst for dealing with ageing and increasingly unhealthy infrastructure in South Brisbane particularly in the Dutton Park area will be the Olympics and the changes it will bring.

It is the prerogative of the QPS to place its resources where it wants and when it wants, this is policy and this is case law. The QPS can do as it wants unfettered in this area.

It is my duty as a Regional QPU Representative to get the best possible outcomes for our QPU members in regards to the actions of the employer.

In this case the outcomes are secure car parking for all staff, a building without asbestos, without toilets that open onto meal rooms, without antiquated air-conditioning systems, without mould, without leaking roofs and without poor security for staff.

A building with end of trip facilities, good air-con, modern with lifts that work and enough room to work in and secure carparks for private cars. Interestingly the new Division is still smaller than most in SEQ geographically as well.

Three of the four buildings planned to be vacated are well over 90 years old and are no longer fit for purpose. The QPS has constantly patched these buildings to the bare minimum. There is no way any other public servants would have inhabited these shanties and it is testament to Police that these conditions have been tolerated for so long.

QPS had no plans to replace any of these buildings in situ, in fact disturbingly QPS had no precise plans at all regarding infrastructure needs in South Brisbane District (SBD), no forward planning for increased

staffing or population growth so there was a need to get assurances that “if” you go ahead with a redevelopment project here’s the minimum standards we require.

The QPS does not have to provide parking, in fact it costs them to do so. This is the new price of doing business and keeping a police presence in high density urban areas.

I have no interest in whatever gains the QPS may get from a new building with a combination of work units within.

Assurances have been given as to secure staff car parking, extended shift rostering and the ability of staff to have input into work space design.

I am actively engaged with the QPS to ensure they come through on what has been agreed, the QPU has a role to get the best out of it for our members.

The ball is in the court of the QPS to properly manage culture change and come through on the assurances made and get something right for the frontline, not the administration areas, not District Office but the first response police, the ones who for too long have really been an after thought when it comes to a decent work environment.

CHRISTMAS

By the time this is published the festive season will be upon us. That time of year when you get used to saying to friends and relatives, sorry can’t make it to that I’m on nights or

doubling back on shift, sorry kids couldn’t get the leave request so will see you Christmas afternoon, sorry maybe next year.

When most people have down time, we as police go into hyper-drive to clean up the mess of alcohol and drug excess on our roads, unrealistic concepts of family utopia going bad in summer heat lubricated with substance abuse. Then there’s an increase in mental health jobs, and ramping at hospitals for hours on end.

In the midst of this we need to reflect we are ordinary people doing extraordinary things and we now more than ever need to look after ourselves and our workmates to come out the other side with some modicum of mental and physical health remaining.

In December we will also have had the first anniversary of the tragedy of losing two of our own on 12 December 2022 and confirmation of the fact that evil plans, organises and manifests domestically as well as internationally. The QPS must now recognise there is a risk for our people in everything they do.

With this in mind it is worth remembering our colleagues and mates no longer with us, no matter how they left us as we surge towards a 2024 that there maybe yet an even more turbulent time ahead for policing in Queensland.

Stand for a minutes silence for those no longer with us and who now stand in silence for eternity.

Check on your mates, check on your kit, check yourself and proceed with caution out that door and come back home to those who rely on you, you owe it to your mates, your loved ones and to yourself .

Festive wishes and please play safe and stay safe.

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PETER THOMAS

Well, here we are again; the end of another year. It seems, as I age the years pass much quicker.

The past 12 months has sadly seen the passing of a number of our colleagues and loved ones, the age retirement of many of our veterans, and the departure of many to other employment opportunities. This year has also seen the welcoming of almost 400 new Constables to our organisation.

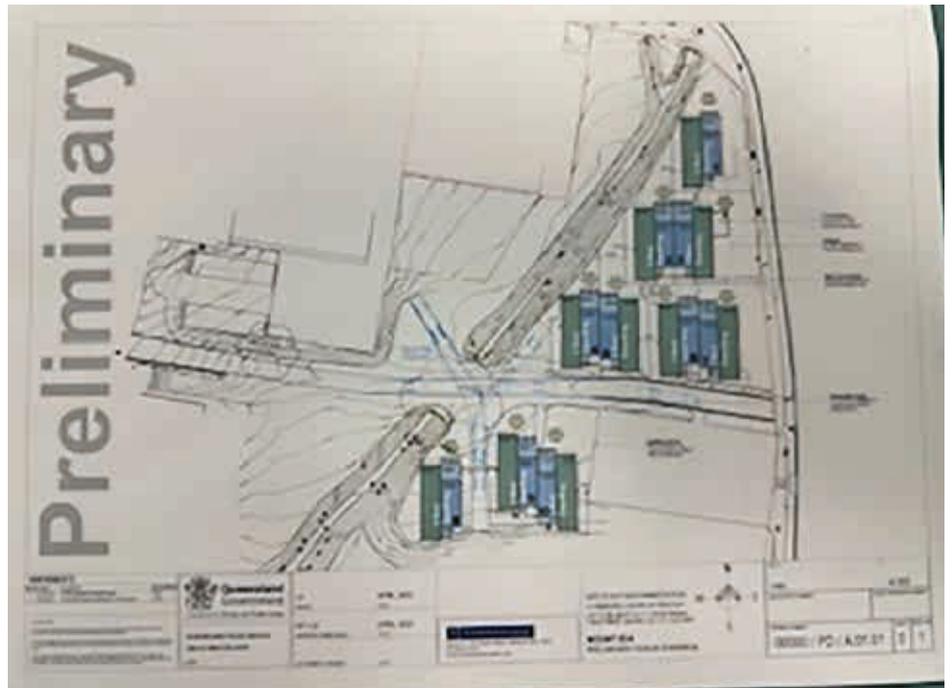
This year has presented many, many challenges not only for the QPU, but also to the QPS. It is becoming more evident that we are going from one crisis to the next, and there is no opportunity to catch a breather in between.

It has been a year of highs and lows, but the lows have been outweighed by the impressive work of our people.

Each year I have a Christmas wish list for the upcoming year. Over the past five years I have worked with a number of senior managers in relation to the accommodation crisis at Mount Isa. There's been multiple false starts for the accommodation facility that is to be erected at the rear of Mount Isa police station.

This year it appears that I was prematurely excited with the construction approval of the residences in April 2023. The plans have been approved, the money allocated, and yet not one sod of soil has been turned to relieve the accommodation stress upon officers within Mount Isa.

It would appear that properties and facilities have adopted the commonly used saying of us folk in the North being the forgotten people in the bush.



Plans for the new accommodation buildings for Mount Isa.



The vacant land at the rear of Mt Isa Station identified for construction of the new accommodation buildings.

It is not only Mount Isa that has an accommodation crisis. It is near impossible to find a rental in Cairns, and if you are fortunate enough to locate a property for rent or lease, it would be more than of a First Year Constable could afford.

It is time the QPS invested in the future of our organisation. Attraction and retention has been a long-standing issue for those of us North of

the Sunshine Coast and the availability of accommodation would go a long way to assisting the attraction and retention of officers in these locations.

I recall writing a number of years ago in one of my QPU Journal articles that the QPS should employ the organisational planners used by McDonald's restaurants as it is evident that they are well and truly aware of the growth corridors and locations. Before the large residential areas are even completed, McDonald's properties are always located in prime positions.

The ad hoc manner in which the forward planning for Police Station growth and Station refurbishment occurs within the QPS would not be tolerated in the private sector.

It is clearly apparent that growth is occurring in most cities, and yet

it is even more evident that we are continually playing catch up with Station growth numbers.

So this year, the big items for my Christmas wish list for 2024, I am asking Santa for the following;

1: The construction of the accommodation wing at Mount Isa.

2: An urgent review of staffing, with a minimum staffing model being implemented in all locations; especially rural, remote and isolated locations.

3: An urgent review of the demand upon our one and two officer stations with the added responsibility/ calls for service since the Domestic and Family Violence Commission of Inquiry.

I sincerely think you for your support during 2023. Unfortunately I was unwell for a number of months this year, and therefore was unable to get

to all of the stations within my area. Now that I am back, I will co-ordinate Station visits to your areas throughout 2024.

A huge thank you to my wife for supporting me, getting my clothes ready and packing my bag for call-outs, the interrupted family dinners, and the never ending telephone calls.

Also, a huge thank you to my QPU colleagues, our Union members and QPS management in the Central Region, Northern Region and Far Northern region, and the unsung hardworking QPU Staff.

To those working during the Christmas and New Year period I thank you. If you need any Union support or assistance during this time, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I wish each and everyone of you and your families a happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous 2024.

Don't forget : No Union rep = No interview.

Peter THOMAS
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ANDY WILLIAMS

And so this is Christmas! And what have you done? Another year over. And a new one just begun.

What have you done Commissioner? Another year of your tenure passes by and we are still a rudderless ship. Resumes scream about the brave strategic decisions people have taken, yet report after report state the Service lacks a strategy.

Yet that hasn't stopped the Senior Executive Team expanding to double the size of a suburban police station (that's the approved not the actual strength), because they are struggling to put a car on the road.

We are drowning in Inquiries that are filling the gap in leadership, coming up with conflicting recommendations, and we blindly adopt them. Only QPU President Ian Leavers is willing to front the Inquiries and Inquests in an attempt to tell it how it is.

You point proudly at the fact that the Academy is full, and ignore the fact that a fair percentage of them will leave within two years. The job's too demanding, we didn't sign up for Domestic Violence jobs from beginning to end of shift, that's before you consider the rosters.

Eighteen months ago the Inquest into the death of Doreen Langham highlighted 'acute understaffing' in the Logan District, it still routinely holds 30% of the unstaffed jobs for the state. It turns out SDP was not the Messiah, it was just a naughty boy.

We still can't measure demand, we have shown little ability to push back on other Government Departments and local councils that engage in demand shifting 'yeah sorry, we don't work weekends it's too expensive call the police'. We sit there like a faithful lapdog and take everything they can throw at us.

According to the Auditor General's report the South East Region is the worst in the State for response rates (62% of code 1 and 2 jobs attended within 12 minutes: the target is 85%). What's worse is we are

sucking up all this demand for others, whilst not attending to our own calls for service (34% of code 3 and 4 jobs according to the Auditor General).

Some of these answers seem simple (For example if you remove parking tickets from the Seton codes, we can no longer attend to parking issues, and the Councils will be forced to roster people to attend). Others more complex like having some form of risk matrix for mental health jobs, one that evaluates the actual risk, rather than the 'cover your arse' approach we currently have.

This would also better align with the Human Rights of the client (and reduce police ramping at hospitals), or my personal favourite, charge a fee for service for warrants of possession. Other answers require the will of Government like changing the bureaucratic DV system. Please don't tinker around the edges, every time you do this you somehow seem to create even more paperwork.

The Auditor General's report speaks to a 14% increase in Domestic Violence jobs, so every minor change that increases paperwork has a massive flow on down the line. Where are the DV hubs promising a whole of Government approach (perhaps even the lead agency Justice and Attorney General could get their hands dirty?) you know the full gambit of social workers, police, housing to assist victims? Surely it would be far better for a victim survivor who was not in need of immediate assistance to be helped in these environments?

It was a recommendation of the Langham Inquest 18 months ago, it was also referenced in the DV inquiry. While we are at it can someone please sit down and tell me how, when the Act specifically states that a family relationship starts at 18, we faithfully record a DV referral and associated crime classes for a 10 year old

who has a fit because they have been removed from their Xbox?

The impost of DV reporting has meant that we no longer have the time to do other routine policing functions (Remember RBT?). Policy changes around code 3 jobs mean pulling over a car is frowned upon, and even if you could find the slack in the roster, don't bother setting up an RBT line, we have a policy that effectively stops that too.

To me a young family that is killed by a drink driver is just as tragic as a young family killed by a respondent. It seems to the media, society and the hierarchy this is not the case. Even if it is far more likely to happen on the roads, unless it is a young person in a stolen car, unfortunately, no one will care.

To those of you who faithfully try to make the thin blue line stretch, who will turn up on Christmas day, forgoing your families to deal with the arguments of others, I see you. I see your struggles.

From the Comco's doing their best to the GDs crew on the road, hoping for a Christmas miracle, a meal break. Your goodwill towards all keeps the Service running.

My Christmas wish for you all is a Service that suddenly starts to bite the bullet on these issues, a Government that realises that legislative change is an imperative and reduced workloads for all.

A very merry Christmas, and a happy New Year. Let's hope it's a good one without any fear.

Andy WILLIAMS
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GRANT WILCOX

Hi all, it's been a busy year. Without all those who have taken up as delegates and those at QPU HQ my assistance to our members would not have been at the quality you deserve. For that I wish all my NCR delegates and the FTO's and staff at the QPU all the very best for Christmas and a very prosperous and healthy New Year for 2024.

A special mention to some delegates who have stepped back or are nearing time to move on to better things but still offering to support members outside of official duties, Mick Gray in Bundaberg and Peter Bailey in Gympie thank you and all the very best to you.

The North Coast Region is suffering for police staffing numbers like all Regions across Queensland. What you are experiencing is a world wide phenomenon where nobody wants to be a police officer.

What was once a career is now a 'stopgap' for bigger and better things in a young persons future. Give us five years of your time, earn over a \$100,000 a year.

I'm not sure it's enough. The exodus is frightening and who wants to do DV after DV?

Even the QPU is advertising for recruits, our people are suffering the effects from poor prep for retention and recruiting. This situation was flagged years ago, but just as expected, ignored just as quickly.

With no support and even less police on the frontline it's any wonder we cannot retain the police being recruited and they're leaving for better jobs.

I heard a rumour the other day that the ELT is now focussed on discipline for poor DV outcomes. I am absolutely gob smacked that death by PowerPoint and a three day course does not provide adequate ability to

engage a social disease like Domestic Violence.

With no real training testing, I wonder why discipline is the preferred option and not education. The fact that our whole discipline system promotes education first, when one considers the first port of call from ELT is discipline, I wonder why we cannot keep officers. Overkill on oversight is draining police numbers as well.

The QPS took so long to discipline an officer the other week, they had resigned and been re-employed elsewhere before the QPS could even get their act together to engage an Accelerated Discipline Process at what was the 11 month of the investigation.

ESC has Complaint Resolution Guidelines (CRGs), Part 4 states in short, *if you establish on assessment/ investigation that you can resolve a matter as it would not receive more than LMR then don't do an investigation and finalise the matter with LMR.*

I'm sorry to say those very important provision within those CRG's are being completely misused and members are going through lengthy investigations when clearly LMR is the obvious outcome.

My final rant for 2023 – I raised (466) Criminal Complaints and Systemic failure of senior staff in a Region and have been completely ignored for my reporting of this Criminal Activity, both by ESC and the CCC (not our cup of tea).

My complaints commenced in about April/May of 2022, so what I'm trying to state is, when it comes to protecting some there are obvious concerns in my book.

However, when the QPS wishes to bastardise certain officers their hands don't appear to be tied so strongly behind their back.

Needless to say all those who were identified are now Commissioned in Rank and are still dodging the truth, well done QPS, I'm not holding my breath awaiting an answer, too scared I may have to call BS any way.

Someone said I should include a good story with obvious bad stories. Just to be balanced.

Anyway, I hope you all have a great Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Looking forward to next year's QPS antics.

Stay safe and remind yourself that it's okay not to be perfect... and if you're not, I'm here to help.

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RICHARD JACKWAY

Most organisations will tell you if they have 60% of staff moving in the right direction, and they are doing okay. At 80% they would be over the moon. 90% would be almost unbelievable. So if you told most leaders of organisations that you had a 96% + success rate in a highly subjective, volatile and complicated field many leaders of large organisations wouldn't believe such a claim.

We achieve this rate with domestic violence investigations. But because only the bad examples make it to the media, a severely skewed understanding of the actual truth arises.

And yet, we are still systematically set up to fail more often than should occur, because in any system where the contributing factors remain the same, the likelihood of specific outcomes (such as failures) will remain the same.

A month or so ago, I was involved in investigating six domestic violence incidents in two days. The second day I was a single officer on the counter, and had three DV complaints walk in. By the third DV at the counter (and the six over two days), I was so mentally fatigued that I was cognitively incapable of investigating.

My mind had stopped functioning properly. The aggrieved would get to around five words into a sentence then my mind would stutter and go blank before I could 'refocus'.

After 15-20 minutes of my mind constantly going 'blank', I was so distressed by this deterioration in my cognitive function that for the first time in 24 years of service, I considered just walking out and going home stressed.

The aggrieved had done absolutely nothing to deserve this. She was unfortunate enough to have walked in at a time I had become completely and utterly overloaded mentally.

I was fortunate enough that another officer took over from me 30 minutes prior to his start of shift. I am very grateful to him, but just as conscious that I could have faced severe

disciplinary sanctions through the inability of QPS management to understand or pro-actively manage this issue.

I've spoken to several others who have experienced similar responses. As a result I looked for research to see if this was a known psychological issue... and found overwhelming studies saying 'burnout' negatively affects focus, problem solving and memory... the exact areas of the mind you need to investigate DV.

In this arena we throw the fact that most police of any length of service are in varying stages of burnout, and are often affected by the physical and mental fatigue associated with shift work.

Compassion fatigue / burnout is a well-known risk that is not being adequately managed by the Service. This fact is seen by one undeniable statistic – the number of officers who will tell you they are drained, fatigued, overwhelmed or burnt out by DV and Mental Health calls for service.

These factors systematically lead to rates of failure to properly investigate DV, increased trauma & decreased protection to the aggrieved, and greater mental health problems for officers. No one wins when the Service does not *pro-actively* meet it's WHS obligations.

Because of this, I've come to the conclusion that each and every frontline officer is not just capable of stuffing up DV investigations due to mental fatigue, but is likely to at some stage or other. And those at greatest risk of stuffing up are those who have excessive DV workloads, and those on night-work

/ quick shifts / at the end of a long string of shifts. In these circumstances, the errors are a result of the QPS' systematic mismanagement of officers mental/emotional fatigue & burnout (re overwhelming DV and Mental Health attendance), rather than any ill will on the part of officers.

And this is before we even consider significantly inadequate training. Training is improving, but it still leaves a lot to be desired. It is a contributing factor to the failure rate.

My opinion is we are systematically set up to fail. Yet despite all this, we are still achieving an incredibly high success rate. The General Duties officers of Queensland should be proud of this success rate, just as the QPS should be ashamed of their current lack of proactive management of officer burnout / compassion fatigue, the effect that failure has on its officers, and the effect it has on the aggrieved of Queensland.

Both the aggrieved of Queensland and the police of Queensland deserve better than this state of affairs.

I've included a personal story to illustrate the state of affairs in General Duties. For our ELT, if you think you understand what it's like as a first responder from your recollection of your time in GD's, the truth of the matter is much, much worse.

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COL MULLER

As 2023 draws to a close I reflect on a difficult year in Policing. There are changes thrust upon almost every facet of Policing led by the shadows of the tragedy at Wieambilla.

The differences in our post COVID world, the repercussions following the Commission of Inquiry (COI) and the continued growing emergence of Domestic and Family Violence as one of our main policing tasks, and just to add to this we will also soon have a new Premier.

Working in smaller stations, like one and two officer facilities has become quite complex and involved. There's a lack of relief, difficulty in filling positions and an ever-increasing workload that's put many of these stations on the radar needing QPS attention.

Frontline Police are pushed to the limit, record numbers of Police are leaving the Service and there's difficulties in attracting people to many centres. I know recruiting numbers have improved however the flow on is yet to occur.

One message that does not change is the pride I have to represent the QPU members of the Southern Region, our members push forward upholding our oath and commitment to the people of our Region despite record work levels and record low staffing numbers.

Can I personally thank all the District Union Representatives and Officers that have assisted me over the past year and I wish each and every Officer in the Queensland Police Service and their families a safe and merry Christmas. For those who are fortunate to have time off for Christmas please spare a thought for those who are working.

AROUND THE REGION DARLING DOWNS DISTRICT MEDAL AND AWARDS CEREMONY

On November 9, I had the privilege of attending the Darling Down District Awards Ceremony. There was a large number of medals, clasps and awards presented to many deserving recipients.



Had the pleasure of attending the Darling Downs Country Patrol end of year meeting and an amazing Christmas lunch finished with a fire in the station wall fan..... all the modern conveniences of home.



DALBY POLICE COMPLEX

The new Dalby Police Complex nears completion.



RIPLEY POLICE COMPLEX

The ground works are underway on the new Ripley Police Complex.



ESK POLICE STATION

Esk security upgrades and a vehicle shed.



Some great vehicles in private ownership from days gone by recently displayed at the National Police Remembrance Day. NSW style but still will bring back some memories.



HOOROO AND FAREWELL

On September 15, I attended a retirement function for long serving Goodna Senior Sergeant Greg Shaw.



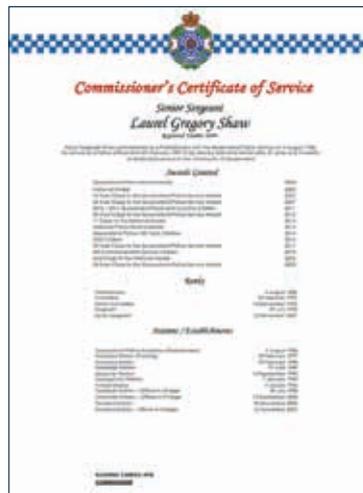
ROSEWOOD POLICE STATION

Finally, the old is coming down to make way for the new.



TARA POLICE HOUSING

The new Tara Police housing redevelopment is complete. The complex includes two new 2 bed, 2 bathroom houses. This is a great improvement for the increased strength of an OIC and 7 staff.



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QUEENSLAND POLICE UNION

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR STATION

Please complete this form and return it to the union office.

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POSTCODE:

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POSTCODE:

PHONE NUMBERS: [H] [MB]

[W] [F]

WORK EMAIL:

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RANK:

STATION:

STATION ADDRESS:

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When the house is overcrowded

The QPU initiated action in October 2023 to highlight unacceptable overcrowding in Watch Houses across the North of the State with President Ian Leavers giving a blunt assessment that police cannot just close the cell door and pretend the problem doesn't exist because there is a death in custody waiting to happen.

Custody figures obtained by the QPU confirmed the problem needed urgent attention. As an indicator, on Monday October 9, 2023 Mount Isa Watch House was at 219% capacity, Townsville Watch House 178% and Cairns recorded 125% capacity. The overcrowding resulted in some cells designed for a single occupant were holding up to four prisoners and at Mt Isa a two person cell contained six prisoners.

Mr Leavers said "This is a death in custody waiting to happen. Unfortunately I know it will happen I just don't know when. My colleagues and I are trying to prevent it because we know it won't be the Police Commissioner or the Commissioner for Corrections held responsible.

"They will go after the Constable, Assistant Watch House Officer and Duty Sergeant who are in charge of the Watch House at the time. They are going to be the ones hauled before the Coroner and it's not their fault, it is the responsibility of Senior Management to provide the resources to ensure we can offer appropriate care for people in custody in 2023."

Only a small number of the prisoners being held were identified as QPS prisoners, the rest should have been with Corrective Services. At Mount Isa



QPU President Ian Leavers at Cairns Watch House concerned police are at breaking point due to prisoner overcrowding.

there were Corrections prisoners held in the Watch House for 17 days, another 10 were in the Watch House for 6 days. The prisoners should be transferred to proper custodial facilities like prison and youth detention centres.



The response from QPS management to the overcrowding was to place extra mattresses in cells.

Increasing the levels of frustration is the QPS initial response to the problem was to bring in more mattresses for the cells not transfer the prisoners.

Mr Leavers said "This is a disgrace, it's not even a band aid solution. It just shows our Senior Management is out of touch, they do not understand what it's like to have the responsibility of working in a Watch House. We are holding people in bulk cells meant for a short stay but they are there for extended periods. We are not perfect, we make mistakes but we are being set up to fail by Senior Management.

"I've worked in a Watch House and I know what it's like when it is overcrowded, it is very challenging. You are responsible for care, prisoner medication, processing, property and regular welfare checks. It's hard. Those in custody often get upset, angry and its amplified when it's overcrowded.

"If there's a violent confrontation someone is going to get hurt and for police to intervene in a cell with six or eight people in there we will need multiple officers and everyone is at risk. There could also be a mass breakout or a police officer sustain a serious injury." Mr Leavers said.



This cell at Mt Isa held four prisoners.

immediate overcrowding relief. Mr Leavers said “If it means chartering planes out of places like Mount Isa, Cairns and Townsville on a regular basis to South East Queensland then so be it. Cost shouldn’t be a factor because if that happens then they are putting money before lives.

“I can tell you the QPS did fly prisoners out in October but two months on the same Watch Houses are still hitting 120% to 130% on a regular basis, this is unacceptable. 100% is 100% but Senior Management say 120% to 150% is acceptable. In what world is that acceptable? I’m having conversations every week with the Deputy and Assistant Commissioners urging them to do something.”



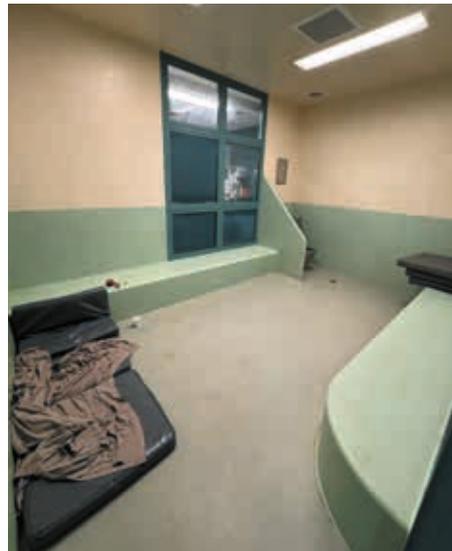
The juvenile custody cell at Cairns Watch House.



A cell at Cairns Watch House.

The Police Commissioner responded with an email to staff citing the prisoner numbers had jumped from 375 prisoners to 461 in one week. The initial plan was to use QG Air to redistribute 40 prisoners from the Far North to Watch Houses across South East Queensland.

The QPU supported the first phase of the plan to at least provide some



This cell at Mt Isa housed five prisoners at once for an extended number of days.

At the peak of the problem in October, Townsville had 61 people in custody including 6 children who need to be separated from the adults. The entire facility only has 42 beds. In Mount Isa there are only 21 beds and 38 people in custody.

In Cairns during November there was a ten year old boy in the Watch House because a place wasn’t available in youth detention. Mr Leavers said “For a ten year old to be held in custody he’s obviously exhausted every leniency available to the court but it’s a disgrace he is now the responsibility of police.”



The Mt Isa Watch House exercise yard.



The three bay shower facility utilised by prisoners at Cairns can be difficult to manage for supervision and demand for hot water during periods of overcrowding.



This single person cell was holding three prisoners.

The majority of people in custody in the Far North have First Nations heritage, they are often vulnerable and statistics confirm their health status is not equivalent to the rest of the population.

Mr Leavers said "This is a national disgrace and the Commissioner of Police and the Commissioner for Corrective Services along with the whole of Government need to work together to rectify this because if there is a death of a First Nations person the QPS will lose the trust of the entire First Nations community.

"We are risking the death of a person in custody that could have been averted. I'm the one who cares about First Nations people. I believe their

incarceration rate is too high and that should be addressed.

"I don't want discounts on penalties for First Nations people, I'd rather educate and rehabilitate people so they never end up in custody in the first place. But when they are in our care they need appropriate care and processes to look after them, we cannot do that when Watch Houses are over 100% capacity. We cannot do our job safely and it makes our people vulnerable. They are at breaking point."



QPU President Ian Leavers investigates overcrowding issues at Mt Isa Watch House.

Emergency Response Medal

By Darren Curtis

The professionalism, endurance and compassion of Queensland Police and Support Staff during the two years of the COVID pandemic will be acknowledged with a new medal.

The QPS Emergency Response Medal has been initiated after advocacy from the Queensland Police Union, Police Minister Mark Ryan and Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll. Eligibility and medal prototypes were discussed during the QPU Annual Conference in May 2023. The first clasp will be for those who participated in the Queensland COVID response and recovery.



The Queensland Police Emergency Response Service Medal.

The first 41 medals were presented to recipients in a ceremony at the Oxley Police Academy on Thursday December 7, 2023. The recipients were selected by District Officers across the QPS Regions and Commands.



The first recipients of the QPS Emergency Response Medal.

The medal ribbon has a number of symbolic elements, the red centre stripe represents the medical element of emergency response, the white side lines traditionally representative of hope on a wide Queensland Maroon base representing the Queenslander's police assist in emergencies.



The medal has been future proofed, events classified by a Police Commissioner can be added through

the addition of a new clasp. Each medal is personalised with the recipient's name engraved in the metal.



Police Minister Mark Ryan said every QPS member who contributed during the COVID-19 response is worthy of recognition.

Police Minister Mark Ryan said "This medal creates appreciation directly from the community to people who serve the community. It creates that recognition of exceptional service and exceptional sacrifice because we know during major events many sacrifices are made by police. They are often away from their families, dealing with their own stress, anxiety, tiredness and fatigue all in the pursuit of safety for the community so it's only right that contribution is recognised."



Woorabinda Snr/Sgt Ricky Zimitat is proud all staff who worked on the bio security operation will receive the Emergency Response Medal.

Woorabinda OIC Senior Sergeant Ricky Zimitat was one of the first to be presented with the Emergency Response Medal and for him it was recognition for an extensive bio security operation protecting a vulnerable First Nations community.

Senior Sergeant Zimitat said “We had a lot of elders at serious risk if COVID had come into the community. There were predictions of up to 40% loss of life if it got a hold and that could’ve meant the loss of every elder and that would have been devastating. We effectively closed complete access to the town and the entire community worked with us and supported what we did.

“This medal means a lot to me because of the staff that worked hard for such an extended period of time and COVID never penetrated Woorabinda. Not a single case. The younger staff really stepped up and I’m glad the QPS is recognising their efforts and they will all receive this medal.”

The Emergency Response Medal will be worn on the right hand side of the chest with other organisational medals. It will sit between the QPS Exemplary Conduct Medal and the QPS Medal. It can be worn at Awards ceremonies, graduations, funerals and ceremonial events. Whenever there’s

a requirement to wear the official blue button up shirt but never with the operational polo shirt.

Commissioner Katarina Carroll said the medal will be issued for 30 days service not only to sworn officers who conducted frontline COVID Operations, but also Officers who continued with BAE, support roles and unsworn staff who provided administrative assistance and operated in executive areas between March 22, 2020 and May 24, 2022.



Commissioner Carroll said the extremely long commitment of QLD Police deserved a medal rather than a citation.

Commissioner Carroll said “COVID 19 was probably the most difficult police response in our history. Our response in Queensland was second to none. It is extraordinary to comprehend how well we did compared to other jurisdictions across Australia and the rest of the world.

“In other States they are not handing out a response medal for COVID-19 because of the strategies they adopted. Our strategy established an extraordinary relationship with the community.”









Emergency Response Medal

QPU Members will not need to apply for the medal, arrangements have been put in place for it to be issued and sent directly to Districts for presentation at Honours and Awards Ceremonies from February next year.



QPU President Ian Leavers said "This medal is well deserved for everyone

who worked for months on border or bio security duty.

"Some of the Rapid Action Patrols and Highway Patrol Units were rostered consistently for nearly two years on this work, their efforts were outstanding. We also had prosecutors, detectives, specialists and officers from traditional office and administrative roles contributing to frontline policing.

"Just as important were the police who continued with BAE in their patrol groups, answering calls for service and assisting with community COVID education. This truly was a united effort and it is a credit those contributions are being recognised.

"I encourage everyone who qualifies for the Emergency Response Medal to attend their District Award Ceremonies to receive this honour and wear it with great pride at ceremonial events.

There may never be another situation like this in our lifetime as current serving police, so please accept this as a rare sign of community recognition for the work we do as police."

Members who would also like to purchase replicas of the Emergency Response Medal will be able to place orders through the QPAA Sports Shop at the Oxley Academy from 2024 by emailing: qpaashop@outlook.com

Following the Police Service establishing the Emergency Response Medal, the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service and Queensland Corrections Service will also produce their own medals based on the QPS model.

Without us, you're on your own

When you need professional help, advice or support we're here for you.



QUEENSLAND POLICE UNION OF EMPLOYEES

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Wieambilla Legacy

Federal Attorney General Mark Dreyfus wrote an article on the National Firearms Register for the Courier Mail on Tuesday December 12, 2023 to coincide with the first anniversary of the Wieambilla tragedy.

QPU President Ian Leavers engaged with the Attorney General and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, consistently since December last year advocating for Federal support and funding to create the National database and provide frontline police with immediate access to the information they need to produce accurate risk assessments.

On Wednesday December 6, during the National Cabinet Meeting the Federal Government agreed to fund the database so all States and jurisdictions could come online even if they were still utilising paper based systems.

National Cabinet agreed to work together to ensure the registry is fully operational within four years.

Mr Dreyfus praised the work done by President Leavers on the concept, initiative and legacy that will be the result of his reliable consistent advice.



Wieambilla victims' legacy is a national gun registry

Mark Dreyfus



One year ago today, the murders of police constables Rachel McCrow and Matthew Arnold and the brave neighbour who came to their aid, Alan Dare, in Wieambilla shocked and saddened the nation. In the immediate aftermath of the tragedy, Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk called for Australia to adopt a critical measure to improve gun safety for police and communities – a National Firearms Register. The Prime Minister responded to the Premier's call and led a meeting where all state and territory leaders united in support of this historic reform. Last week, full agreement on the National Firearms Register was reached.

In the wake of the Port Arthur Massacre in 1996 all Australians vowed never again. We resolved that we would never again tolerate the easy access to firearms, and especially high-powered military-style weapons, that made possible the mass slaughter of innocent people. Under the leadership of John Howard and Kim Beazley, parliaments across the

nation united, agreeing to the historic National Firearms Agreement, and ushering in some of the strongest gun laws in the world.

All of us are proud of that moment, and the undeniable fact that those laws have saved hundreds of lives.

Our homicide rate is now close to the lowest it's been in a century and deaths from firearms have plummeted. But as good as those laws were, they were never completed.

We outlawed many types of weapons and severely restricted access to those still legal, but the lack of accurate information about precisely which weapons are held in the community across Australia and by whom remains a significant gap.

Since Port Arthur many governments have supported the concept of a National Firearms Register, but no agreement had ever been reached on how to make it work. That is until Wieambilla.

There is something particularly sombre about such a terrible event being the catalyst for such significant change. Constable McCrow and Constable Arnold were two young, committed and enthusiastic police officers with their entire policing careers ahead of them. Attending their memorial service along with the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and the Queensland Premier was heartbreaking.

Surrounded by a sea of blue, it was clear that these two loved and

respected officers had joined the Queensland Police Service because they were committed to keeping the Queensland community safe.

Our law enforcement agencies dedicate their lives to community wellbeing. And in the wake of Wieambilla, the Prime Minister, premiers and chief ministers committed to doing more to keep them safe.

A National Firearms Register will ensure police across all Australian jurisdictions have timely and accurate information to assess any firearms risk posed, to protect themselves and the community from harm.

It will address significant gaps and inconsistencies with the way firearms are managed across states and territories, allowing the near real-time information about firearms ownership to be shared across the country. Establishment of the register will enable the connection of firearms information with key risk information for police to act upon. This will include police intelligence, criminal records and other relevant government and court information.

I will continue to work with my state and territory counterparts and department to get this done.

I thank gun safety advocates, law enforcement and unions for their tireless work helping all jurisdictions reach this landmark agreement. I echo Queensland Police Union president Ian Leavers' hope that the register will

be a legacy that will continue to keep people safe long after we have all retired". Too often news reports focus on the things that divide us, not those so many more areas that unite us.

I congratulate the Prime Minister, premiers, chief ministers, police ministers, law enforcement agencies and gun safety advocates who worked tirelessly to make this landmark reform happen. In doing so we have sent a clear united message: Every Australian government is committed to doing everything we can to keep our police forces and communities safe from gun violence.

The murders of Constable Arnold, Constable McCrow and Mr Dare was one of the most shocking, calculated and violent attacks on Australian police officers in living memory.

We must never accept that police attending a property or a neighbour coming to offer help will be met with such violence, such brutality.

And we must do everything possible to ensure that when police have to walk up a driveway, or knock on a door, they know what weapons may be held by those waiting inside.

Today we honour the bravery and sacrifice of all the men and women who risk their lives every day to protect their communities, and commit to doing all we can to prevent more touchstones being added to the 826 on the National Police Memorial. **Mark Dreyfus KC is Federal Attorney-General.**



By Darren Curtis

Some of the first interstate and international recruits to benefit from the incentives inspired by the QPU in co-operation with the Palaszczuk Government graduated from the PACE (Police Abridged Competency Education) Course at the Oxley Academy on Thursday November 16, 2023.

In a short ceremony on the Tom Molloy Parade ground the twelve new Constables were sworn in, in front of family and friends and QPU Vice President Shane Prior.

Mr Prior welcomed the new officers to the QPS and the Queensland Police Union "One of the first things all of these recruits did was sign up to the QPU. They realise the QPU is there for our members and we have a solid reputation of working with Government to get the packages and benefits needed to transition to Queensland. This group

of twelve are the first through the pipeline to benefit from the incentive package we took to Government to entice current serving police to leave their previous jurisdictions.

The first \$10,000 instalment of the \$20,000 moving bonus will now be paid as they've passed the PACE course, the next part of the bonus will come when they complete their first twelve months.

"The QPU also made provision for an officers previous long service leave

and sick leave to transition to the QPS. Mr Prior said "We believe the service an officer has given to the community is completely transferrable. The same for their service to continue for the National Medal and National Police Service Medal.

"Those swapping to Queensland are also eligible for higher pay points commensurate with their experience. The Commissioner can also offer the immediate rank of Constable or Senior Constable based on experience."



PACE Course Graduates November 2023.





Foreign Nationals can also apply for the QPS without the requirement to be an Australian Citizen or permanent resident.

Constable Brie Lobb moved to Queensland after serving with the New Zealand Police. Constable Lobb said "The incentives really helped because it does come at a significant

cost moving from another country. The extra financial incentive took the stress and costs out of moving over. I now have the potential to earn over \$100,000 a year, those earnings combined with superannuation benefits while I'm so young is awesome. The weather and change of lifestyle is also pretty exciting."



Const Brie Lobb and her mother on graduation day.

Constable Alex Casiano is returning to Queensland after spending a few years with VicPol. He applied for the QPS initially but at the time recruiters didn't believe he had enough experience, so determined to become a police officer he applied in Victoria and was accepted quickly.

The incentive program gave him the opportunity to move his young family to Queensland to be closer to relatives and childhood friends.

Constable Casiano said "It's great to return home and support the community where I grew up. Queensland Police have a good reputation for how they treat their police and the benefits are definitely good. The incentive to relocate is great having extra cash in your pocket so you don't have to worry about those moving costs."

QPU President Ian Leavers has been at the forefront of discussions with Government about attracting police to Queensland to reinforce the frontline.



QPU Vice President Shane Prior congratulates Constable Alex Casiano on returning to Queensland.

Mr Leavers said "Recruitment is a challenge affecting not only police but many other frontline roles and first responders but we cannot sit around and wait for a shift in employment patterns.

"It's important to make policing a first choice option. The QPU has worked with the Palaszczuk Government to consider non-traditional ideas for recruitment.

"We have worked with the Premier, Police Minister and Treasurer over successive governments to improve wages, conditions and superannuation to make Queensland police the best paid in Australasia.

"We are also developing ways to make the QPS an attractive employment proposition for various cultures and First Nations people. Policing can offer some good years to develop skills, help the community and set you up for another future career if your circumstances change while receiving good pay and benefits."

During November 2023 the Government announced 587 recruits are currently training at the Oxley and Townsville Academies and a further 1,600 applicants were in the recruitment pipeline.



FLIGHT NIGHT

THE RED EYE

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QUEENSLAND SECTION



ABOUT

It's time to dust off those dancing shoes and hit the skies for an evening of endless fun in support of the Royal Flying Doctor Service! We've got a packed schedule of in-flight entertainment, including live music, mind-bending magic, auctions, and oodles of lucky door prizes. So strap in and get ready for takeoff!

WHEN

Mark your calendars, folks!

On the **10th of February 2024**, takeoff is scheduled for
6 pm at the **Kedron Wavell Services Club**
(21 Kittyhawk Drive, Chermside)

DRESS CODE

A touch of red

TICKETS & RSVP

Feast like royalty in the skies with our business-class tickets, priced at **\$120!** These babies are limited, so snag'em while you can! But wait, there's more! Our friendly cabin crew will gladly serve up your favorite drinks at prices that'll keep your wallet happy. So, what are you waiting for? **RSVP by texting 0438 012 021 with your surname and number of tickets required by 15 December 2023**, and we'll send you the payment details.

Bon voyage!

First Nations Summit

Mayors from First Nations Communities were brought together with Commissioner Katarina Carroll, Police Union President Ian Leavers and QPS staff during September to discuss ways of working together to enhance police responses and cultural understanding.

The summit was held in Cairns on September 4, 2023 and it was the first time all First Nations Community Councils were able to attend with a Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Executive and share their experiences in an open listening and yarning forum.

QPU President Ian Leavers said 'It's important we have these discussions to improve understanding and relationships. Sometimes the conversions can be difficult and the topics sensitive but unless we openly talk about issues, ignorance can cloud people's judgement. It's been refreshing to sit side by side with some of these community leaders and talk.

"Many of them thanked me for telling it how it is from the viewpoint of frontline police. The most positive aspect is, I found many of the Mayors to be genuine leaders prepared not to be trapped by the past or inner city 'do gooders' but they want to look forward. There's an understanding that if we don't work together things will take a whole lot longer to improve.

"I do believe indigenous incarceration rates are too high, in fact it's a national disgrace. Money needs to be invested in education, rehabilitation and providing opportunities in communities. I want women and children in communities to feel safe and secure where they live.

"Elders have a very significant role to play as well and I hope their influence can have an impact on those behaving badly, I would much rather have families persuade a change in behaviour before a person comes into contact with the criminal justice system."

Aunty Rose Elu asked all participants to look at issues from another person's perspective and resist being judgemental. Her analogy used a bridge "While it's being built not all the bolts will fit but eventually the various parts will all form a bridge that enables all people to walk together."



Aunty Rose Elu spoke with dignity, wisdom and compassion.



Commissioner Katarina Carroll, Aunty Rose Elu, Police Minister Mark Ryan and QPU President Ian Leavers at the summit.

The summit was held six weeks out from the voice referendum and there was a desire for the discussions to be held in a culturally safe environment for frank and honest conversations.



Police Minister Mark Ryan said when partnerships are genuine there's always a positive opportunity for better outcomes.

Police Minister Mark Ryan said whether people at the summit were from the police or community it takes a lot of courage to engage in this format and hear each other out "There's a lot of vulnerability when you acknowledge the raw hard past but we need to work together in partnership.

"This takes leadership. I know we haven't done enough as Government for generations, I know we've got to do more and this is where those conversations take place but the challenge for all of us is to make sure conversations don't just end with the words we say here, they have to be followed up with the actions we do."

At the conclusion of the summit, awards were presented to acknowledge cultural leadership and positive partnerships between police and First Nations communities.

Uncle Adrian Coolwell was the recipient of an Exemplary Conduct Medal with Community Clasp for his decades of service with the QPS, his work in promoting cultural understanding and encouraging First Nations recruitment. Uncle Adrian is also a member of the First Nations and Multicultural Affairs Unit.

The award meant a great deal to Uncle Adrian and he gave an emotional acceptance speech "My mother would be very proud if she was here to see me receive this award. My mum brought us up to do the right thing and help anyone who needs it, doesn't matter what culture or background you are from. I've found you make lifelong friendships through the police and in football terminology we've got a great team and we've got to work together to get where we want to be."



Uncle Adrian Coolwell was the recipient of an Exemplary Conduct Medal with Community Clasp.

Commissioner Carroll also revealed a new police vessel in the Torres Strait will be named after late Senior Police Liaison Officer Uncle Paul Dai who passed away in 2021 after thirty years service as a member of the QPS and eight years as a Community Police Officer.

He worked across the Torres Strait, the Brisbane Watch House and was fluent in fourteen languages. His life's work was serving the community and mentor sworn police on cultural issues.

Woorabinda Council were acknowledged with two awards for the work done in partnership with police and also Community Service. Mayor Joshua Weazel said "Leadership is about building partnerships, collaborating to effect change in our community and enhancing prospects for our citizens.

"We value the relationships with police in our community and this just validates the work we have been doing. Community has a role to play and our people need to understand that services are not going to fix everything. These awards confirm the hard work our council has done with police."



Woorabinda Mayor Joshua Weazel with Woorabinda OIC Snr Sgt Ricky Zimitat.



QPU President Ian Leavers was one of the first to congratulate Uncle Adrian Coolwell on receiving an Exemplary Conduct Medal.



Commissioner Katarina Carroll, Susan Solomon, Aunty Barbara Single and Melissa Solomon unveiling the PV Paul Dai.



QPS First Nations and Multicultural Affairs Unit.

Throughout the evening QPU President Ian Leavers spoke informally with a number of Mayors and Community Council Executives sharing ideas and discussing opportunities to have ongoing open conversations on a range of issues.



Yarrabah Snr PLO Aunty Gaylene Patterson and Metro South Snr PLO Uncle Doug Peachey were joint recipients of the First Nations Leadership Award.



Boigu Island Sagerau Poenipan Warrior Dancers performed during the summit awards evening.

First Nations Summit



Louise Thompson was commended for her work with the community in Cherbourg.



Gim uywaluvara Yidingi dancers from Cairns performed during the summit awards evening.



Joint recipients of First Nations Integrity and Courage Award Weipa Snr PLO Fritz Loban and Senior Protective Services Officer Robert Youngblutt for improving workplace culture.





Aurukun PCYC Sgt Stephen Armstrong-Ravula was acknowledged as a Champion of Change for his work helping youths gain self confidence and providing a safe space for them to play sport and engage in positive programs.

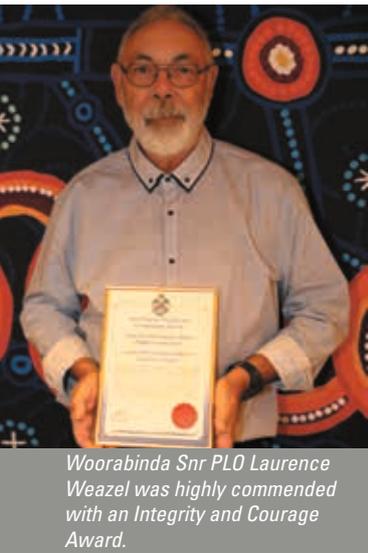


S/C Patricia Pedro and Snr Sgt OIC Thursday Island Anthony Moynihan were commended for their work in Domestic Violence Prevention.

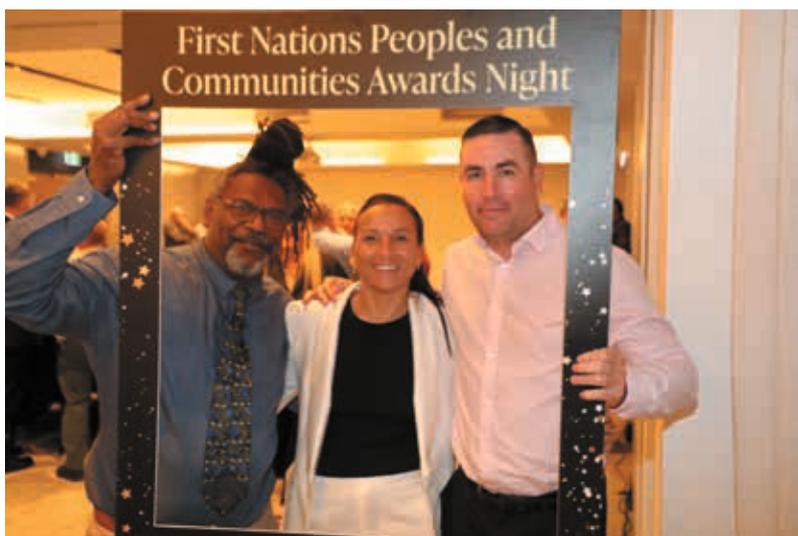


Snr Sgt Flegg, Snr PLO Fritz Loban and QPU President Ian Leavers celebrate the success of the Weipa cultural inclusion program.





Woorabinda Snr PLO Laurence Weazel was highly commended with an Integrity and Courage Award.



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Pride Award

By Darren Curtis

Former police officer Ben Bjarnesen has been acknowledged as an outstanding LGBTQ+ community activist in the inaugural Queensland Council of Unions Pride Awards.

Ben's nomination was submitted while he was still an operational Senior Constable working General Duties at West End. The QPU supported Ben's nomination in the category for outstanding activist and QPU Vice President Shane Prior was the first to congratulate Ben on his win during a ceremony at the QCU offices on September 22, 2023.

Mr Bjarnesen said "the support Ian Leavers and Shane Prior have provided has been very helpful and appreciated. I hope their attitude is being replicated across all police districts not just in Brisbane.

When I first started in the police fifteen years ago the Police Union

would never have even been discussing LGBTQ+ issues.

The QPU has initiated an inclusion and diversity committee and the QPS has created employee networks for LGBTQ+. There is now so much support for people both in the QPS who identify as LGBTQ and for the community we work alongside.

There's a huge way to go but I hope even more change can occur quicker than it has over the past decade."

For many years Ben volunteered as an LGBTQ liaison officer with the QPS, his advocacy started after personally experiencing domestic violence in a same sex relationship. Aware of negative views towards police in the

LGBTQ+ community Ben served as the Deputy Chair of the QPU's Inclusion and Diversity Committee.

Along with other Union members in the QPS, allies and activists from within Queensland Health and PFLAG Ben established an LGBTQ+ support group called 'Anything But Straight', the group grew in support and found acceptance in the community.

Ben took this innovative attitude to future work-sites and encouraged further collaboration with the LGBTQ+ community.

Ben is a Churchill Fellow who studied in the USA, Canada, UK and the Netherlands where he analysed best practice solutions for Police



QPU Vice President Shane Prior, Penny Spalding QCU, and Kate Veach QCU Senior Vice President congratulate Ben Bjarnesen on receiving the inaugural 'outstanding Pride activist' award.



Acting Sgt Marti Winkworth QPS State Co-ordinator LGBTQ+ Liaison Program, Luke Moore QPU Projects and Policy Officer, QPU Vice President Shane Prior congratulate Ben Bjarnesen.

Departments to enhance the way in which they respond to domestic violence in LGBTQ communities.

In 2020 he founded the LGBTQ Domestic Violence Awareness Foundation and he is also on the Board of Directors for DVConnect Ltd.

In 2023 he was appointed to the Queensland Government Domestic & Family Violence Prevention Council by Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk.

During the Independent Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence, Ben provided evidence and his advocacy resulted in recommendations to further support and expand the LGBTQ+ liaison program inside the QPS.



QPU Projects and Policy Officer Luke Moore and QPS LGBTQ+ Co-ordinator Marti Winkworth watch on as Ben Bjarnesen is presented with the QCU Pride Award.

Ben is an inspiration to LGBTQ+ members of the QPS and has always been a QPU member. Ben has personally driven reforms inside the QPS aimed at building vital links with the LGBTQ+ community.

QPU President Ian Leavers was one of Ben's first mentors as a Police Officer and was proud to nominate Senior Constable Ben Bjarnesen for the Inaugural Union Pride Outstanding Activist award.

In November 2023 Ben was listed as a finalist in the Queenslander of the Year Awards for 2024.



During his acceptance speech Ben said LGBTQ members are now supported in the QPS workplace and many in the LGBTQ+ community are increasingly willing to trust and seek help from police.



Ben Bjarnesen with other QCU Pride Award category winners.



The 2023 Queensland Council of Unions Pride Awards Committee.



On Saturday September 23 members of the QPS participated in the Pride Rally and March as part of the 2023 Brisbane Pride Festival.



The theme of the pride march 2023 was visibility, connection and solidarity.



The pride march was meant as a reminder of how those who identify as LGBTQ+ members can feel safe in the community and alongside police.



QPS Officers were given approval to march in uniform this year.



QPS Pipes and Drums lead the contingent from Queens Park in the CBD to Musgrave Park, South Brisbane.

Honours and Awards Logan

By Darren Curtis

Police from the Logan District were presented with QPS Honours, Awards and Certificates during a ceremony at the Beenleigh PCYC on Wednesday November 15, 2023.

Seventy Officers and staff attended the event however a further 126 officers who were eligible for awards were unable to attend due to shift commitments.

Assistant Commissioner Brian Swan said another ceremony would be arranged to try and accommodate further presentations “Logan is one of the most challenging police environments and police districts in Queensland and I think you all do an outstanding job.”

A/C Swan said the awards and accolades were well deserved “these awards represent diligence and your integrity. Sometimes I get frustrated because I cannot get you all the things that you need but one thing I can do is stand here and say thank you for your work and turning up each day.”

The first Assistant Commissioner’s Certificates of the ceremony were awarded to Detective Senior Sergeant Glen Antonie, Detective Sergeant Kieran Mahon and Detective Senior Constable Candice Walsh of the Logan District Child Protection and Investigation Unit for their work into the disappearance of a sixteen year old female in 2015 that led to the arrest and conviction of an offender in October 2022.

The offender was arrested in 2015 but it took two trials and a conviction seven years after the girl disappeared for the matter to be completed. The Detectives



Det S/C Candice Walsh, Det S/Sgt Glen Antonie and Constable Shannen Mitchell were presented with Assistant Commissioner’s Certificates for their work in a protracted and detailed murder investigation.

were commended for their dedication and resourcefulness to achieve the conviction.

Detective Senior Sergeant Antonie said “it was a significant investigation that centred on a 16 year old vulnerable girl that we had little information on. She’d been missing for a few weeks before we were contacted. As we explored the evidence we discovered a vulnerability that existed and realised she’d been targeted by a horrible predator. The whole focus for us was on justice for this girl and her family.

“We’ve never found Tiffany to this day even though we had 140 witnesses. The focus of our team and the tenacity to get this job done no matter what makes me a very proud boss.”



Det S/Sgt Glen Antonie believes every detective involved in the Tiffany case improved their investigative skills and development of covert strategies.

Honours and Awards – Logan

In the aftermath of the horrific murders of Constable Matthew Arnold and Constable Rachel McCrow a charity football game was arranged to bring together those involved in the incident, other police members and the community for a fund-raising effort for the families and as a morale boost.

Not long after the concept was put forward NRL great Petro Ciconciewa became involved and arranged NRL All Stars to join the teams, contribute merchandise for fund-raising and access to Dolphin Stadium at Redcliffe for the event.



Det Sgt Paul Renouf said the organising team was a great blend of dedicated police and civilians who were all focussed on honouring the fallen police.

done this whether our names were on the organising committee list or not.”

South Eastern Regional Rep Andy Williams congratulated all of the award recipients and commended Union members for their commitment to the people of Queensland.

Mr Williams said “police have been recognised for their compassion, integrity and intelligence. It’s pleasing the QPS is acknowledging those who have developed new strategies for investigations and others who banded together when the entire police family was hurting so we could



The organising committee for the Arnold McCrow Memorial Rugby League fundraiser were presented with Certificates of the Commissioner’s Appreciation.

Commissioner’s Statements of Appreciation were awarded to Detective Inspector Garry Watts, Detective Sergeant Paul Renouf, Detective Senior Constable James Doyle, Detective Senior Constable Mitch Berry, Mr Stuart Bushell and Mr Petro Ciconciewa for their pivotal roles in the conception, planning and facilitating the event in February 2023.

Detective Sergeant Renouf said “we wanted to acknowledge the people involved as well as pay our respects to the Arnold and McCrow families. We had genuine hero’s from the QPS playing that day, there were plenty of tears but also smiles and that was important.



Recipients of the National Medal and National Police Service Medal.

“That day was important for all of us as an organisation to heal. I knew from the start this organising group would get the job done. No egos would get in the way, this is a great honour but honestly we would have

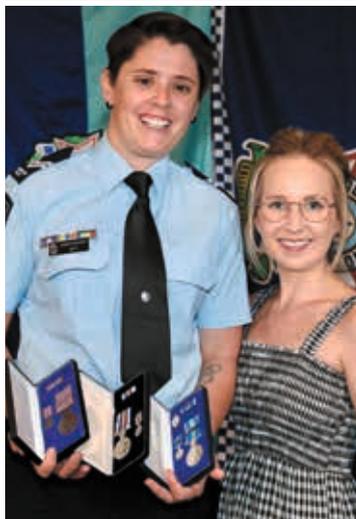
start healing. National Police Medals and the Queensland Police Service Medal are also important career milestones and it’s always satisfying to see families celebrating these achievements together.”



S/C Lachlan Jones was awarded a District Officer's Certificate for his resourcefulness and negotiating skills attempting to stop a woman committing serious self harm in 2022.



Mikayla Jespersen was awarded an Assistant Commissioner's Certificate for her efforts in attempting to rescue a man from a burning car after an accident at New Beith in 2022.





Const Ellie Massey was presented with a District Officer's Certificate for her use of tactical first aid in saving the life of a stabbing victim in July 2023 at Woodridge.



Acting Inspector Ken Murray was presented with a Commissioner's Certificate for his work in a prevention campaign targeting knife crime.





Acting Sgt Jax Martin received an Assistant Commissioner's Certificate for her compassion assisting a person mortally injured in a housefire in 2022.



Blue Light Basketball

By Darren Curtis

Queensland Police were hosts for the 2023 Australasian Police Basketball Championships and the organisers set the weeklong competition on the Gold Coast from October 9 to 13.

Round games for the 43rd year of the championships were played at the Tallebudgera Sport & Rec facility before moving to the Gold Coast Basketball Stadium at Carrarra for the finals. Four hundred and one competitors entered the various Divisions from Div 1 to Masters representing each Australian State and a contingent from New Zealand.

Vice President of the Queensland Police Basketball Club, Dan Coleman said "The standard is amazing this year, 2023 is actually the largest competition with more teams than ever for the Australasian championships.

The quality of the games has increased significantly because there's a few ex NBL players, ABA players, former college ballers from the USA and that all shows the diversity of people doing the job of policing. But this is not only a sports competition but also about getting police together networking, exchanging ideas and checking in on their mental health."



QPBC Vice President Dan Coleman believes the playing standard at this year's Championships was the best ever

The Queensland team numbered seventy five this year, including two female teams which is significant because last year there was just one female player who went to the championships. Dan said "We've been working hard to build the women's side of our sport.

It helps the 2023 comp was on the Gold Coast that made it more accessible, last year for example the entire squad numbered just 20. This year across all the teams we have players representing every Region, command and specialty area. It can be a pretty daunting cost for some of the players from the Far North but they've managed to do it."



Every QLD team member was issued with a memorial wristband with the rego numbers for Matt Arnold and Rachel McCrow. It was to be worn at all times except when on court.

QPU Vice President Shane Prior supported the Queensland team during the championships and although he offered to pull on a singlet to run on for any division he remained on the bench.

Mr Prior said "The team spirit is very high, yes I've copped a few short jokes amongst some of these tall players but it's a good sign when the morale is so high and each player respects the jersey

and what it means to be one of the few selected to play for the Queensland Police.

"The QPU are proud to provide sponsorship because we believe access to the team shouldn't be limited to where your home station is. There are so many benefits that come from playing team sport for police, obviously you have to maintain fitness in whatever frontline role you do but also there's nothing better than building a rapport with colleagues who will always look out for each other on and off court.

"We all need to relax and sport is perfect way to alter your focus. For me one of the best things this year is the development of the women's competition from just a solo Queensland competitor in 2022 to 14 this year is a good sign."



QPU Vice President Shane Prior was impressed with the esprit de corps of the Queensland Team during the weeklong championship event.

Kylie Doyle found herself playing in the Queensland Div 2 team this year and coaching the Div 1 side after thirty years attending the Championships. In 1995 she was the only QPS player so she

knows the struggle and said it was pretty emotional seeing the same thing play out last year for Queensland.

Kylie said "Queensland haven't had a team in the Div 1 comp since 2013 because we simply didn't have enough players willing to commit to training and travel. It's pretty challenging for the mums in the squad who've had babies in the last few years to travel with toddlers plus other childcare commitments.

"After three decades doing this I now have friendships all over the country and in New Zealand, when we are working we can call on each other for advice or follow up interstate inquiries. When we meet up each year at the basketball it's like coming home to family, we can ask each other things that you probably wouldn't do with others and check on how each other is going.

"The basketball is great and there's a wonderful skill level but it's the mateship and friendship that's supporting our mental health and well being that really makes it worthwhile."



Player/ Coach Kylie Doyle believes the QLD teams encourage not only high end sport performance but also opportunities to reinforce each other at work.

Away from the Queensland basketball team Kylie is the OIC at Holland Park and often the Acting Patrol Group Inspector however while on tour there's no rank structure as players are all at the same level and she believes that has also delivered some significant advantages.

Kylie said "I'm often talking to other players who are one or two years in the job and its about creating a friendship someone they can reach out to for assistance or gain confidence from to apply for positions. They've got the ability they just need confidence to navigate the promotion system.



Former QPS officer Aaron Bishop believes the sportsmanship of the event is possibly the best aspect of the championships. Rivals are often the first to offer a helping hand to get you back up if you find yourself on the court deck.

"We need to support women at all levels of the organisation and keep them engaged or we tend to lose them from policing after the ten or fifteen year mark."

One officer Queensland did lose from the basketball ranks was back at the 2023 carnival as a coach for South Australia. Aaron Bishop graduated at the Queensland Academy in 1996 and due to family changes left the QPS in 2005 headed for SAPOL. This year he was coach of the SAPOL Mens Div 3 side and their first game was against Queensland.

Aaron said jokingly "I can feel the stares from the QPS guys across the court. Being a part of the basketball championships is unlike anything else you do in this job, at the end of the day we share a love for this job and a love for our chosen sport.

"We come together as tough competitors but as soon as the game is over we are mates again. There's obvious networking options to this sport as well off the court that I don't think you can get anywhere else."

Only one Queensland Team made it to a grand final and the Queensland Masters defeated SAPOL.



The 2024 Championships will be held in Darwin and Dan Coleman is encouraging police to get involved either through being part of the playing group, management/administration or retired police who maybe travelling around Australia to time their visit to Darwin with the championship and offering some off-field support.

Dan said "The QPU have been our most consistent sponsor and that support is really appreciated. If we can attract a few more sponsors it would really assist our players stationed in rural and remote areas to be part of the travelling group. The Queensland teams are on the cusp of some impressive results if we can continue to build momentum."







Queensland Teams

Division One Men

Team One

Peter Alexander
Jarrod Gamble
Kynon Gameron
Aaron Grabau
Wal Gubesch
Luke Hedges
Rowan Kerr
Anton Malan
Isaiah Richardson
David Stewart
Adam Fairhurst
Declan Johnston

Coach: Dane Sheraton
Assistant Coach: Adam Fairhurst
Manager: Jon Harris Division One

Division Two Men

Team 4

Hayden Barrett
Jay Thomas
Mark James
Trei Watkins
Aaren Moriarty
Christopher Nicolai
Mathew Small
Liam Stewart

Coach: Luke Weiks
Assistant Coach: Mat Scott
Manager: Andrew McCall

Division One Women

Team One

Gillian Brown
Chloe Coughlin
Caitlin Edgar
Leah Keating
Lauren Kennedy
Fiona McGrath
Monique McIntosh
Shannon Midgley
Kate Ringberg

Coach: Kylie Doyle
Assistant Coach: Adam Fairhurst
Manager: Jon Harris Division One

Division One Men

Team 2

Peter Chang-Chien
Bryce Davis
Ryan Giese
Dane Sheraton
Ian Phillips
Luke Pittle
Maddison Schafer
Matt Scott
Guy Tingey
Mitch Britton

Coach: Adam Fairhurst
Assistant Coach: Dane Sheraton
Manager: Dan Coleman

Division Two Men

Team 5

Christopher Downham
Matthew Gilles
Mark Hazlett
Andrew McCall
Jamie O'Dempsey
Kevin O'Dowd
Jay Terry
Tim McDade
Jack Edwards

Coach: Brendan McDonell
Assistant Coach: Michael King
Manager: Alina Hill

Division Two Women

Team 2

Kylie Doyle
Claire Heptinstall
Aylin Hudaverdi
Rebecca Ferguson

Coach: Shannon Midgley
Assistant Coach: Coach: Fiona McGrath
Manager: Gillian Brown

Division Two Men

Team 3

Joshua Black
Andrew Grigoruta
Brendon Potter
Blaike Roe
David Sammons
Samuel Schmidt
Damian Summerfield
Tim Li
Scott Wilson
Mark Tirendi

Coach: Jed Graham
Assistant Coach: Dan Coleman
Manager: Gill Brown

Masters Division

Team 1

David Ashbolt
Loban Fritz
Don Graham
John Harris
Wayne Mason
Peter Osborne
Kyle Trengrove
Peter Venz

Coach: Claire Heptinstall
Assistant Coach: Jed Graham
Manager: Brendan McDonnell



Honours and Awards Metro South

By Darren Curtis

Police from across the Brisbane Metropolitan South Region gathered at the Calamvale Suites and Conference Centre for their Honours and Awards Ceremony on Wednesday October 18, 2023.

There were extensive numbers of police receiving clasps for the Queensland Police Service Medal and another thirty Officers receiving the Queensland Police Service Medal for ten years continuous full time diligent service.

Along with excited family members, the penthouse level conference room was full with members standing two deep at the back of the room.

Community Awards for his work exceeding expectations providing support to some of the community's most vulnerable people.

Plain Clothes Constable Kyle Bowden was awarded a District Officer's Certificate for his efforts with Plain Clothes Constable Tim Janke in negotiating with a man attempting self-harm on the top of the Gateway Bridge in November 2019.



Senior Police Liaison Officer Douglas Peachey was presented with two First Nations Communities Awards.



Also receiving recognition was Senior Police Liaison Officer Uncle Doug Peachey who was presented with a Leadership Award from the Police Commissioner for his work mentoring, networking and developing understanding between various First Nations groups across the Metro South Region and the Queensland Police. Uncle Doug also was the recipient of the inaugural Commissioners Outstanding Award for First Nations

Kyle managed to develop a rapport with the man while climbing a fence near the roadway and encouraging the man to come down safely and seek assistance.

A District Officer's Certificate was also awarded to Acting Senior Sergeant Steven Goodall, Senior Constable Grant Waitai and Senior Constable Tim Conde for their work resolving a tense situation with an armed offender



Plain Clothes Constable Kyle Bowden was acknowledged for his skill and courage convincing a man threatening self harm to climb down from a bridge.

in May 2023. The officers combined actions modelled best practice and typified professionalism and enhanced community confidence in police.

him, continuing his assaults despite numerous taser deployments. The police were additionally commended for their dedication to duty.



Acting Chief Superintendent Andrew Pilotto presents S/C Grant Waitai, S/C Tim Conde and Acting Snr/Sgt Steven Goodall with a District Officer's Certificate for their actions at a service station in Carina on May 25, 2023.

Community member Mr Teng Soo received a District Officer's Certificate along with Sergeant Dean Godfrey, Sergeant Nick Collins and Senior Constable Adam Harvey for an incident in July 2022 where all the recipients displayed courage and bravery.

The incident began with a drug affected man breaking into the Soo family home and threatening the occupants, Teng protected his family using an ironing board until police arrived. The offender also attacked police and fought violently as the officers attempted to arrest

The QPU is proud to support our members for their outstanding service to the community and for years of dedicated service to the people of Queensland.

The acknowledgement is well deserved and recognition has improved significantly from when clasps and medals were left for our members to collect from tables or day room mail boxes.

An increasing number of family members are attending the Honours and Awards presentations and the significance of the ceremonies is expanding.



Acting Chief Superintendent Andrew Pilotto presents District Officer Certificates to Sgt Nick Collins, Snr Sgt Dean Godfrey and Mr Teng Soo for their bravery and courage engaging with a violent drug affected offender on July 27, 2022.



Sgt Danielle De-Waal was presented with her promotion to sergeant certificate.



S/C Troy Say is congratulated by wife Paula on receiving his National Police Service and National Police Medals for 15yrs of dedicated service.



Sgt Shane Pankhurst was presented with his promotion to sergeant certificate.



Recipients of the National Police Service Medal.



Recipients of the clasp for the QLD Police Service Medal 25yrs.



Recipients of the clasp for the QLD Police Service Medal 20yrs.



Recipients of the QLD Police Service Medal.



Recipients of the QLD Police Service Medal.



Recipients of the QLD Police Service Medal.



Constable Breanna Trost along with a number of other officers attended a siege with an armed offender holding a number of people including a child hostage. The offender fired a number of shots and was later arrested after confronting police outside the property. Const Trost is commended for her bravery and dedication to duty.



Recipients of the clasp for the QLD Police Service Medal 15yrs.





Recipients of the National Emergency Medal.



Recipients of the clasp for the QLD Police Service Medal 15yrs.





Sgt Crystal Moore was presented with her promotion to sergeant certificate.

Recipients of the clasp for the QLD Police Service Medal over 30yrs.



Recipients of the clasp for the QLD Police Service Medal 20yrs.



Recipients of the clasp for the QLD Police Service Medal 15yrs.



Plain Clothes Const Josh McGinty and Plain Clothes Sen/Con Courtney Leahy were awarded District Officer's Certificates for their initiative in utilising a seized phone from an offender to disrupt a major stolen property ring.



Snr Sgt Jarrad Tyne received clasps for the QLD Police Service Medal for 20yrs & 15yrs.



S/C Shaun Kelley was awarded a District Officer's Certificate for a program that assisted in a 53% reduction in fatal motor vehicle crashes across the Bayside Patrol Group.



Recipients of the QLD Police Service Medal.



Recipients of the National Medal.



Police Liaison Officer Ricky Lashand was presented with the Police Liaison Officer Co-Ordinator Certificate.



Recipients of the QLD Police Service Medal.



Recipients of the clasp for the QLD Police Service Medal 15yrs.



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By Darren Curtis

Eighty nine recruits officially graduated as Queensland Police during a ceremony at the Oxley Academy in Brisbane on Thursday October 19, 2023.

Intake 1 of 2023 was made up of four squads, numbered 240 to 243. They began their training cycle on February 13, 2023 and were sworn in by Queensland Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll.

Dux Award. Twenty three year old Harrison joined the QPS after achieving a Bachelor of Nursing degree and working as an emergency department nurse. He begins his new role as a police officer in the Logan District.

as a symbol of one particular religion. It is for people of all faiths and beliefs and hopefully it will remain with you always as something that provides support and continues to remind you that the QPU is always there to provide assistance and guidance."



QPU President Ian Leavers was among the first to congratulate the new First Year Constables and encouraged them to combine the techniques they had learned through the training modules with the advice they receive from experienced officers at their first stations.

Mr Leavers also presented Constable Harrison Nicol with the QPU Sponsored

In the days before their graduation QPU Vice President Shane Prior met with the recruits at the Academy and presented each person with a Saint Michael medallion as a keepsake and reminder of their connection with the Police Union.

Mr Prior said "while Saint Michael is the patron saint of police, I don't want you to look at this medallion strictly



QPU President Ian Leavers presents the QPU Sponsored Dux Award to Constable Harry Nicol.



QPU Vice President explains the significance of the St Michael medallion and why the QPU provides them for every graduating officer.



Before the recruits walked through the 'old barracks gates' onto the Tom Molloy Parade Ground, police motorcyclists Senior Constable Mark Gamon and Senior Constable Aaron Bobbermen from Mt Ommaney Highway Patrol lead the way onto the sacred acre.

Although an accomplished motorcyclist, Senior Constable Gamon said the experience was challenging doing it for the first time. The grass is regarded as precious and maintained with great care so there's no rehearsal and a bit of anxiety on how the wheels will sit on the lush turf. Plus there's every eye on the team as they lead the way with lights flashing.

Mark said "I've always wanted to be a part of a graduation in this capacity and I've never had the opportunity before so this, today is a great honour for me. There were plenty of butterflies in the gut I will admit because you just don't want to stuff up but I do hope for the recruits that were following us it gave them a real practical example of working under pressure and getting the job done."



S/C Mark Gamon was all smiles after completing a faultless riding demonstration on the sacred acre.



The presentation of the Saint Michael's medallion by Mr Prior will now become a permanent ceremony on behalf of the QPU before each class graduates.



S/C Aaron Bobbermen and S/C Mark Gamon demonstrate precision riding skills during the graduation ceremony.

Police Commissioner Carroll asked the entire class to keep the values of the police service at the front of their mind at all times while on duty and be aware that they will be held to account for their actions.

Commissioner Carroll said “you must meet community expectations of dedication, commitment and courage. To be successful you must uphold the highest standards expected by your colleagues and by the community you serve.”

Police Minister Mark Ryan continued the theme, reminding the new First Year Constables that the community respects the job they do and children in particular look upon police with great admiration and pride “the community values police and the way you conduct yourself, the way you put values ahead of self interest, you serve the community rather than yourself, it’s an extraordinary commitment.”



Police Minister Mark Ryan told the new Constables that their service to the community is highly valued.



Mixing with the First Year Constables and their families after the swearing in, QPU Vice President Shane Prior said “the joy they share today is one of the greatest experiences you can have in your policing career. The diversity of occupations they have held before joining this new job is incredible.

“There’s quite a number of former ADF personnel, but also a former US paratrooper, firefighter, watch house officer, nurses and teachers. This intake also attracted a few with rare job titles including a detonator layout operator, solicitor, human rights officer, disability support officer, barber and meatworker.

“All of these different careers send a strong signal that the QPS can be a preferred employer and the conditions and pay entitlements the QPU has strived for are attractive across the community.”



Constable Jacob Holt is presented with the Operational Skills Award by Superintendent Cecila Vine.



Jamali Dawson conducted a Welcome to Country ceremony during the graduation.



Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll presents the Commissioner's Award to Constable Mitchell Bradley.



Byron Fuller from QBank presents the Achievement Award to Constable Jamie McKenna.



Constable Chizuko Wilson accepts the Community Service Award presented on behalf of Police Citizens Youth Club's Phil Schultz.



Assistant Commissioner Mark Kelly presents the Constable Sondra Lena Award for physical skills to Constable David Werndly.



Constable Meagan Drew was presented with the Domestic and Family Violence Training Award from Assistant Commissioner Chris Jury.





Constable Mitch Bradley accepts the Dan Stiller Memorial Traffic Award from RACQ Sponsor Josh Cooney.





Supt Kerry Johnson from the Commissioned Officer's Union congratulates Constable Ricardo Beira on receiving the Leadership Award.



Honours and Awards Western Downs

By Darren Curtis

Country hospitality and an opportunity to gather together and celebrate each others success at a social event combined for the Honours and Awards presentation for the Western Downs patrol group on Tuesday October 10, 2023 at the Chinchilla RSL Club.

Families and partners of officers filled the area's largest function room for the presentations followed by entertainment from 'the Band of Blue' who travelled from the Gold Coast to perform.

QPU Vice President Shane Prior congratulated the award recipients and the acknowledgement they received from the QPS. Mr Prior said "These awards are things that should be celebrated. They are not handed out just for turning up for a few years, there is a criteria involved that examines diligent and ethical service to the community.

I encourage all of our members to check when they are entitled for these honours then attend a presentation function and wear them proudly whenever possible. It's obvious the Western Patrol group have a really close bond and they share in each others successes."

Among the recipients was Sergeant Murray Horsburgh from the Western Downs Scenes of Crime group who received a 35yr clasp for the National Medal and also the Queensland Police Service Medal.

It was a bit unusual for Murray to be on the other side of the camera for the event and the announcement of his medal clasps drew one of the loudest



Sergeant Murray Horsburgh was awarded his second clasp to the National Medal and Queensland Police Service Medal.

Senior Constable Brad Davidson from Dalby Police Station received a District Officer's Certificate for his role in apprehending an armed offender who was holding two women and a child hostage in a home in October 2021.

The offender had discharged a firearm a number of times and police left the safety of protected positions to assist one of the females to escape the property.

Brad said "I actually struggled to remember this particular incident because as General Duties police out here we respond to events just like this nearly every weekend. I appreciate the acknowledgement but it's something my co-workers and I deal with on a regular basis without specialist back up. It wasn't just me there that day

there was a shift supervisor and three other Constables.

"We knew that if the suspect tried to leave the perimeter he had to be challenged and that's what we did. We take comfort that the two women and a child went home safely but it's not something always appreciated by people outside of this job on how dangerous that situation was."



QPU Vice President Shane Prior congratulates S/C Brad Davidson on being awarded a District Officer's Certificate for bravery, commitment and dedication.

Senior Constable Scott Pogan also received a District Officer's Certificate for his work in co-ordinating the establishment of a significant memorial garden on the grounds of the Miles Police Station in memory of Constable Matt Arnold and Constable Rachel McCrow.

The Award reads "the memorial garden will be an everlasting testament to the ultimate sacrifice made by Matt and Rachel in the performance of their duties. Whilst S/C Pogan in no

way requested commendation for the establishment of the garden it is only fitting that he be acknowledged for the time and hard work he undertook to make the concept a reality."



QPU Southern Region Rep Col Muller congratulates S/C Scott Pogan on receiving a District Officer's Certificate for his dedication in establishing the Miles memorial garden.

Scott is also a QPU Representative for the area, he was able to source donations of materials, labour and specialty services to make the memorial a significant feature of the Miles station that every person entering the property passes by. Community members and colleagues of Matt and Rachel continue to leave floral tributes alongside the memorial stones.



QPU Southern Region Rep Col Muller spoke during the ceremony commending so many family members for attending and

showing their support for each award recipient. Mr Muller said "thankyou for the leadership team we have here now, we have a new District Officer, Superintendent Michael Thiesfield who I think will be a good leader out here.

"I'm really proud to see the QPU members of this District stick together like you do, there's a lot of good police out here who do a lot of good work. Everywhere else I go people seem to complain but that's where the

Western Downs is different. I don't hear complaints from you and for that I take my hat off to you."



QPU Southern Region Rep Col Muller praised the officers and their families from across the District for bonding together so well.

The formalities were wrapped up by the Southern Region Senior Police Chaplain Jeff Baills who spoke from the heart. Chaplain Baills said "in our organisation I don't think we recognise people enough. These medal presentations are a way of honouring those who have contributed outstanding work. You can be taught how to do something and learn it but it comes down to work ethic and the morals and principals you have within you that makes a difference."



Police Chaplain Jeff Baills said work ethic is something ingrained not taught.

With the ceremony complete it seemed like the entire party relaxed and shared recent experiences from the job while also discussing future camping adventures and social events incorporating officers from across the patrol group.



S/C Peter Reid was awarded the QLD Police Service Medal for ten years service.





AO Narelle Kliese from Dalby prosecutions was awarded the QPS Service Medal 25yr clasp.



S/C Troy Rosenthal was awarded the 15yr clasp to the QPS Medal.



S/C Paul Kethro was presented with the 15yr and 20yr clasp to the QPS Medal.



QPU Southern Region Rep Col Muller and QPU Vice President Shane Prior congratulate S/C Lynette Swales who is also a QPU local rep on receiving her QLD Police Service Medal.



Detective Insp Garry Watts was awarded the 40yr clasp to the QPS Medal.



AO Tara Clague from State Intelligence Branch was awarded the 25yr clasp to the QPS Medal.



QPU Vice President Shane Prior congratulates Detective Christopher Price on presentation of his Detective Certificate and gold badge.



S/C Lynette Swales was awarded the QLD Police Service Medal.



S/C Jason Iles was awarded the 25yr clasp to the QLD Police Service Medal.



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Graduation Day

By Darren Curtis

A recruit intake that started on just the second day of the 2023 New Year completed their graduation parade from the North Queensland Campus in Townsville on Thursday August 31, 2023.

The early new year start to their new careers for the 51 recruits ensured squads 237, 238 and 239 all began their training modules with clear heads and a new year determination to pass every task set for them.

Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll told the new Constables that whatever occupations they had been a part of before would be of enormous benefit to their life as a police officer as no-one can predict the incidents and events they may become involved in. Ms Carroll said "In this line of work

your life experiences are your greatest asset but you should adopt a practice of continuous learning to assist with adapting to change and your ongoing development as police officers."

A number of the new Constables already had a connection to the QPS through parents, siblings or relatives that are current serving or retired police. Constable Corey Roff was presented with his badge by his father Sergeant Martin Roff.

Corey said it was emotional having his dad pass him his badge and ID

wallet as he felt the significance of following in his father's footsteps "It was pretty special really, I'm now a third generation police officer and it's something I've always wanted to do.

"Dad has a wealth of experience as a police officer both here and in the Northern Territory so he was like a living text book to seek advice and knowledge from during the training. I've learnt that he's a lot smarter than he looks but I will no doubt be tapping into his wisdom again during my first year at Mt Isa."



Graduation intake 48 Townsville Police Academy.



Constable Corey Roff is presented with his badge by his father Detective Sergeant Martin Roff.

Martin spent significant time as a Detective with State Intelligence in the Child Abuse and Sexual Crime Group, the graduation was one of his very last duties with just twelve days to go until he retired.

Holding back tears Martin said "It was a genuine honour to be there for Corey today and the timing is perfect however I did have to write a special report to be able to have a uniform issued to wear today. Unfortunately I may not be able to wear it again even if I wanted to as I put so many holes in it trying to get these medals straight. My father was a police officer in Kenya and that's where I took on the idea of joining and I've loved this job since I started.

"Obviously Corey has grown up listening to my stories about the work we do and he's having his own go now.



Det Sgt Martin Roff was issued a brand new uniform shirt for the day and it was the last time he ever wears it.

I've simply told him treat people with kindness and respect and you will get it back, just be fair."

During the months of training for intake 48, three of the recruits became fathers. It wasn't lost on the new Constables with graduation a few days before Father's Day 2023. Constable Jerome Jimenez was smiling constantly with six week old son Ben at the graduation.

The former soldier admitted becoming a first time dad while at the Academy did change things "It was pretty tough, fortunately Ben arrived towards the end of the course after all the major assessments were complete, so I was lucky in that regard but juggling the demands of the training while trying to help at home was a challenge but we got there."



The Jimenez family.

Mundingburra MP Les Walker represented Police Minister Mark Ryan at the ceremony, he encouraged the new Constables to embrace the new places where they were headed "Immerse yourself in the local

community. Many people will look up to you and respect the job you do, without maybe realising it you will become important members of the community."

The new Constables were welcomed into the blue family by QPU President Ian Leavers and QPU Vice President Shane Prior. Mr Leavers presented the QPU sponsored Dux Award to Constable Sarah Annesley. Sarah previously completed studies for a Bachelor of Criminology and was headed for Central Region for her First Year.



QPU President Ian Leavers presents Constable Sarah Annesley with the Dux Award for the intakes highest achievement in academic studies.

Mr Prior spoke to each recruit individually and reminded them in stressful situations to revert to what they have been trained and the knowledge shared by Academy staff "our trainers and facilitators are regarded as the best internationally. They become invested in your success and want you to remain safe and proficient while on patrol. In years to come I guarantee things they have said will flash back like a lightning bolt of wisdom."

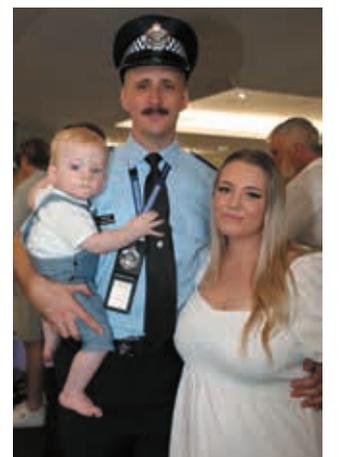




Keanu Hanaway performed on behalf of the Traditional Custodians as the recruits entered the Stadium for the graduation ceremony.



Constable Brittany Vidler is congratulated by Acting Inspector Doug Ensor on being presented with the Frank Atwood Memorial Community Service Award sponsored by Police Legacy.





Constable Indira Desic presented with the Operational Skills Award by Assistant Commissioner Mark Kelly on behalf of People Capability Command.



Acting Assistant Commissioner Virginia Nelson presents Constable Charlotte Billett with the Domestic and Family Violence Training Award.





Constable Benjamin Lynch presented with the Physical Skills Award from Supt Bob Loveridge (Ret) sponsored by the QLD Retired Police Association.



Constable Ashley Ryan is presented with the Achievement Award from QBank representative Tony Ross.





Constable Harrison Hutchings received the Commissioner's Award from Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll.



Constable Liam Heads presented with the Traffic Award by Karen Nasko from RACQ.





Constable Tautau Peleseuma presented the Leadership Award by Supt Kerry Johnson on behalf of the Commissioned Officers Union.



Uncle Sam Savage offered a welcome to country on behalf of the Townsville Traditional Custodians.



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Honours and Awards Gold Coast

By Darren Curtis

In one of the largest Honours and Awards ceremonies during 2023 police recipients from the Gold Coast gathered at the Southport Sharks Auditorium to be presented with their medals and clasps on Tuesday October 31.

Surrounded by a significant number of family members and friends Assistant Commissioner Brian Swan told the recipients “these may be small tokens in terms of their material value but they represent your sacrifice, dedication, integrity and commitment. Something that is displayed every single shift here on the Gold Coast.”



Assistant Commissioner Brian Swan, and Meaghan Scanlon MP present Detective S/C Lachlan McIver with the National Emergency Medal for his efforts during Cyclone Debbie in 2017.

needed some assistance or guidance. Ms Scanlon said their actions were natural and caring, not done to receive notice or accolades but the right balance of humanity and justice “it was often selfless courage to defend the most vulnerable.”



QPU Vice President with recipients of the QPS Medal 20yr clasp.

QPU Vice President Shane Prior congratulated every person on receipt of their award. He said “on the Gold Coast there has never been more demand for first responders and we are the first people the community call on because often there is no-one else to respond. I hope everyone who receives these medals and clasps remembers these are symbols of the diligent, committed, compassionate service they provide.”

MP Meaghan Scanlon attended the ceremony to represent Police Minister Mark Ryan who was unwell. During her welcoming Ms Scanlon revealed her father had been a detective on the Gold Coast and during his time in service she saw great kindness from her father’s colleagues.

Often the beneficiaries of the Officers’ kindness would be vulnerable members of the community who



QPU South Eastern Regional Rep Andy Williams congratulates Snr Sgt Leon Wort on collecting his 40yr clasp for the QPS Medal.

Acknowledging the support of family was top priority for QPU South Eastern Rep Andy Williams who was impressed with the number of people who came along to the event to show their appreciation and enjoy a moment to laugh and smile together.

Mr Williams said “thanks to the families and partners of our members who constantly put up with missed family milestones like birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas and other

special events so their loved ones can do the job they do. I particularly wanted to congratulate Senior Sergeant Leon Wort on receiving his forty year clasp to the Queensland Police Service Medal.

“By any measure that is an amazing length of service to the people of Queensland. I doubt we will see too many ‘forties’ handed out in coming years. However regardless if you are putting on your National or Queensland medal for the first time or a 40 year clasp wear them with pride because you deserve them.”



QPU Vice President Shane Prior and QPU South Eastern Regional rep Andy Williams with recipients of the Queensland Police Service Medal.



QPU South Eastern Regional Rep Andy Williams congratulates recipients of the 25yr clasp to the QPS Medal.



QPU South Eastern Regional Rep Andy Williams with recipients of the 15yr clasp to the QPS Medal.



Snr Sgt Leon Wort recipient of the 40yr clasp to the Queensland Police Service Medal.



Sgt Scott Muldoon and Margaret Day are congratulated by QPU Vice President Shane Prior on their 35yr clasp to the QPS Medal.





Recipients of the National Police Medal for 15yrs service.



Assistant Commissioner Brian Swan and Meaghan Scanlon MP congratulate S/C Victoria Hubbard on receiving the National Emergency Medal for work during Cyclone Debbie in 2017.



Assistant Commissioner Brian Swan presents the National Emergency Medal to Snr Sgt Matt Pyke for his work during Cyclone Debbie in 2017.

QPU South Eastern Regional Rep Andy Williams congratulates recipients of the Queensland Police Service Medal.



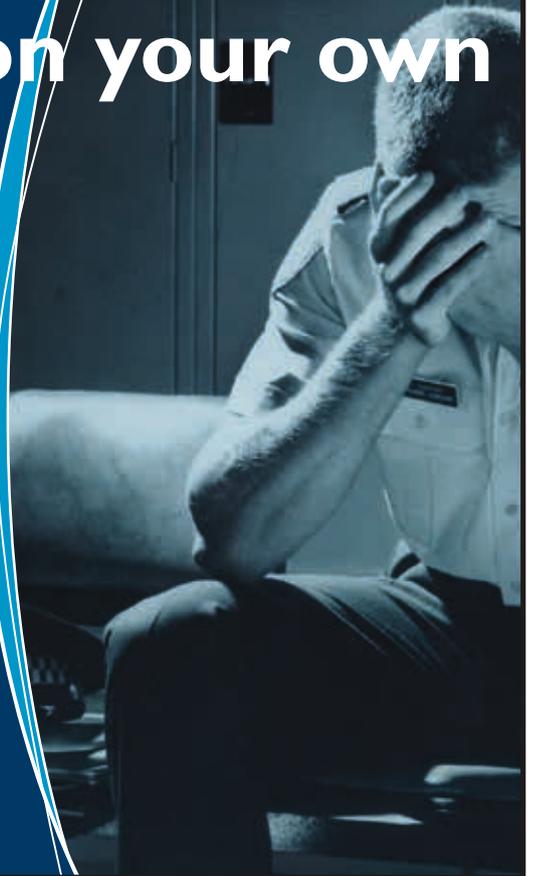
QPU South Eastern Rep Andy Williams and QPU Vice President Shane Prior congratulate Snr Sgt Daniel Underwood and Sgt Rodney Venn on their second clasp to the National Police Medal 35yrs.



Recipients of the 30yr clasp to the QPS Medal congratulated by QPU South Eastern Regional Rep Andy Williams.

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Candlelight Remembrance

By Darren Curtis

Moments before the candlelight vigil began on the eve of National Police Remembrance Day in Brisbane the heavy rain that had been falling for hours suddenly stopped.

There had been concerns the foul weather may have kept police and the families of the fallen away from the event but the conditions didn't alter their determination to be a part of the ceremony. By the time Police Chaplain Peter Devenish-Meaers began his welcoming address the skies were clear.

Queensland Governor Dr Jeannette Young, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and Police Minister Mark Ryan were the first to lay wreaths of remembrance before a series of candles were lit by parents, siblings, children and friends of police who died on duty.



QLD Governor Dr Jeannette Young lays a wreath on behalf of all Queenslanders at the State Police Memorial.



Police Minister Mark Ryan and Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk pause in silent reflection after laying a wreath at the State Police Memorial.



QPU President Ian Leavers prepares to lay a wreath on behalf of all current serving and retired police.

Roslyn Devereaux, the sister of Senior Constable Dave Masters who was murdered at Burpengary in 2021 said "It means a lot for us to be here tonight. We know it's a touchstone on a wall but

being here at the memorial is like we come to spend time with Dave. Every time we are here we meet more police who worked with Dave and I really appreciate their thoughts in this really sad time."

Recruits from intake 3/2023 provided assistance on the night helping family members and offering support to ensure the ceremony ran seamlessly. Bob Dixon a retired construction worker was impressed by the attitude of the recruits that were helping.

Mr Dixon said "I believe this will slap these trainee cops right between the eyes and probably wipe away any of the cockiness they sometimes get when they put on the uniform. They've heard directly from people whose kid was killed doing the job they are about to do and they don't hold back telling them the grief they still feel. It also makes



Bob and Roslyn Devereaux attend the candlelight service and still hear new stories about the impact Roslyn's brother S/C Dave Masters had on his colleagues.

them understand not everyone in the town likes them just because they carry a badge, bad things can happen to them by bad people. Attending these ceremonies should be compulsory for every new cop."



Recruits Angelina and Melissa assist at the candlelight vigil.



Recruits learn the traditions of National Police Remembrance Day.



Recruits were encouraged to read the names on touchstones and research the circumstances around each Officers death.

QPU President Ian Leavers laid a wreath on behalf of all current serving and retired police. Mr Leavers said "Tonight and tomorrow we will remember and honour all of the 150 police who have



At the conclusion of the ceremony the recruits were urged to spend time at the memorial.

paid the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives protecting the people of Queensland. We cannot change the past but it is important we never forget those we have lost.

"The deaths last year of Constables Arnold and McCrow struck a chord in rural Queensland communities, in suburbs across our state, all through the nation and in other parts of the world. Tonight for the first time their touchstones will be revealed, it's significant their names are side by side.

"They were colleagues, they worked together and they died together. It's important they always remain together. Despite the loss of 150 police, those of us still serving will continue to do our job every day knowing the dangers we face. Seeing so many people at Police Remembrance events assists us to know we have the backing and support of the people we serve."



After the conclusion of prayers and the police ode, bugler Ross Capern sounded the Police Requiescant. Mr Capern is the head teacher of instrumental music at Laurence's College and played the requiescant recently at the funeral for Senior Sergeant Ian Cameron.

His performance was so note perfect he was asked to perform at the candlelight vigil and the Remembrance Day ceremony. Mr Capern said "It is an honour to be asked to play this particular piece and it's part of the ethos at St Laurence's that we care for people and help wherever possible."



St Laurence College Music Teacher Ross Capern sounded the police requiescant at the candlelight vigil.



Acting Snr Sgt Chris Hebblethwaite provided one of the police whistle blasts to end the ceremony.

The final component of the vigil came with the tradition of the police whistle blasts. Four police officers took up positions in the dark around the memorial grounds, each place representative of a compass point as they randomly sounded a shrill blast from the old whistles. The sound once meant an officer was in need of assistance but the call on this night went unanswered.

WITH HONOUR THEY SERVED



QPU President Ian Leavers laid a wreath on behalf of all serving and retired police at the State Police Memorial.



QLD Police Legacy President Shane Prior lays a wreath on behalf of the charity.



QPS Chaplain Peter Devenish-Mearns offered prayers for the fallen and their families.







QPU President Ian Leavers, QPU Metro South Regional Rep Shayne Treasure and QPU Vice President Shane Prior attended the ceremony.



Old Police Legacy Secretary Andrew Gough and Old Police Legacy President Shane Prior.



Police Remembrance 2023

By Darren Curtis

NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATIONS IN 2023 WERE HEAVY WITH SADNESS FOLLOWING THE DEATHS OF CONSTABLE MATTHEW ARNOLD AND CONSTABLE RACHEL MCCROW. WHILE MANY POLICE CONSIDERED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THEIR FAMILIES IF THEY LOST THEIR LIFE, FOR THE COMMUNITY THE DAY WAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THE JOB POLICE DO.

From small rural events to the city march and service at the State Police memorial in Brisbane each function had a consistent theme of honouring and never forgetting those who gave everything protecting the people of Queensland.

Ken Smith arrived at the Brisbane march assembly point in Queens Park hours before the step off time. For him it was a chance to reflect on the loss of his father Constable Leslie Smith in 1957 in a traffic accident. Ken was just two years old however he has continued to feel part of the 'blue family' through his life "it's important I'm here honouring my father's memory, I feel if I'm not

here on this day I'm not doing the right thing. Attending Police Remembrance Day keeps him alive in my mind. When you read the list of names of police we have lost they become real. No matter who they are, what year it happened or the station they were at you can never forget them. We must remember all the police we have lost not just the most recent."

The sounds of bag pipes bouncing off the buildings echoed through George Street prompting people to stop and line the footpaths as the procession passed by.

Matt and his family were on holiday from Melbourne, they took up position

at the first intersection determined to get an uninterrupted view of the passing police along with their dogs and horses. Matt said "we've been exploring the city over the past few days and saw the Police Union commercials on TV about Remembrance Day so we thought we'd come and watch the march. It's without doubt important for the girls to know what police do. At some stage they will think about careers and this may have a lasting impact on them."



Matt with daughters Freya and Amelia watching the march and thinking towards future careers serving the community.



Ken Smith with the mounted police honour guard

Michelle Connolly from Algester left her desk at One William Street to blend in with the footpath crowd “I don’t want to be noticed but I intend to stand here and keep clapping until every single officer today walks past this spot. They deserve to know people appreciate what they do for us. It broke my heart what happened at Wieambilla and I felt so helpless for days. The families of those Officers need to know we care, we don’t know them and would feel rude walking up to them to let them know or give them a hug but I hope this small gesture lets the police family know we love ‘em.”

Brian Blaney didn’t care how many people saw him waving wildly, he felt top of the world with his daughter Senior Sergeant Michelle Blaney from the Mounted Police and her troupe in the lead pack of the march. Mr Blaney said “she is doing a great job and I just love the Police Service. Michelle has been part of some pretty big events lately including Anzac Day, functions with the Queensland Governor and at the Ekka but to be a part of Police Remembrance Day this year is special. As a dad I’m really proud to see her out front, we have a long line of police service in our family with about eight members in the job including an Assistant Commissioner.”



Sgt Michelle Blaney leading the Mounted Horse Troupe



Debbie Bailey was determined to give her support to the police even though her own daughter wasn't marching this year.



Brian Blaney was very proud to see his daughter Michelle at the front of the march with her mount.

Not too far away was another proud parent of a Police Officer, Debbie Bailey. Her daughter Bree was overseas on leave but that didn’t stop Debbie from showing her appreciation for those in uniform. Ms Bailey said “I’m proud to be here and see all of these fine police. I come along every year and often attend the church service as well and it’s very emotional. My daughter doesn’t talk about the tough days she has at work with us but I know she gets support from her colleagues. She did tell me though her nickname at work is ‘teflon’ because nothing sticks to her on night shift.”

QPU Vice President Shane Prior marched alongside colleagues in uniform this year. After copping a gentle ribbing from his mates for

the past twelve months about the quality of his drill technique he spent hours in the backyard for weeks rehearsing for the 2023 march. He puts the ‘square gating’ jibes down to police humour but believes the public are increasingly keen to show their respect for police and National Police Remembrance Day is the best way for them to show their support “it is so heartfelt and heartwarming to see so many members of the community out here supporting frontline police. You can sense the recognition and tribute they feel for those who have fallen. The 29th of September is a very important date for all police but it holds extra significance for the Police Union as well because we never forget the names and people who have died on duty protecting Queenslanders.”









The surrounds of the State Police Memorial in the Botanic Gardens were filled with police, their families, friends other first responders and dignitaries for the memorial service.

There were no long speeches however the ceremony was brimming with emotion with the minutes sacred silence for Constable Matthew Arnold and Constable Rachel McCrow with their touchstones being added to the memorial arches. Their names placed symbolically side by side, representing their service together, friendship and death together. They will forever remain together as Queensland police.



Recruits from intake 4/2023 formed a guard of honour amongst the memorial arches holding hats representative of generations of Queensland Police as Senior Constable Paul Tarlington, the brother-in-law of fallen officer Sergeant Dan Stiller read the Police Ode. It was followed by the blasts of police whistles symbolising an officer calling for assistance.



S/C Paul Tarlington read the Police Ode in honour of his brother-in-law Police Motorcyclist Sgt Dan Stiller who died in a road accident in 2010

QPU Vice President Shane Prior laid wreaths on behalf of all current serving and retired police and a second wreath in his role as President of Police Legacy.



Seventy years since her father was killed in a police motorcycle accident Maureen Bond attended her first Police Remembrance Day Service.

Among the crowd this year was Maureen Bond and her family, it's the first time the former teacher has attended National Police Remembrance Day. It was significant because 2023 commemorates the 70th anniversary of the death of her father Constable Michael Howard. Constable Howard was riding a police motorcycle with an empty sidecar near Kilcoy when it lost control and slid down an embankment. It was many hours before he was discovered and he later died on the way to hospital from his injuries. Mrs Bond said his death had a profound effect on her life "as an eight year old when he died it didn't initially register, I kept asking when is dad coming home? I thought as a policeman he was invincible. I am grateful in a sense that he died as a result of an accident, he was only wearing a police issue slouch hat-no helmet as opposed to something vindictive like what happened those two beautiful officers at Wieambilla. I've never attended this ceremony before and kept my distance a bit but since Senior Sergeant Mel Wilkins from Honours and Awards got in touch with me about attending this year I've been wrapped into the 'blue family' and it is so comforting. It's been so

welcoming I asked my ex husband, our two sons and the grandchildren to come along and experience the respect police show for dad."



Emma Bond, Tammy Bond, Michael Bond, David Bond, Lucas Bond, Maureen Bond, Lyndsay Bond and Stephen Bond feel embraced by the police family.

Some of the attendees didn't have a connection to a lost loved one on the memorial walls. Margaret Garrone spent time reading all 150 names on the touchstones, at times she paused and you could tell she was taking in the dates and the officer's age almost imagining the impact of their loss to others. Although she didn't know the police personally she could understand the repercussions for their families "I've got a lot of respect for police. My father was a Police Officer and I was in the Northern Territory Police. I admire what police do and the things they must have to tolerate in today's job. I get tired of hearing the public say when bad things happen to police well that's their job, just think for a moment how those who loved them feel. It's marvellous to see so many people attend this service and the fact it's now streamed is going to ensure people who have limited mobility will be able to see it and pay their respects as well."



Although she now relies on a mobility scooter Margaret Garrone read the names of all 150 police on the memorial touchstones.

At the conclusion of the official ceremony many police took the opportunity to reunite with past colleagues and share a 'war story' about their own near miss while working or reliving some of the happier moments of their service together.

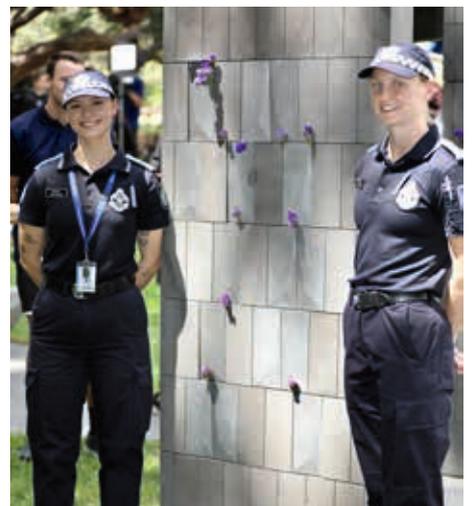
There's a drive to have more police break from their desks at Police Headquarters and participate in the Brisbane City march in 2024. With thousands of officers housed in the building their additional numbers for the march alongside hardworking general duties police should send a

strong signal to the public the QPS has a firm investigative base in the State's capital and the day is significant for all police irrespective of rank or badge colour.



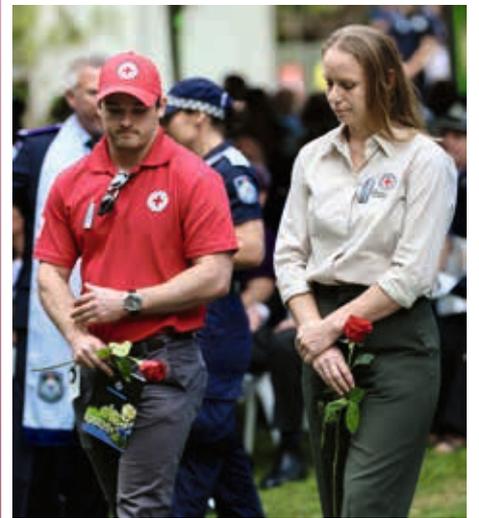
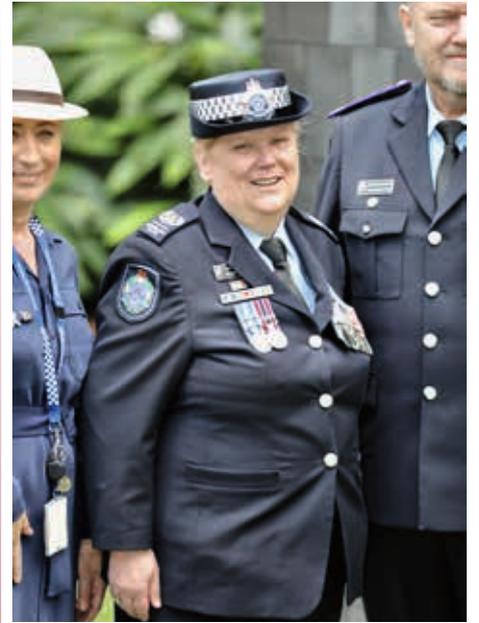


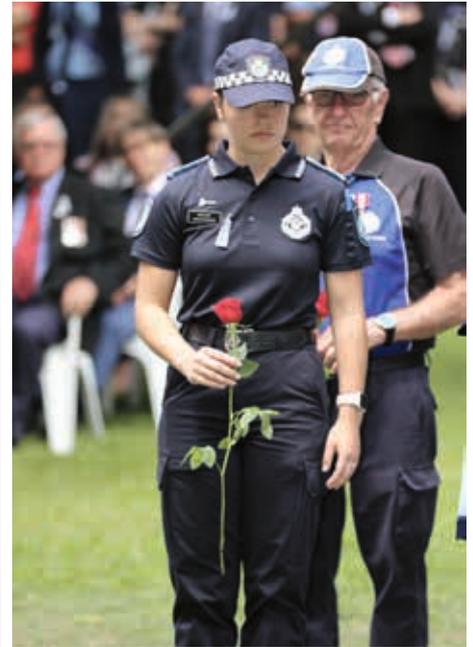


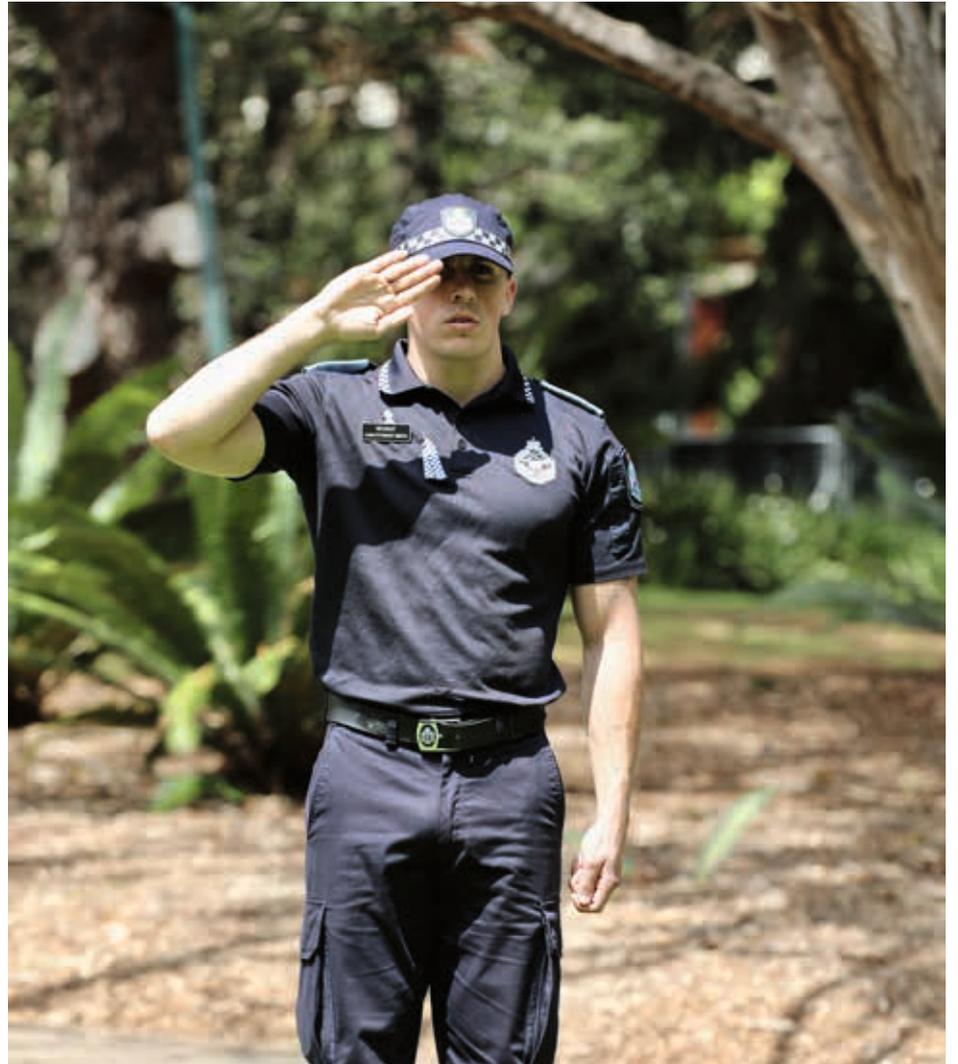












QUEENSLAND REMEMBRANCE LIST

NAME	YEAR OF DEATH	NAME	YEAR OF DEATH	NAME	YEAR OF DEATH
Constable M. Connolly	1861	Constable P.C. Vowles	1915	Senior Sergeant J. O'Hara	1967
Constable P.W. Cahill	1867	Constable E. Nugent	1915	Constable D.G. Gordon	1968
Constable J.F. Power	1867	Constable J. Christiansen	1915	Constable L.G. McCosh	1968
Constable A. Wood	1872	Constable J. Thompson	1916	Sergeant S.C. Cupples	1968
Sub-Inspector G. Dyas	1881	Constable T. Dedman	1916	Senior Constable D.R. Ney	1968
Sub-Inspector H.P. Kaye	1881	Constable G. Dewhurst	1916	Senior Constable C.W. Brown	1969
Cadet Sub-Inspector M. Beresford	1883	Constable W.E. Bishop	1916	Constable N.A. Steele	1969
Constable W. Dwyer	1883	Constable P. Mulvie	1917	Constable A.R. Cabbage	1969
Constable N. Roberts	1884	Constable A.J. Curvey	1917	Senior Constable R.P. Moore	1970
Constable J. McMullen	1884	Constable H. McLean	1917	Senior Constable J. Rynne	1971
Constable J. Stewart	1885	Constable J. Graham	1917	Senior Constable G. Ball	1972
Senior Constable H. J. Fetherston	1885	Constable O.H. Goodrich	1917	Constable N.A. Green	1974
Senior Constable W. Considine	1887	Constable P. Devine	1917	Sergeant R.J. Harris	1975
Constable T.J. Callaghan	1888	Constable J. Warfield	1918	Senior Constable L.M. Hoey	1975
Senior Constable A. Wavell	1889	Constable J. Fitzgerald	1918	Inspector J.M. Walsh	1977
Constable W. Arundell	1890	Constable H. Wells	1918	Constable R.E. Seefeld	1977
Constable P.J. Curtin	1891	Constable W.W. Dumbrell	1918	Technical Officer J.P. Browning	1979
Constable W.J. Doyle	1891	Constable F.A. White	1918	Constable V.J. Hennelly	1980
Constable J. Sangster	1893	Constable D. O'Donoghue	1918	Constable T.R. Thompson	1981
Constable E. Lanigan	1894	Constable T. McGillicuddy	1918	Constable R.A. Wilson	1981
Constable B. Ebbitt	1894	Constable C.E. Castree	1918	Senior Constable R.J. Moody	1982
Constable T.M. Black	1895	Constable J. Herbert	1918	Constable J.M. Sturrock	1984
Senior Constable W. Conroy	1895	Constable D.J. Dodds	1918	Constable M.L. Low	1984
Constable W.G. Clarke	1895	Constable E.R. Pastorelli	1918	Sergeant J.D. Neideck	1984
Constable A. Lowe	1896	Constable J.P. Taylor	1918	Senior Constable A.P. Anderson	1987
Constable J. Quinn	1896	Constable T. Griffin	1921	Senior Constable P.G.J. Kidd	1987
Constable R. Roots	1897	Acting Sergeant W. O'Rourke	1924	Senior Constable P.A. Wegner	1987
Constable P. Cahill	1898	Constable R.S.R. Alexander	1926	Constable B.T. Handran	1989
Constable J. Cullen	1901	Constable A. Crust	1930	Constable A.L. Greaves	1991
Constable G. Doyle	1902	Constable E.J. Dawson	1931	Constable M.L. Goodwin	1991
Acting Sergeant D. Johnson	1903	Constable J. Herbert	1931	Constable S.N. Lena	1992
Constable C. O'Kearney	1904	Constable R. Kyle	1933	Constable S. W. Gill	1996
Constable A.G. Price	1905	Constable G.R. Young	1938	Detective Sergeant L.J. Hooper	1997
Constable R. Orme	1905	Constable D. Nicol	1947	Senior Constable N.J. Watt	2000
Sergeant T. J. Heaney	1906	Sergeant A. Neden	1947	Senior Constable D.A. Shean	2001
Constable J. Murtagh	1908	Constable H.F. Bidner	1951	Senior Sergeant P.J. Irwin	2003
Constable P. Ryan	1908	Constable J.R. Ward	1952	Constable S.E. Urquhart	2005
Constable F. Hoge	1908	Constable M.J. Howard	1953	Constable C.I. Barwise	2005
Sub-Inspector M. Broderick	1909	Constable R. Doyle	1956	Detective Sergeant S.I. Kerlin	2006
Constable W.J. Mercer	1910	Constable K.S. Mason	1956	Constable B. Irwin	2007
Constable P.J. McCabe	1913	Senior Constable D. Gregory	1956	Sergeant D.A. Stiller	2010
Constable W. Murray	1913	Constable B.G. Gabriel	1956	Detective Senior Constable D. Leeding	2011
Constable W. Quinlan	1914	Constable L. Smith	1957	Constable C. Blain	2013
Constable S. Tierney	1914	Constable A.R. Muir	1958	Senior Constable B. Forte	2017
Constable P.J. Moynihan	1915	Constable G.J. Olive	1962	Senior Constable D. Masters	2021
Constable D.C. Bourke	1915	Constable D.W. Wrembeck	1962	Constable M. Arnold	2022
Constable W.J. Hughes	1915	Senior Constable C.R. Bagley	1963	Constable R. McCrow	2022
Constable J. Johnston	1915	Senior Constable D. Trannore	1964		
Constable R.N. Ritchie	1915	Constable J. Reid	1966		
Constable J.W. Harris	1915	Senior Constable C.M. Wilson	1966		

With honour they served

NPRD Regional

NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY IS ACKNOWLEDGED ACROSS QUEENSLAND ON SEPTEMBER 29 AND SOME COMMUNITIES NOT ONLY HOLD SERVICES ON THE DAY BUT ALSO CANDLELIGHT VIGILS ON THE EVE OF NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY.

The QPU encourages members in rural and remote communities to consider holding a ceremony even if it is small as it provides local residents with an opportunity at least once a year to show their appreciation for the work police do in keeping them safe.

If your station whether its metro, suburban or in a substantial regional community conducts a service in 2024 please send photos of your event to your QPU Regional Rep or direct to the QPU Journal via email journal@qpu.asn.au

TARA

*COURTESY 7 NEWS



GEORGETOWN *COURTESY SGT CARY COOLICAN



EMERALD

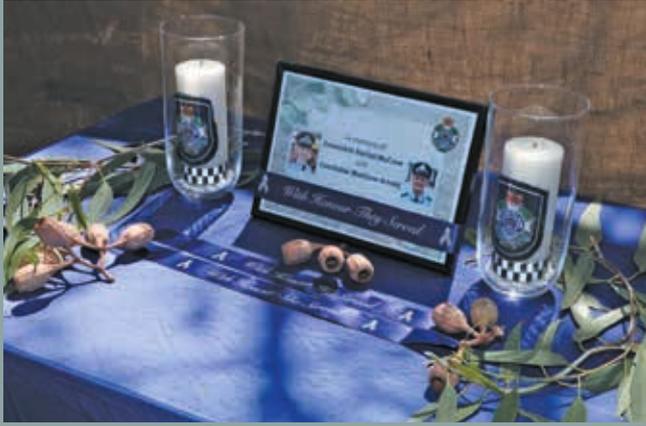


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ROCKHAMPTON CANDLELIGHT VIGIL



MAREEBA

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THURSDAY ISLAND

*COURTESY SGT CARY COOLICAN



Matthew Joseph
ARNOLD

Constable

12 December 2022

Rachel Clare
McGROW

Constable

12 December 2022

THE HARDEST HOUR

The uniform's reality is sometimes hard to face
It defines what isn't possible to easily replace
It envisages a moment, where, to step into the dark
Guarantees do not exist when evil makes its mark

It asks you to be stoic when the world has lost its nerve
It typifies the sacrifice of what it means to serve
Its thread is not negotiable when duty makes its call
So its pain is indescribable when sons and daughters fall

The fabric of camaraderie, a selfless shade of blue
It conveys the kind of courage that belongs to just a few
Its badge is born of honour and its actions are aligned
And its promise lends the final word ... no one left behind

So we reach the hardest hour and we look beyond the flames
And we swear unto their kin that we will not forget their names!
And the tears will burn our faces and the fear will tear our heart
But we will stand and stand together... and their strength will not depart

No, their decency is smiling and it clears the path of doubt
Their dignity indebted to the team that got them out
For the creed of their conviction, for the brightness of their star
For their pride and for their beauty, for the joy of who they are

And for everything they represent, the universe should know
We salute you Matty Arnold ... We salute you Rach McCrow

Rupert McCall © 2023



POLICE CARE AUSTRALIA

HAPPY COPS MAKE THE WORLD A SAFER PLACE - Introducing Police Care Australia

Police Care Australia is a joint initiative of the National Police Memorial (NPM) and the Police Federation of Australia (PFA) to provide a health and well-being hub of culturally sensitive and appropriate information for former and serving police force members, their families, and friends.

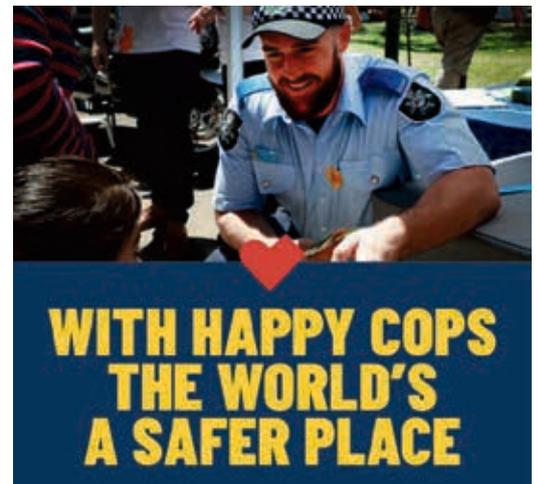
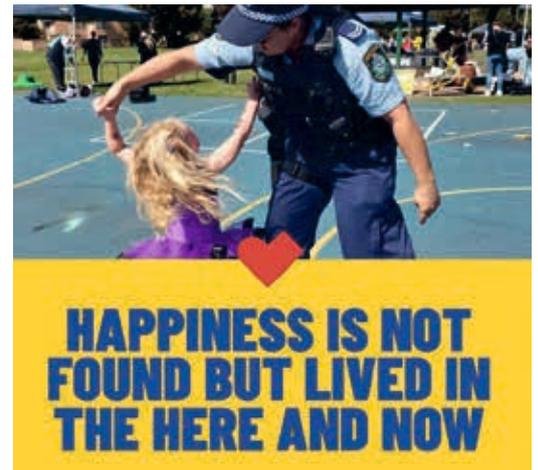
As a national initiative we strive to support and assist our police across the nation with a one stop repository of mental health resources, comprehensive service directory along with a confidential and independent online counselling service.

Counselling bookings can be made via the website therefore serving and former police are offered a unique service specially designed for first responders.

Police Care Australia understands the unique threats and pressures that cops face every day and the potentially dangerous toll it takes on their lives.

We strive to support and empower every cop to secure and protect their true happiness because we know a healthy and happy cop makes the world a safe place.

www.policecareaustralia.org.au



HAPPY COPS MAKE THE WORLD A SAFER PLACE

Protect your happiness

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Plaque of Remembrance

A memorial plaque honouring the life and service of Constable Matthew Arnold who was murdered at Wieambilla on December 12, 2022 has been set on the Avenue of Remembrance at the Oxley Police Academy.

The Arnold family lovingly planted a jacaranda tree behind the plaque adding dried flowers and posies from the floral arrangements gathered from Matt's casket and other tributes offered at the funeral service.

Constable Arnold trained at the Oxley Academy and graduated on the Tom Molloy parade ground only a few steps away from his plaque during the COVID pandemic. The Avenue holds special significance for all police as it has dedicated plaques for every officer who has died on duty since 1921.



The Arnold family planted a jacaranda tree close to Mathew's plaque.



The memorial plaque for Constable Matthew Arnold on the Avenue of Remembrance at the Oxley Academy.



Dried flowers and floral tributes from Matthew's funeral were collected to add to the base of the tree.





Matt's sister Hayley and Matt's brother James added soil along with family blessings for Matt's tree.



Matthew's mother Sue completed the planting ceremony with a splash.

Matthew's plaque like all of the others along the Avenue will be lit during the darkness, symbolic to indicate that light will never leave their name or memory.

Commissioner Katarina Carroll said "we remember how privileged we were to have known Matt and to have had such a compassionate and dedicated member among our ranks. This jacaranda tree will grow tall and remind us of his courage, commitment, dedication and loyalty and his ultimate sacrifice in serving the community of Queensland."

During the service on Thursday November 16, 2023 wreaths were

laid and all the academy recruit squads stood to attention as the flag was lowered to half mast while Recruit Wesley Bust played the Police Requiescant.



Commissioner Katarina Carroll struggled to contain emotions during the plaque dedication as she spoke to the Arnold family.





QPU Vice President Shane Prior represented all current serving and retired police at the ceremony.

QPU Vice President Shane Prior in his dual role as President of Queensland Police Legacy offered thanks for Matthew's life and service on behalf of all current serving and retired police. Mr Prior said "this plaque will be here as a reminder for every recruit

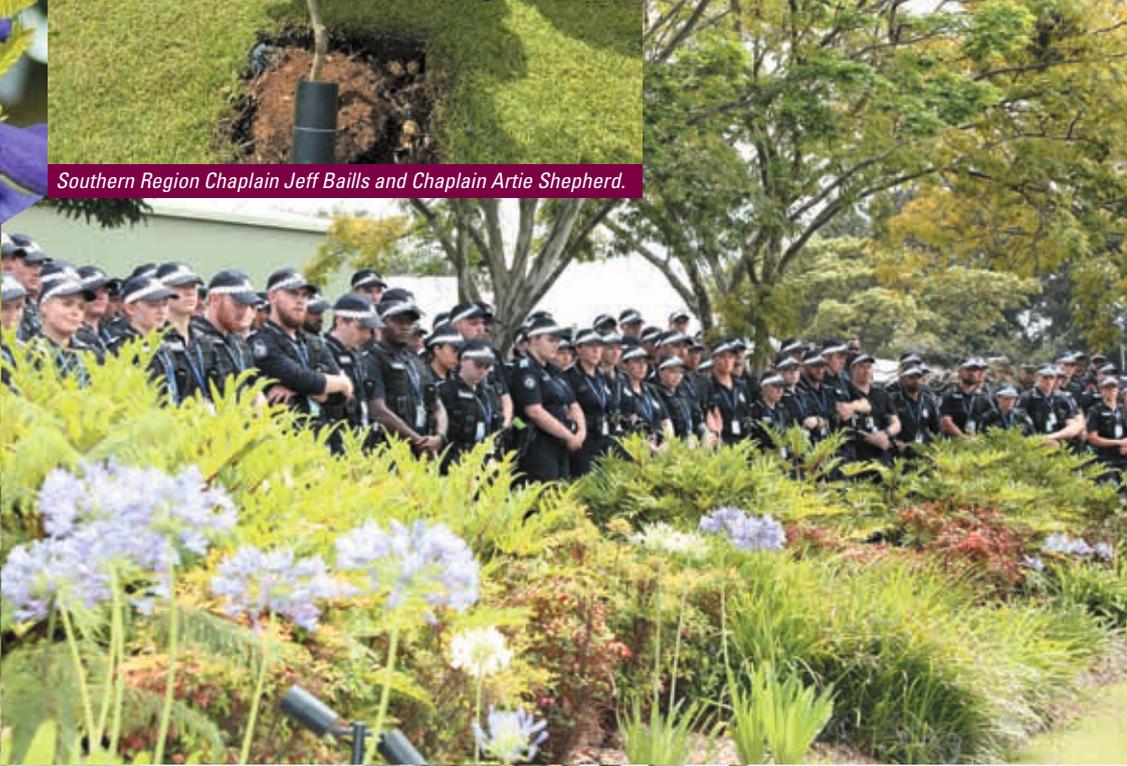
who passes through the Academy of the sometimes dangerous and unpredictable job we do as police.

Talking to the Arnold family it's obvious they are still deeply grieving but the tree they have planted is

symbolic of Matt, it will grow tall and will bloom in early summer which coincides with the timing of Matt's death. So I hope if they return here each year at this time the jacaranda flowers will bring them some joy and feel Matt's legacy continues."



Southern Region Chaplain Jeff Bails and Chaplain Artie Shepherd.





The plaque for Constable Matthew Arnold is on the Eastern side of Remembrance Ave near the administration wing roundabout.

A similar tree planting and memorial service for Constable Rachel McCrow is scheduled separately in December 2023.

Country Legacy Ball

By Darren Curtis

There's something about rural communities when they get together for a country ball, the enthusiasm is acute and the participants sincere in supporting a good cause. Residents, the business community and other first responders joined together in Warwick during August for the inaugural Legacy Ball.

Seventy police and their partners from Warwick police and surrounding stations linked up with around eighty locals for the event at Warwick RSL Club. The auditorium at capacity with every \$85 ticket sold.

There was a strict dress code, boots, jeans, jackets and ties for the men and the ladies opted for the best in local fashion. Organisers didn't hesitate to issue 'fines' for those caught out infringing the code, one of the first to add some extra cash into the fund was a local politician who arrived without a tie.





The 150 Ag bike donated as the major raffle prize.

Many businesses pledged to donate goods for raffles or offered to buy tickets for their staff to attend. Sponsors included Warwick saddlery, Coopers menswear/ladieswear, Big W and a variety of firms who made contributions.

community so anything we can do to support them we will."

Organiser Cameron Mosley said "A ball like this has to be the entire community taking part, not just coppers. We wear a uniform on duty but after shift we



Dealer Principal of Top Two Motorcycles Ben Lavis said donating a bike worth thousands of dollars was worth the cost to assist Police Legacy and local officers who are valued in their community.

open to everyone and so many people were chuffed they could be a part of it."

The community was also grateful they could give something back after the murders of Constable Matt Arnold and Constable Rachel McCrow in December 2022.

Cam said "Wieambilla was forefront of people's minds and they wanted to help. We live in a rural environment and there was a strong connection for the people here, it had a huge impact here. I think the ball was also a great release



QPL President Shane Prior and S/C Cam Mosley thank Warwick Honda Motorcycle dealer Ben Lavis and Honda Australia for their generous donation of the major raffle prize at the Legacy Ball.



S/C Cam Mosley inspired work colleagues and the local community to support Queensland Police Legacy.

Star sponsor of the evening was Top Two Motorcycles from Warwick who joined with Honda Australia to donate a 150 Ag bike valued at over \$4,000 as a raffle prize. Dealer principal Ben Lavis said "We like to support the local community. We strongly believe in what the police do for us in the

are members of this community. It's about getting together for the right cause irrespective of your trade or occupation.

"Sometimes I would be walking up the main street of Warwick handing out flyers for the event telling them it was

valve for the coppers out here as well. It was great to see colleagues with their peers, laughing, smiling having a good time after so many months of tension."

Vicky Forresto from the Warwick RSL spent months assisting with the event planning and was relieved when the

function was sold out. Ms Forresto said "It is really nice to give back to the community particularly when Police Legacy do so much for their members."

With the receipts and cash continuing to accrue during the evening it eventually came time to count up and Simone Mosley from Warwick RSL helped out. Simone said "We were surprised at the end of the night just how much we raised, it was a big shock and we were mega proud."

Queensland Police Legacy President Shane Prior accepted the donation cheque and praised the Warwick RSL Club along with the event organisers for putting so much energy into their fundraising.

Mr Prior said "Police Legacy is funded by police through payroll deductions and community donations, I'm glad to say the money goes directly to helping the families of police who have died or have a terminal illness. We assist with

"There's a proud tradition with Queensland Police Legacy, it started in 1971 and I'm constantly looking at ways we can enhance the options we provide to legatees.

"I know Cam is bursting with ideas to try a range of various fundraisers into the future and one concept in particular I think will excite a lot of horse riders and those with an interest in history.

"I would encourage all police districts to consider at least one event a year they could stage to assist Police Legacy because you just never know when a colleague in your patrol group just might need a helping hand."



QPL President Shane Prior, Warwick RSL Manager Michael Jones and Legacy Ball organiser S/C Cam Mosley.

The total hit \$13,000 and the organisers split the proceeds between Police Legacy and RSL Legacy with a cheque each for \$6,500.

Warwick RSL Club Manager Michael Jones said the function reinforced a strong bond that already existed between the club and local police that look after people in their community "I love the concept, everyone fondly remembers country B&S balls, so this was a bit of nostalgia for some people however we know that police were hurting after that business at Wiambilla.

"Mental health is very important and gaining in prominence at the moment and we all need to be aware of it. If Police Legacy can assist people when they really need it we hope this money goes some way to help."



Warwick RSL Manager Michael Jones said he's hoping the ball becomes an annual event and he'd support ways to get more ticket buyers into the venue.

education expenses for their children plus a whole range of specialty services because these families shouldn't miss out because their mum or dad died.



Warwick RSL staff Simone Mosley and Vicki Forresto were proud of the generosity from their community that can benefit Police Legacy families.

Cam Mosley urged people to get involved "I think you really want to help the families of those who have lost a loved one. In the last twelve months it's been pretty crappy for some families in the QPS, it's a simple way of giving back.

"You can't always do it personally with the families experiencing so much grief but by doing a Police Legacy fundraiser it shows them that even after time passes their loss still matters."



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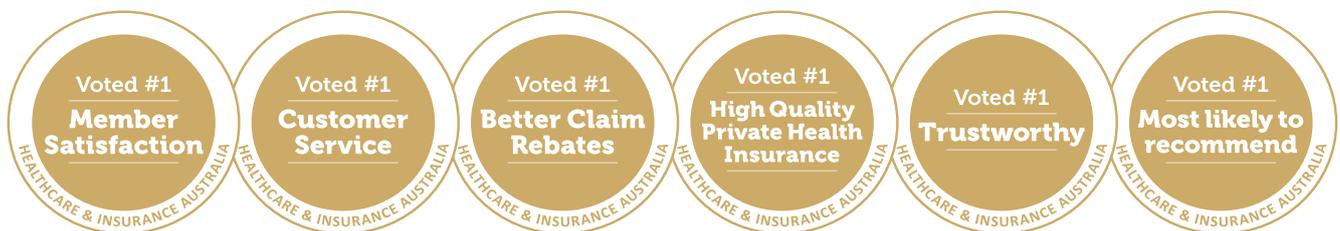
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Wall to Wall – Ride of Remembrance 2023

By Darren Curtis

The Wall to Wall Ride of Remembrance has become the longest and largest ceremonial procession in Australia and the experience continues to grow as more current serving police, their families and retired police realise it's not just a motorcycle event.

The Queensland participants gathered at the State Police Memorial in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens on Wednesday September 13 for the traditional hand over of the baton from Commissioner Katarina Carroll to QPU President Ian Leavers and the Official Police Honour Guard of eight Highway Patrol riders.

Struggling to keep the tears from flowing Commissioner Carroll said "Each year it is my hope to hand over an empty baton to the team and I'm deeply saddened this year's baton is tremendously heavy bearing the names of Constable Matthew Arnold and Constable Rachel McCrow. We pay our respects to them both for their bravery along with those whose loss is still felt by their families, friends and the wider police service."



Acting Supt Peter Flanders accepts the Wall to Wall Memorial Baton from Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll.

There were 306 riders registered from Queensland to participate in the ride to Canberra but the crowd at the memorial was significantly larger as many off duty and retired police joined for the ceremony and to take part in the first leg of the ride out of the Brisbane CBD.

QPU President Ian Leavers spoke of the significance of the event this year following the murder of two officers at Wieambilla in December 2022. "We wish Matt and Rachel's names weren't in the baton, there are some things unfortunately we cannot change, but the one thing we can do is never forget Matt and Rachel and keep them forever in our thoughts."



QPU President Ian Leavers spoke with passion at the farewell ceremony and confirmed Constables Arnold and McCrow along with every other member on the memorial wall will never be forgotten.

The crowd attracted interest from passing University students and workers heading for One William



Street. One man who only wanted to be known as Andrew offered to transfer funds directly to Queensland Police Legacy who had volunteers with tap and go swipe readers. Andrew said "I have a great respect for the cops I see every day, basically anyone who dies in the job should have their families cared for, any children should not be disadvantaged in anyway financially, socially or whatever because you died on the job."



Andrew donated immediately to QLD Police Legacy to assist the families of fallen police.

Police Chaplain Jeff Baills said “I’ve watched many of you place a flower, symbol of love or simply touch a memorial stone to remember an officer because you worked with them, went through recruit training with them or because they were at your station. That’s why we are here because they are matters of life, matters that touch us deeply.”

The Chaplain blessed the riders for their journey but encouraged them to not only ride safely but also spend time reconnecting, checking in with each other and laughing at the fun moments that come from working as first response police.



Chaplain Jeff Baills offered a blessing to the riders before they departed.





This year the Remembrance motorcade was offered the opportunity to ride past the grave-site for Matthew Arnold at Mount Gravatt cemetery. Matthew's family encouraged the respectful 'drive-by' aware Rachel's final resting place was many hundreds of kilometres away and not practical to include in the route. The McCrow family agreed for

Rachel's photo to sit alongside Matt for the riders to acknowledge.

Cemetery staff assisted the respectful convoy by marking the roadway for easy identification to locate Matthew's plot. They also kept timings clear for memorial services and burials to ensure other patrons were not disturbed by the motorcade.

The rumble of motorcycles could be heard approaching the location and the Arnold family were close by acknowledging each rider as they came past, appreciative that the riders honoured both Matt and Rachel who worked together and died alongside each other. Their names will be forever remembered together.



The riding group later split into smaller groups of friends and colleagues each with their own travelling plan to reach Canberra. Armidale has become a traditional way point for many groups for an overnight stop over, however the roads taken to get there are often away from the main highways and selected for their riding challenge and scenery.

The QPS Honour Guard opted for a route through Currumbin, Murwillumbah, Kyogle, Grafton, Ebor to Armidale.



After working hard in the saddle through hairpin bends and switchbacks for hours the evening function was an opportunity to relax and begin exchanging exaggerated stories of lucky escapes, encounters with roadside kangaroos and other riders struggling to hold a formation.



The police in Armidale along with the local Lions club combined for a fundraising breakfast for all riders.

Armidale Officer in Charge, Inspector Darren Williams praised the Wall to Wall riders for honouring the valour of those who have been lost while protecting their communities “I travelled to Brisbane for your starting ceremony and it was truly moving and emotional. I think all of us felt the importance of what we are doing on this Remembrance Ride. Armidale is always welcoming to Wall to Wall riders and we hope that connection continues.”



NSW Insp Darren Williams commended organisers on the Brisbane ceremony and the impact it had for remembrance.



Officials closed off Moore Street adjacent to the police station for riders to assemble and make any gear adjustments.

One group that didn't require too much space was the mini bike mayhem crew. They opted for Honda Grom 125cc bikes for their version of the Remembrance Tour. There's no doubt the group turned heads as they started up their machines with a sound that was similar to a two stroke mower going flat out.



The grom bike riders always opted for priority parking.



The mini mayhem crew Jade McGuinness, Stuart Greenwell, Ethan Bailey and Matt Barrett.

The mayhem crew included Mt Gravatt Highway Patrol Senior Constable Ethan Bailey, Morningside Sergeant Stuart Greenwell, Laidley Senior Constable Matt Barrett and Former Firefighter Jade McGuinness who all bought their bikes brand new for the event. They also put together mayhem crew merchandise that added another \$700 donation to Queensland Police Legacy.

Ethan Bailey admits the grom bike plan was meant to turn heads "when we pull into a servo everyone comes out and asks what we are doing and it's become a real conversation starter around Police Legacy and Remembrance.

We wanted to do something to raise awareness about what this ride stands for and really anyone can ride a full size bike to Canberra but we thought

we'd make it a bit harder and have some fun along the way."

The crew were spotted attempting to draft behind larger vehicles but the unexpected appearance of road kill and debris altered that plan as well. Ethan said "we are struggling a bit physically, we can feel it in the lower back, arms wrist and legs but I've got to say it's a good hurt because what we are feeling is nothing compared to what the families who have lost someone go through."

The opportunity to grom bike their way around the famous Mt Panorama track at Bathurst re-energised them all and put a spring back in their step. Weaving around joggers, mountain bike riders and mini buses the mayhem boys absorbed the feel of the track they have watched the super-car masters dominate for so many years.



Although they had been feeling discomfort the group did make it to Canberra and despite offers to throw the bikes on a trailer to get them home the group rode back to Queensland.

Ethan said “There’s a big chance we will sell these bikes when we get back not sure we want to spend anymore time on them. Next year we will come up with another idea to raise awareness. I’d like to challenge other cops to think outside the box and do something for the ride that helps the communities we pass through understand why we are all riding to Canberra.”

Just outside of Mudgee a group of riders from Deception Bay were taking a rest break standing in the red dust, among them was Jack Masters the son of Senior Constable Dave Masters murdered on the Bruce Highway at Burpengary in June 2021.



Jack Masters participated in his first Wall to Wall in 2023 and believes he will be a regular at future events.

This was his first Wall to Wall ride and it was already flooded with positive memories before reaching Canberra. Jack said “Dad was never into motorbikes so he never did this ride, it’s taken me a year of preparation but it’s the best decision I have ever made.

“I’m meeting people that remember dad and have stories to tell about



Jack Masters takes his turn as lead rider with the Deception Bay crew on the road to Canberra.



Tina Mackenzie has participated in the Wall to Wall for three years in honour of S/C Dave Masters.

him but it is a weird feeling at the ceremonies when you realise your father is one of the fallen cops that everyone is there to honour. My dad and all the others are not forgotten. I never thought I’d be doing this but I’m glad I’m here.”

Part of the D-Bay crew was Senior Constable Tina Mackenzie, she’s been taking part in the Wall to Wall for the past three years in honour of her workmate Dave Masters. Tina said “People wave as we pass through towns because they know why we are riding and it reminds you there are good people out there who appreciate what we do. It’s a great experience meeting good people and experiencing some back roads.

“We’re stopped here on the Black Stump Way to stretch and rest for a bit plus like all coppers we give each other a bit of stick and a ribbing. This

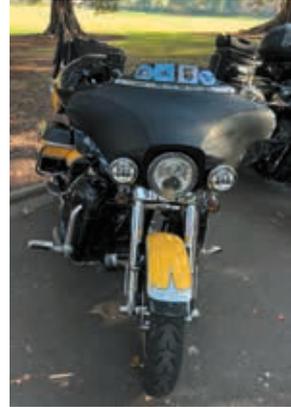
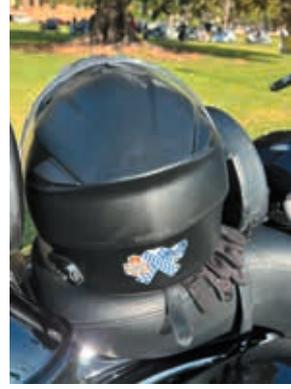
year we have Jack Masters with us, unfortunately he’s on a Harley but that doesn’t stop us from talking to him!

“We’ve all bonded along the way and we’ve now met people who have become good friends and reacquainted with some others including some police from Mackay and a group of retired cops from Victoria. We all have common interests and a common goal to remember.”

Saturday morning and many of the Queensland tour groups linked up in Sydney’s Domain for the official New South Wales Remembrance baton ceremony.

Hundreds of bikes lined the pathways around the park, some were either gleaming from glistening chrome or covered in the grime that comes from travelling 1,000 kilometres across country.





The QPS Official Honour Guard led by Acting Superintendent Peter Flanders, Senior Sergeant Bradyn Murphy, Senior Sergeant Stephen Lees, Senior Sergeant Troy Hamilton, Sergeant Sebastian Pollack, Sergeant Ian Hayden, Senior Constable Daniel Clement and Senior Constable Duncan Miller were prominent in the planned motorcade.

The group spent a significant amount of time preparing their bikes and uniform in readiness for the highway ring road route to the Nation's Capitol.



2023 QPS Honour Guard Member Acting Supt Peter Flanders.



2023 QPS Honour Guard Member S/C Duncan Miller.



2023 QPS Honour Guard Member Sgt Seb Pollack.



2023 QPS Honour Guard Member Snr Sgt Stephen Lees.



The QPS Official Honour Guard joined by Acting Chief Supt Janelle Andrews in Sydney.



2023 QPS Honour Guard Member S/C Daniel Clement.



2023 QPS Honour Guard Member Sgt Ian Hayden.



2023 QPS Honour Guard Member Troy Hamilton.

Senior Constable Duncan Miller said ‘it’s been really nice to be with a group of fellow officers from different Regions and we all feel we need to honour and respect those we have lost. It’s not lost on us that we are representing Queensland and we are representing every Queensland Police Officer.

“I’m based at Toowoomba Highway Patrol and I was at Wieambilla on the day. I knew Rachel and I also knew Brett Forte, so to have three police who have been murdered that I know in just my 14 years of service has had a big impact on me.

As a police motorcycle rider I feel it’s my duty to represent our colleagues in the most professional way possible. I know every police motorcycle rider in the State would love to be here to honour Rachel, Matt and every other copper we have lost.



S/C Duncan Miller was part of the initial response at Wieambilla and participated in the funeral procession for both Matt & Rachel.

“The motorcade and procession plus the memorial service in Canberra I understand it’s emotional for the families to attend these events but it’s an opportunity for them to realise they are not forgotten. We are here to support them and they will never be forgotten for generations to come.

“Current serving police and those that have retired should be aware you don’t need to be a motorcycle rider to be a part of this memorial. You can still drive, attend the service and show your respect to our fallen officers.”

Along the Hume Highway New South Wales police stood in the centre median strip at significant locations saluting the passing motorcade most with large signs bearing the name of a New South Wales Officer who had died on duty.



they’re not connected to police but they agreed the effect of the police saluting along the motorway had an impact. Colleen said “it was nerve tingling and makes you appreciate what police officers do for us each and every day.”

The impact was meaningful and not only resonated with police but also the hundreds of civilians taking part. Robina Police Officer Greg Gould and his wife Sandy take part in Wall to Wall every year, leading up to the trip to Canberra this year they rode to Miles and Tara with other officers to honour Matt and Rachel “That really brought it close to our hearts, to think they were ambushed along with a civilian reminds us that there are evil people out there.

“To see the police taking time to salute everyone passing by it just fills your heart with a lot of warmth and compassion to see that is incredible.”

Riding with the Gould’s were long time friends Colleen and Shane Hope,



Shane Hope, Colleen Hope, Sandy Gould and Greg Gould rode from the Gold Coast and were impressed with the co-ordination and respect shown by New South Wales Police on the highway to Canberra.

It’s estimated by the time the motorcade reached Canberra for a lap past Parliament House and other significant landmarks the bikes numbered more than three thousand.

Most riders joined the ceremony at the National Police Memorial where Ian Leavers in his dual role as QPU President and President of the Police Federation welcomed the enormous crowd and congratulated riders for their efforts to reach Canberra from across the country.

Mr Leavers said “We gather here on sacred ground for police, it doesn’t matter what your home state is, here we are all as one. We are here because we’ve lost a loved one, a colleague, a friend or we feel a little bit guilty because a tiny bit of luck one day meant our own name did not join the other heroes here on the wall.

“In December last year Constable Matthew Arnold and Constable Rachel McCrow were ambushed and executed on a rural property in Queensland. Their deaths not only shocked every police officer and their families in Australia but around the world.

“Today some of Matt’s family have been able to join us at the National Police Memorial for the first time. To the family of Constable Anthony Woods who have friends here as well, it’s a long way from Western Australia and it’s a massive challenge for them as Anthony was run down and trapped underneath a stolen car and murdered whilst affecting an arrest.

“You may not know these family members but your presence here today has sent them a very strong message that the police family does not forget, everyone here honours the sacrifice those young Constable’s paid protecting our communities.

“All three were denied the opportunity to reach their full potential in their careers and in their lives away from the job. Their future was stolen, their lives tragically cut short.

“The families of police often carry the burden of the job we do, when we leave for each shift there is an



Ian Leavers thanked the riders for their support of the families of fallen police.

uncertainty that the most basic of jobs could turn volatile in a split second or leave a terrible or physical scar on their officer.

“Since the ride began in 2009 we have raised over \$1.5 million for police

Legacies. That money will directly help the families who have been touched by tragedies, it looks like this year we will again raise over \$150,000 in funds that can be shared with Legacies around the Nation.



Ian Leavers laid a wreath on behalf of current serving and retired police at the memorial wall.





“There are currently 823 names on the National Police Memorial and on National Police Remembrance Day September 29 that number will sadly increase to 826, I think everyone will agree that is a confronting number.

“We cannot change the past but what we can do is honour the memory and never forget the sacrifice our colleagues have paid. It falls on us to honour their service and lives no matter how many years pass. We will continue to run this event into the future and hopefully expand it’s reach across the community.”

The honour of placing the Queensland baton on the memorial stones during the ceremony was given to QPS Honour Guard rider Sergeant Ian Hayden from the Gold Coast Highway Patrol.

Sergeant Hayden said “The handcrafted wooden baton although made of lightweight wood felt symbolically heavy. It’s because I knew it contained the names of Constable Matthew Arnold and Constable Rachel McCrow, they are names written on paper but emotionally this was a weight full of sorrow and anguish.



Sgt Ian Hayden represented all Queensland police by placing the Remembrance Baton on the memorial.

“I knew the Arnold family were in the crowd watching and I hope they felt the dignity and respect we displayed during the ceremony. This was an incredible honour bestowed on me on behalf of every police officer in Queensland.

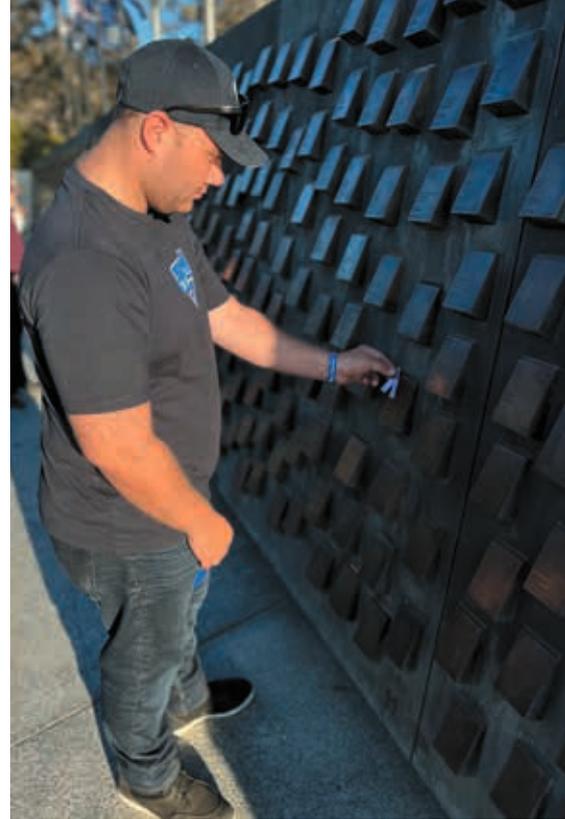
“I’m not too far away from age retirement and for me this will be one of the most significant memories of my career. I hope the Arnold and McCrow families know they and their children will forever be a part of our blue family and we will always remember Matt and Rachel.”

At the conclusion of the service people were encouraged to read the inscriptions on the memorial and as they scanned the various panels seek out a touchstone bearing the name of a fellow Queenslander to absorb the history and take away a memory of the impact each death would have left with the officers family and friends.

QPU Vice President Shane Prior, is also the President of Queensland Police Legacy. He said “After the heavy emotion of the memorial service the opportunity to reconnect with mates was a great relief. I found so many friendly faces, people that I didn’t know were participating in the ride and here they were in Canberra.

“It’s as if the Wall to Wall in Canberra is like the end of an endurance sporting event and a life impacting moment for many. The opportunity to discuss the benefits that will come for our Legacy recipients because of what they have done provides an insight for the riders that confirms where their fundraising is going. The smiles I saw were genuine and the mateship bonds solid.”









While there was a lot of focus on workmate camaraderie there was also a special father and son bond that stood out for the Queenslanders.

One of the QPS Honour Guard riders Senior Constable Daniel Clement, had a shadow never too far away. His father Danny joined the ride determined to see his son achieve a bucket list moment and participate in the Wall to Wall as part of the Official QPS troupe.

Danny has his own distinguished career as a first responder, working for 17 years as a New South Wales Ambulance Paramedic before relocating to Queensland and joining the QPS where he stayed for five years before transferring to the New South Wales Police Force and contributing 18 years in Highway Patrol before retiring.

Danny said "It's an absolute privilege as ex Highway patrol myself to see my boy in his career and riding as part of this team. The way this group operate and perform their functions in such



Highway Patrol has been the preferred career choice for father and son Daniel and Danny Clement.

a professional manner is a fortunate experience. Not too many fathers would get to share this experience with their son this way. The reasons why we are doing this ride to Canberra are so important and I think we are both aware of the risks in this job."

Senior Constable Clement said "It's been pretty cool having dad here. He's

been a copper for a long time and has had an outstanding career himself. I'm glad he was able to reach retirement and still be so active, unfortunately I have seen too many police not make it to retire they wanted to or die far too early.

"I've been receiving text messages from his mates about how proud he is. We will both share these memories for a long time."

Current QPS Highway Patrol Motorcyclists are encouraged to nominate to be part of the 2024 Honour Guard with selection criteria available by contacting Senior Sergeant Bradyn Murphy at Robina Police Station.

The 2024 Wall to Wall Ride for Queensland participants is planned to depart from Brisbane on Wednesday September 11, 2024 arriving in Canberra for the Memorial Service on Saturday September 14, 2024. Registrations are anticipated to open in April 2024.



★ WALL TO WALL ★
Ride For Remembrance

Wall to Wall – Ride of Remembrance Tara 2023

The 2023 Wall to Wall ride for Police Remembrance had great significance for the Western Downs Patrol Group due to the deaths of Constable Matthew Arnold and Constable Rachel McCrow.

Both Officers worked at Tara and as a tribute riders from across the Region linked up in Dalby and headed for Tara Police Station to set off on their Canberra expedition a day ahead of their Brisbane colleagues

on Tuesday September 12, 2023 to account for the extra kilometres.

A short ceremony was conducted before there were hugs and some traditional sledging of each other's bikes and riding ability before the motorcade headed for Goondiwindi.

There's consideration to make the Tara loop a permanent stand alone element of the annual Wall to Wall ride so Queensland colleagues and retired police from across the State can honour Matt and Rachel.







Honours and Awards City/Valley

By Darren Curtis

An Honours and Awards ceremony for police from Brisbane City and Fortitude Valley patrol group was held in the hall of the Fortitude Valley High School on Wednesday September 20, 2023.

The patrol group are regularly involved in providing support and security for some of the biggest sporting, cultural and entertainment events in the State along with managing protests, demonstrations and military parades. All of these activities are blended with regular police calls for service coupled with Safe Night Precinct commitments.

Sergeant Brad Sernig received a District Officer's Certificate for his planning work around the FIFA Women's World Cup events in Brisbane across July and August in 2023. His certificate reads "you have represented the Queensland Police Service on an international stage with the utmost integrity and professionalism to facilitate the largest policing event of Brisbane Stadium which has been commended."



QPU Vice President Shane Prior congratulates Sgt Brad Sernig on receiving a District Officer's Certificate.

Senior Constable Ahmed El-Mekkawi, Constable James Bowie and Constable Brett Chapel also received a District Officer's Certificate for providing life saving medical care to a 74 year old male who had a medical episode at Suncorp Stadium in May 2023. Their intervention before QAS arrived is attributed to saving the patients life.

An incident that occurred as recently as July 2023 was also acknowledged as outstanding commitment to duty and an ability to rapidly adapt to an unpredicted situation.

Officers had been called to an address at Kelvin Grove for an unrelated matter when they discovered a male person



Const James Bowie, Const Brett Chapel and S/C Ahmed El-Mukkawi were commended for providing first aid assistance to a man for over 30 minutes at Suncorp Stadium that saved his life.



QPU Vice President Shane Prior congratulates Const Chapel, Const Cranitch, Const Dunnington, Const Smith and S/C Gudkovs on receiving a District Officer's Certificate for their professionalism during a confronting confrontation on July 9, 2023.

attempting self harm and resisting first aid. During the volatile confrontation, the officers managed to get the patient to comply then applied their own tactical first aid until the arrival of paramedics.

Senior Constable Hans Gudkovs, Senior Constable Benjamin Smith, Constable Brett Chapel, Constable Daniel Cranitch and Constable Shane Dunnington were all awarded a District Officer's Certificate for their actions.

QPU Vice President Shane Prior said "it doesn't matter if it's a certificate confirming your appointment as

a Constable or receiving a 40 year clasp for the QPS Medal these are all important milestones in the career of police that should be celebrated.

I encourage all our members to become involved in these ceremonies when the opportunity is there because its good to be able to gather and share in each others special moments. There was a time when acknowledgement by the QPS wasn't done properly and it's sad for those officers who experienced that, the QPU is very supportive of ceremonies that highlight the diligent service and incredible acts of bravery our members do every day"



QPU Vice President Shane Prior is encouraging Union members to attend Honours and Awards ceremonies across the State.



S/C Ethan Trigger received the National Police Service Medal.



QPU Vice President congratulates City Station AO Keith Tune on receiving the 45yr clasp to the QPS Medal.



S/C Simon Little received the first clasp to his QPS Medal.





Sgt Jonathan Gregory receives the National Police Service Medal and clasp for his QPS Medal from Chief Supt David Cuskelly.



S/C Brad Allen and Senior PLO Moira Davis received the 20yr clasp to the QPS Medal.



S/C Scott Ashford receives the National Police Service Medal and clasp for his QPS Medal from Chief Supt David Cuskelly.



Out of the Shadows

By Darren Curtis

After thirty five years four former Queensland Police have revealed their role in protecting some of the most crooked cops in Queensland responsible for pocketing millions of dollars in protection money and bribes while at the same time the same villains had been corrupting justice in the State for decades.

It was the job of the four 'good cops' to keep the principal bagman, Detective Jack Herbert alive so he could give evidence to the Fitzgerald Inquiry in 1988 which resulted in the jailing of Police Commissioner Terry Lewis and brought down the Bjelke-Petersen Government.

Sergeant John Watt, Detective Constable Steve Grant, Plain Clothes Constable Donald Green and Plain Clothes Constable Paul Clarke were drawn from the Tactical Response Group to form the Witness Protection Squad and tasked with keeping disgraced licensing officer Jack Herbert and his wife Margaret safe until they both gave evidence in September 1988.

The Herberts had earlier fled to the United Kingdom but were arrested and returned to Queensland with immunity if the evidence revealed the identities of corrupt police.

The threat against the Herberts was considered very real and the Witness Protection Squad spent six months living with the couple in secure or isolated locations across the South East.

They were never without their weapons including sub machine gun, shotguns, handguns, concealed 9mm CZ pistols and grenades.

At times the group wore rappelling gear around the clock in case they had to evacuate top floor 'safehouses' on the Gold Coast. The four officers were the

only people in contact with the Herberts and for six months rotated in three hour sleeping shifts, twenty-four hours a day.

Don Green said "it is as vivid now as if it was yesterday. Nothing has left me and it's something I will never forget. We played a role in changing history for the better I believe. We all believed in what we were doing at the time and still do.

"We did our best to get the corrupt coppers into court, give their evidence and it changed the job of policing in this state. We went from being a force to a service and I believe the job has moved forward ever since."

The four now retired police reunited at the Queensland Police Museum on the ground floor of Police Headquarters



Recreating their photo pose 35 years later at the QLD Police Museum. Don Green, John Watt, Paul Clarke and Steve Grant.



Witness Jack Herbert in a ballistic vest surrounded by the Witness Protection Squad 1988.



Witness Protection 1988 PC Constable Paul Clarke, PC Const Donal Green, Sgt John Watt and Det Const Steve Grant.



Margaret Herbert also posed with squad members Don Green, Steve Grant and Paul Clarke.

in Brisbane on September 29, 2023 for the unveiling of a new display honouring the Witness Protection Group of 1988.

It's the first time photos of the squad and Jack Herbert have been seen publicly and it wasn't until they were rediscovered recently by former Sergeant John Watt and he shared the secret on why they existed at all.

Mr Watt said "we were hiding Jack and his wife at a property in Rochedale and I spotted Jack one day taking photos with this new camera when the guys were working. It was a massive security breach and could have put everyone's lives in jeopardy. So later that night I asked Jack if he still had any film left and convinced him to take some happy snaps to finish off the roll.

As soon as it was done I popped the roll out, shoved it in my pocket and told him I'd get it developed. I kept it hidden until Jack's evidence was done but I was still too worried to get it developed anywhere in Australia, so I

took it with me on a family holiday to Singapore and had it processed there. It stayed secure for many years until recently and I thought I'd share it now that Jack and Terry Lewis are dead."

Even now the team still believe there was a bounty on the Herberts. Mr Watt said "we were walking with Jack around Slaughter Falls at Mount Coot-tha and we received a call that the brutal Sydney underworld criminal Lenny McPherson was looking for Jack. Herbert almost soiled himself when he heard that, that really shook him up."

Everyday the team would check their vehicles for bombs and be on alert



Paul Clarke and Steve Grant armed in 1988.



Paul Clarke and Steve Grant 35 years on with still very clear memories of the tactics and locations they used on the Herbert job.



John Watt still believes there were people intent on silencing Jack and Margaret Herbert prompting the intense security bubble they provided for the couple.



John Watt and Don Green with Jack Herbert in his ballistic vest.

for a threat. Mr Green said "it was extremely stressful for us all. We were all explosive technicians at the time and we never left Jack's side, we

always had one of us alongside him, behind him and in front.”

At times the squad would hide in plain sight walking on the beach at Surfers Paradise or venture out for bushland trips. The ‘war stories’ started flowing and there was an obvious bond between the men who laughed about taking Jack and Margaret to a Southport shopping centre and walking around with serious weaponry hidden under their clothes and passing through the shoplifting detectors.

They all claim the other is a worse cook than themselves preparing terrible meals for all of them including the Herberts plus washing and vacuuming misadventures.



Don Green said he was medically discharged from the QPS two years after the Herbert job.

Don said “we lived with them for six months and it took us away from our families. My son Benjamin had just been born and my wife had to do everything on her own with the kids. I saw my family for half an hour every two weeks. That’s all I got and it had to be in a secure location we could rendezvous at.”

John said the separation wouldn’t be tolerated by police today “it was really hard on our families, a lot of us had young kids. Witness Protection at that time wasn’t sophisticated, it

had just been established. There was VIP protection before but we were all drawn from the Emergency Squad, which became the TRG then eventually the unit became SERT.”

Despite the commitment, success and family sacrifice the group contributed they were never formally recognised.

Mr Watt said “us gathering here today to see this plaque has taken 35 years for any sort of acknowledgement and it does leave a bit of a sour taste. Probably part of the reason I did twenty years and then got out of the QPS.”

Mr Green said “we were never acknowledged with an award, citation or even a certificate. We put our bodies on the line for that job. I did however get promoted later to Sergeant Second Class, I was one of the first to be promoted on merit after Fitzgerald. I was sent to Woodridge, one of the youngest at the station and I was a Sergeant.”

For jobs that go over and above what’s expected. It doesn’t matter if it happened yesterday or years ago, sometimes the significance of the work done isn’t really appreciated at the time but becomes a foundation for the future.

“There’s a genuine need to honour people for distinguished and meritorious service, so it’s my intention to advocate with QPS Honours and Awards to look at a suitable and appropriate reward for this group.”

Until that happens Don Green said “my grandkids and their grandkids will now be able to come in here to the museum and see this exhibit. It’s there now for future generations and other cops that probably haven’t been born yet to see what we did for Queensland long after we four are all gone.”

***Original 1988 photographs provided courtesy of the Queensland Police Museum.*



The 1988 Witness Protection Squad were joined by Kym Goldup, QPU Vice President Shane Prior and Dick Wheatley for the Museum reveal.

QPU Vice President Shane Prior was present for the plaque reveal and was disappointed to hear the QPS had neglected for more than three decades to formally acknowledge the ground breaking work done by the four former officers.

Mr Prior said “The QPU strongly supports our members being recognised for outstanding service.



The 1988 Witness Protection Team at the unveiling of their corner piece of history at the QPS Museum Paul Clarke, Don Green, John Watt & Steve Grant.

THERE COULD BE A CRITICAL INCIDENT AHEAD!

If it happens, protect yourself and your family
by immediately contacting:

The QPU office Ph 3259 1900 (24 hours)
or your regional representative.

They will steer you in the right direction.



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Cost Recovery

By Glen Cranny, Managing Director, Gilshenan & Luton Legal Practice.

Two recent District Court cases have provided useful guidance on the recovery of costs by successful defendants in summary matters. These cases will be of relevance to police prosecutors and all officers who bring summary charges against defendants.

FACTORS RELEVANT TO A DISCRETIONARY AWARD OF COSTS

In *Wells v Commissioner of Police* [2023] QDC 120, Judge Morzone considered the proper application of factors relevant to a costs award under sections 158 and 158A *Justices Act* 1886. The matter concerned an appeal from a magistrate's refusal to award costs after the appellant (defendant) was successful at his summary hearing.

The case concerned a charge of contravening a domestic violence order. It was alleged that the appellant had driven past the complainant and verbally abused her from a passing car.

Although she did not see the person who yelled out, the complainant said she recognised the appellant's voice, and his vehicle. Police sought to interview the appellant about six weeks later, at which time he denied the allegation and accused the complainant of lying.

In allowing the appeal, his Honour considered in detail some of the factors in the legislation which impact upon a costs award, such as the adequacy of the police investigation, and whether the appellant had unreasonably declined an opportunity to provide an explanation which could have avoided a prosecution.

Judge Morzone conducted a detailed analysis of the police investigation, the extent to which the appellant explained himself when first approached by police, and the steps taken in response to information provided by the appellant.

Having done so, his Honour held that costs should have been awarded in favour of the appellant, noting that the factors contained within section 158A *Justices Act* made it fair and proper for him to be paid his reasonable costs.

COUNSEL'S FEES

Another recent District Court case has confirmed that counsel's fees are not recoverable as a separate disbursement in respect of costs applications under the *Justices Act* in summary matters.

In *Short v Queensland Police Service* [2023] QDC 131, Judge Smith was considering an appeal against a costs decision made by a magistrate. Short had been charged with various traffic offences. After a lengthy hearing (including cross-examination of witnesses across separate hearing days), the charges were ultimately withdrawn by the police.

In the subsequent costs application, Mr Short's lawyers sought a total of \$27,000 for counsel's fees, and nearly \$12,000 for solicitor's fees. The prosecutor submitted that costs should



be limited to the amount allowed for under the scale of costs in Schedule 2 to the *Justices Regulation* 2014.

Attention was first given to whether costs could be awarded for an amount higher than allowed by the scale, on the basis of the matter being of "special difficulty, complexity or importance": per section 158B(2) *Justices Act*.

Judge Smith determined the matter was not of that character, noting that the case really involved straightforward credit issues, and the charges were simply traffic charges. He also found that they were not of particular importance to the development of the law, even if personally important to the appellant.

Consequently, his Honour ruled that recoverable costs were limited to the amount specified in Schedule 2 of the Regulation. Having done so, he turned to consider whether counsel's fees are recoverable as a disbursement, separate to the allowance made for legal fees under the scale.

His Honour considered a previous District Court judgment of Porter KC DCJ in the matter of *Baker v Smith (No 2)* [2019] QDC 242.

In that case, Porter J held that there is no power to award an additional amount for counsel's fees under the scale, as professional fees under the scale encompass all legal professional work, even if done by more than one lawyer.

In that context, the word 'lawyer' in the scale was regarded as including both barristers and solicitors.

Judge Smith agreed and ruled that the appellant's legal fees were therefore limited, such that counsel's fees could not be regarded as a separate disbursement.

In final comments perhaps reflecting his Honour's views of the total costs involved, his Honour noted that the appellant was entitled to have his fees assessed independently if he wished.

Gilshenan & Luton is proud to continue its long-standing representation of the QPUE and its members. For any inquiries or assistance, please contact us on 3361 0222 or gnl@gnl.com.au.



Glen Cranny

Glen has specialised in criminal law since 1995 and has been a principal of Gilshenan & Luton since 2000. He is recognised as one of the most prominent criminal lawyers in Queensland.

Glen represents workers and police in relation to disciplinary and regulatory investigations.

**Sometimes our protectors
need protecting...**

**for a fair and just outcome
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Police Health



KAYT'S COMEBACK FROM CANCER

Kayt Howe's recovery from Stage 4 Non-Hodgkin's Follicular Lymphoma has been turbocharged, giving her more energy and helping her get back to her regular weight.

The Police Health member who's a current serving Police Officer, started Valion Health's Cancer Support Program in April 2023, which helped her lose 10 kilograms and reduce her mental and physical fatigue.

She achieved that after Valion Health created a tailored program that included support from an Exercise Physiologist, a Dietician, a Psychologist, and some online yoga classes.

FROM THE COMFORT OF HOME

But what makes it extra impressive is that Kayt did all of this despite living in the country Australia, which is reported to have limited access to healthcare.

"This program was exactly what I needed," Kayt said.

"I now have an exercise program that was tailored to my capacity, and the dietician gave me some excellent advice with a sensible eating plan instead of trying to crash diet."

The program is available to eligible Police Health members who have Gold Hospital cover or Gold Combined cover at no extra cost.*



WHAT IS NON-HODGKIN'S FOLLICULAR LYMPHOMA?

The Cancer Council says that non-Hodgkin lymphoma is a type of lymphoma, a cancer that begins in the lymphatic system.

The lymphatic system is an important part of the immune system and includes the various lymph glands around the body. Non-Hodgkin lymphoma most commonly occurs in a lymph node but it can grow to form masses in organs or bones.

There are more than 60 sub-types of non-Hodgkin lymphoma and they vary in how fast they grow and spread.

LIFE CHANGING CARE

Kayt said she remains thankful to the staff who coordinated her program through phone calls and video calls.

"None of those services was otherwise easily accessible as I live in a small town...," Kayt said.

"While I still fight with fatigue on a daily basis, the exercise program has significantly improved things and I expect to reap the rewards well into the future."

"I really enjoyed the program and would recommend it to anyone else

who may be struggling with the effects of chemo and cancer."

Valion Health's Danielle Parent is a registered nurse with extensive international experience, with oncology and haematology expertise. She said it was important to note the complexity of lymphoma and how Valion Health's program helps participants like Kayt.

"As lymphoma can invade bone marrow and form masses in organs, treatments to cure lymphoma are often harsh," Danielle said.

"Fatigue is a long-term side effect we see not only in members with lymphomas but across all cancers. It is one of the most common presenting complaints we encounter and can include both physical and cognitive impacts."

"Fatigue doesn't stop because treatment is finished and it often requires specialist input to progress members towards recovery. Luckily, we have multiple disciplines in our program like exercise physiology, dietitians, psychologists and nurses who can tackle these and other persistent side effects from all angles."

A COMMON DIAGNOSIS

Cancer Australia found that in 2018, non-Hodgkin lymphoma was the sixth most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia.

It was estimated that it will remain the sixth most commonly diagnosed cancer in 2022. Non-Hodgkin lymphoma makes up approximately 90% of lymphoma cases in Australia.

In 2018, there were 6,438 new cases of lymphoma diagnosed in Australia (3,735 males and 2,702 females).

In 2022, it is estimated that 7,397 new cases of lymphoma were diagnosed

in Australia (4,267 males and 3,130 females), and it is estimated that a person has a 1 in 40 (or 2.5%) risk of being diagnosed with lymphoma by the age of 85 (1 in 35 or 2.9% for males and 1 in 48 or 2.1% for females).

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

Available to our members* and fully-funded by Police Health, this program is a 12-16 week tailored virtual care program that's provided by a team of experts in supportive cancer care for people with, or recovering from, cancer.

It's delivered by our partner, Valion Health, who will connect with you using video call, phone and other tools to provide you with high quality, personalised cancer care and support from the convenience of your own home.

Valion Health will work with your medical team throughout the program, and services include;

- An initial assessment
- Three hours of nursing care coordination, provided by expert oncology nurses (including education and navigation)
- Two sessions with a Psychologist
- Six sessions with an Exercise Physiologist or Dietitian (depending on your needs)

- A repeat assessment at program completion to ensure all goals have been met
- Education modules and access to a participant app
- Your choice of either a Care Pack (exercise tracker, exercise bands, selection of care items and welcome note) or six online group yoga/ exercise sessions.

For more information please feel free to contact us, or Valion Health directly on 1300 561 020 or by emailing info@valionhealth.com.au.

**Waiting periods may apply, to be eligible you must meet the following criteria;*

- covered with our Gold Hospital cover or Gold Combined cover
- Currently receiving active anti-cancer treatment, or, have completed treatment within the last 24 months, or, have a diagnosis of advanced (metastatic) or incurable cancer
- Be over 18 years of age
- Have a PC, laptop, tablet or smartphone with a webcam and microphone and/or telephone.



THERE COULD BE A CRITICAL INCIDENT AHEAD!

If it happens, protect yourself and your family by immediately contacting the QPU office
Ph 3259 1900 (24 hours)
or your regional representative.
They will steer you in the right direction.



QUEENSLAND POLICE UNION

www.qpu.asn.au



QUEENSLAND RETIRED POLICE ASSOCIATION

QRPA NEWS – Summer 2023



MESSAGE FROM GREG EARLY, STATE PRESIDENT – A FEW COMMENTS ON 2023

Redlands luncheon was held on 28 February 2023. Traditionally it is the first luncheon and this year the last one will be held by Ipswich Branch on 14 December. All of the seventeen Branches will have had a representative of the State

Management Committee attend their luncheon or dinner.

As at 30 June 2023 we had 1,299 members which was an increase of 30 over the 1,269 in 2022; also for the year ended we had 62 new members and 13 new associate members. Sadly, however, 35 members and 9 associate members passed away during the year.

Our membership is aging but it is pleasing to record in the QPU Journal and our quarterly newsletter a segment styled '90 and over' which is increasing. (The latest '90 and over' appears within).

While it is great that our members are living longer, this brings with it additional work for our hard working Welfare Officers. They play an important role in each Branch and their efforts are appreciated.

There has been – and I am confident that will always be the case – great co-operation between the QPS and our Branches and that includes invitations to attend QPS functions, QPS guest speakers and meetings held at some police stations.

The sponsorship from QBank continues and this enables all Branches to receive funds to support their annual luncheon/dinner.

Communication with our members is important and we now have over one thousand members with whom we communicate by email; also our website has much to offer to those who can access it.

On 10 August 2023 members Jack Richard (former Superintendent) and Denis Houston (former Inspector) visited Veteran Member and former Senior Sergeant Dave Robinson in his retirement village at Bellmere where they presented him with his Veteran Member Certificate.

The annual general meeting was held at Police Headquarters on 4 September 2023. Acting Assistant Commissioner Denzil Clark represented our Patron, Commissioner Katarina Carroll. The election of officers resulted as follows: State President - Greg Early, Senior State Vice President – Bob Pease, State Vice

Presidents – Bob Atkinson, Ted Bones and Alex Granlund, State Treasurer – Jillian Steinkamp, State Secretary – Chris Sang, Assistant State Secretary – Pat Philp and Welfare Officers: Bob Atkinson, Ted Bones, Greg Early and Dave Walsh. (Chris Sang replaced Patricia Holden as State Secretary and Dave Walsh replaced Emmanuel Anthony as a Welfare Officer).

The following members were made Life Members for their long, distinguished and meritorious service to the Queensland Retired Police Association: Rowan Thomas Bond, Bundaberg, Alan Keith Edgerton, Bundaberg, Gregory Ian Spies, Logan-Beenleigh, Carolyn Grace Uhr, Rockhampton and Patricia Margaret Holden, former State Secretary.

Former Superintendent Chris Sang has taken on the onerous role of State Secretary. He replaces Patricia Holden who held the position for five years. Patricia provided outstanding service on behalf of the QRPA and as indicated previously she was made a Life Member for her long, distinguished and meritorious service to the QRPA.

The annual luncheon was held on 11 September 2023 at Geebung RSL Club. Fifty members and guests attended and enjoyed an excellent meal, refreshments and heaps of good fellowship.

On behalf of the State Management Committee, I wish you and yours a great and safe festive season; also that 2024 will be a great year for all of our members, their families and the readers of this Journal.



Dave Robinson (centre) being presented with his Veteran Member Certificate by members Jack Richard and Denis Houston.



Kevin Ramm, now resident in Western Australia, proudly displaying his Veteran Member Certificate.

ANNUAL LUNCHES

06.12.2023 Bundaberg @ Bundaberg RSL,
Rowan Bond 0408286483

06.12.2023 Townsville @ Tom's Tavern,
John Urquhart 0407 734 497

14.12.2023 Ipswich @ Brothers Leagues Club,
Ken Martin 3288 9782

NEW MEMBERS

Former Sergeant Jeffery John Dawson, Logan-Beenleigh, former Superintendent Robert Neal Welch, Logan-Beenleigh, former Inspector John Brand, Darling Downs, former Sergeant Gerard Thomas McKendry, Gold Coast, former Sergeant Michael Peter Clift, Gold Coast, former Senior Sergeant Michael David Butler, State, former AO7 QPS Public Servant Matthew Troy Fisher, State, former Superintendent Harry Anthony Rand, Redlands, former Inspector Gregory Joseph Daniels, Ipswich, former Sergeant Richard Bruce Woolcock, State, former Constable Bradley Mark Parfitt, Ipswich, former QPS Public Servant Sybil Lynette Parfitt, former QPS Public Servant Rosa Therese Holzberger, Ipswich, former Inspector Robert John McCall, State, former Detective Sergeant (AFP) Michael John Hawthorn, Sunshine Coast, former Detective Senior Constable Wesley Maxwell Spencer, Logan-Beenleigh, former Senior Constable Warren Doughty, Sunshine Coast, former Sergeant Steven Lawrence Wilson, Townsville, former Chief Superintendent Clifford John Crawford, State, former Senior Sergeant Robbie Stephen Goodger, Ipswich, former Senior Sergeant Peter John Gray, Mackay-Whitsunday, former Senior Constable Steven Patrick Moskwa, Sunshine Coast, former Senior Constable Barry George Walden, Ipswich, former Detective Sergeant Garry Casey, Gympie, former Sergeant Ian John Reimers, Darling Downs and former Senior Constable Jocelyn Mitchell, Redlands.

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Estelle Margaret Deshon, spouse of Senior Member Roger Deshon, Darling Downs, Carolyn Ailsa Woudenberg, fit and proper person, Gladstone and Elizabeth Korner, spouse of member John Korner, Ipswich.

QRPA Certificates**Veteran Member**

(75 years & 10 years continuous financial membership)

Michelle Joy Bagent, Townsville, Peter Edward Berger, Near North Coast, Patrick Joseph Black, State, John Alfred Charles Field, Bundaberg, Peter Frank Gibson, Near North Coast, John Dominic Hegarty, State, Mervyn James Melling, Near North Coast, David Maxwell Robinson, State, Earl Howard Sanders, Near North Coast, Robert Charles Sebbens, Near North Coast, Kenneth Terence Walsh, Sunshine Coast, Anthony Francis Birch, Redlands, Geoffrey Thomas Brooks, Logan-Beenleigh, Kevin Robert Ramm, State, Robert John Summers, Hervey Bay, Howard James Whiting, Gold Coast, James George Dowden, Sunshine Coast, John Caesar Ellsworth, Logan Beenleigh, Joseph Jackson, Far North Queensland, Trevor

James Adcock, Far North Queensland and Rodger Edward Harvey, Darling Downs.

Senior Member

(65yrs and 10 years continuous financial membership) –

Ian Bernard Anderson, Hervey Bay, Rowan Thomas Bond, Bundaberg, James William Hayes, Near North Coast, Judith Helen Newman, Logan-Beenleigh, Maurice Thomas Alker, Logan-Beenleigh, Wayne Royston Doss, Gold Coast, Peter Francis McGuire, Logan-Beenleigh, Trevor John Spencer, Logan-Beenleigh, Andrew Charles Henderson, Sunshine Coast, Barry Arthur Lewthwaite, Townsville, Gregory Allen Morrow, Hervey Bay, Helen Louise Robertson, Van Diemen's Land, Paul Francis Sullivan, Bundaberg, Ian Gordon Swan, Far North Queensland, Susan Walton, Hervey Bay, Gerard William Walton, Hervey Bay, Ian Robert Hargrave, Bundaberg and Noel Edward Priday, Redlands.

Veteran Associate Member

(75 years & 10 years continuous financial membership) –

Carol Melling, Near North Coast, Wendy Margaret Sanders, Near North Coast and Lola Estelle Sebbens, Near North Coast.

90 and Over

Roger Paul Barlow, Hervey Bay, 91 on 4 August 2023, Donald John Braithwaite, State, 92 on 22 August 2023, Vincent Joseph Bye, Townsville, 97 on 8 August 2023, Ailsa Joy Collins, Hervey Bay, 93 on 30 August 2023, Roy John Graves, Gold Coast, 90 on 6 August 2023, Neville Leslie Taylor, State, 92 on 24 August 2023, Thomas Young, Rockhampton, 95 on 31 August 2023, Marion Lillian Allison, Gympie, 91 on 13 September, 2023, Margaret Joan Dwyer, Gympie, 91 on 28 September 2023, Walter George Lane, State, 91 on 12 September 2023, Terrence Peter McMahon, State, 90 on 10 September 2023, Clyde Wilkie Dixon, State, 93 on 30 October 2023, Joan Ehlers, Redlands, 92 on 29 October 2023, Bernard Ingham, Redlands, 92 on 15 October 2023, Thomas Edward Strain, 90 on 17 October 2023, William Stanley McDonald, State, 92 on 15 November 2023 and Constance Caroline Schultz, Townsville, 94 on 27 November 2023.

OBITUARIES – May they Rest in Peace Members

Veteran Member and former Senior Sergeant John William Pearson, 06.07.2023, aged 90 years, Life Member and former Chief Superintendent Robert Denis (Bob) Hayes, 12.07.2023, aged 85 years, Associate Member Doreen Gillespie OAM, 12.07.2023, aged 87 years. Veteran Member and former Sergeant Terence Harold Bohn, 31.07.2023, aged 85 years, Veteran Member and former Senior Sergeant Ross Lindsay Melville, 31.07.2023, aged 78 years, Veteran Member and former Senior Sergeant John Patrick Toohey, 05.08.2023, aged 87 years, Veteran Member and former Chief Superintendent Colin Sidney Hobson, 05.08.2023 aged 83 years, Veteran Member and former Inspector David Andrew Stannard, 08.08.2023, aged 82 years, Veteran Associate Member Annie Miria Vidler 12.08.2023 aged 92 years and Veteran Member, former Detective Sergeant 2/c Brian Joseph Hooper, 24.08.2023 aged 90 years, Senior Member and former

Inspector Darryl James Murtha, 01.09.2023 aged 68 years, Veteran Member and former Constable Russell Leonard Ladlay, 10.09.2023 aged 84 years, Associate Member Peter Robert Whitson 10.09.2023 aged 65 years, Veteran Associate Member Valerie (Val) Scott 03.09.2023 aged 87 years, Senior Member and former Constable 1/c Kenneth George Willimott, 02.10.23 aged 78 years, Veteran Member and former Inspector Robert Valentine Ensinger, 27.09.23 aged 94 years, Veteran Member and former Superintendent Robert John Taylor 19.09.23 aged 90 years, Veteran Member and former Constable 1/c William George Hayden AC former MHR and Governor General, 21.10.23 aged 90 years, Member and former Senior Sergeant in ACT Police Garry Owen Patrick Maher, 20.10.2023 aged 80 years, Member and former Constable Kevin David Farr, 9.10. 2023 aged 61 years and Life Member and former Senior Sergeant Leonard Roy Bracken, 15.11.2023 aged 87 years.

Non-members

Former Detective Inspector Kenneth Webster 31.07.2023, aged 70 years former Queensland Police Officer David Anthony Thomas, 07.08.2023 aged 72 years, former Inspector Charles Antoine Louis La Caze 10.08.2023, aged 91 years, former Senior Sergeant Ray Edward Luhrs 18.08.2023 aged 83 years, former Sergeant Bruce Law, 26.08.2023, aged 66 years, former QPF Superintendent William Patrick Howley 17.09.2023 aged 104 years, former QPS Sergeant Dr Celste Lawson 19.09.2023, former QPS Police Officer Laban William Henry 'Billy' Davis 07.10.23, former QPS Police Officer Anthony Huston Marks 05.10.23 aged 69 years, former QPS Police Officer William James Dickson 28.09.23 aged 100 years, former QPS Police Officer Tex Jensen 18.09.23, former PC Constable 1/c Rumble James Javis, 10.11.23, former Sergeant Shane Puckering, 14.11.23, former Sergeant 2/c Albert Grieve, 15.11.23, aged 79 years, former Sergeant 2/c Graham Ronald Keleher, 17.10.23, aged 80 years, former Sergeant 2/c Bernard Thomas Wren, 09.11.23, aged 92 years, former QPS Police Officer Ivan Michael Clark, 26.10.23, aged 72 years, former QPS Police Officer John McKellar, 04.10.23, 72 years and Stephen John Williams, former QPS Police Officer, 10.10.23.

Serving Member

Senior Constable Kym Slade of Loganholme Station 20.07.2023 aged 48 years and Senior Sergeant Ian James Cameron, Officer in Charge Acacia Ridge Station, 23.08.2023 aged 59 years.

Family

Margaret MacNaughtan, widow of late Member and former Inspector Neil MacNaughtan 01.07.2023.

AROUND THE BRANCHES

BUNDABERG

Meeting held on 28 August 2023. Welfare: Chris Sidey is still having some severe health issues. Mary Allen is to have further treatment. Jack Field is feeling much better and is back driving a vehicle again. He may be back at bowls in the future using a bowling arm. Marie and John Read are both OK. Fred Collins is going OK. Ross Green was OK at last visit. Grannie Pearce advised the meeting that there had been no forthcoming offers

by members to step into Mary Waugh's shoes and take on the role of Welfare Officer. Mary is still fulfilling this important function and Grannie offered to act as an Assistant Welfare Officer until someone can take over from Mary. Mick Harvey and Grannie Pearce mentioned the importance of the Funeral Planning Request Form which is available on the QRPA website and from the Secretary. **Meeting held on 29 September 2023.** Welfare: At the time of the meeting Lou Pakallus was in Brisbane having surgery. Jenny Mergard had undergone more surgery. Ross Green and Fred Collins are going OK. Keith Lipp is doing OK but has mobility problems and cannot attend meetings any more. Life member plaques and gold badges were presented by President John Lewis to Rowan Bond and Alan Edgerton. John also presented a Senior Member Certificate to Rowan Bond. Discussion ensued about a possible memorial near the Bundaberg Station. The QPS is considering this and the Branch resolved to support such a proposition. **Meeting held on 27 October 2023.** Grannie Pearce and Rod Dunham acted as President and Secretary in the absence of John Lewis and Rowan. Welfare: Mary advised that she had called in on and spent some time with Cherrol Hayes; also that Chris Sidey was on the improve. **Meeting held on 24 November 2023.** Vice President Mick Harvey welcomed all to the meeting. Welfare: Rowan Bond reported he saw Lou Pakallus recently. He is doing OK but has to see an orthopaedic specialist to perhaps have hip replacements. Grannie Pearce announced he had received some bad news regarding his own health being diagnosed with inoperable bowel cancer with secondaries in his liver and lungs. The prognosis is not the best but he is being fitted up for chemo next week and will see how it all goes. The members wished him all the best for the future. A goodly number of members and guests are expected to attend the 6 December 2023 luncheon. Several members are gathering at the Bond residence on 25 November to sort out the raffle prizes. Alan Edgerton and Mick Harvey attended the Rockhampton dinner on 20 November 2023. Next meeting: 26 January 2024. (*Secretary – Rowan Bond 0408 286 483*)



Alan Edgerton receiving his Life Member Plaque in the presence of President John Lewis and Past President Grannie Pearce.



Rowan Bond receiving his Life Member Plaque in the presence of President John Lewis and Past President Grannie Pearce.



Rowan Bond receiving his Senior Member Certificate from President John Lewis.

GOLD COAST

AGM and general meetings held at the Currumbin RSL Club on **1 August 2023**. Des Sorensen chaired the election of officers with the following result: President – Russell Robertson, Vice President – Colin Sullivan, Secretary - David Manfield, Treasurer - Douglas Lawler, Social Secretary - Denise Sullivan, Protocol Officer - Desmond Sorensen, Welfare Officers - Russell Robinson, Colin Sullivan and Murray Underwood. Report on annual luncheon held at Horizons at Twin Towns on 19 July 2023: Fifty-seven persons attended. Special guests: John-Paul Langbroek MP, State Member for Surfers Paradise, Assistant Commissioner Brian Swan and QRPA State President Greg Early supported by Executive Members Bob Pease, Emmanuel Anthony, Jillian Steinkamp, Patricia Holden, and Pat Philp. Applications to join the Association by Michael Peter Clift and Gerard Thomas McKendry were recommended for approval. Guest Speaker: Joe Franzi a former Australian Army veteran of some 40 years who had active service in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. He is a renowned intelligence specialist who is an expert in cyber security and served in very high-level positions with the Department of Defence and the Australian Signals Directorate. Joe gave examples of: Hacking, Identity Theft, Malware, Scam Emails, Scams On-line, Ransomware, Malicious Web Page Links, Fake Free WI-FI and Easy Steps We Can All Take. **Meeting held on 5 September 2023**. The Guest Speaker was Acting Detective Inspector Chris Tritton of the Southeast Police Region who gave an excellent and informative presentation on the Facial Recognition Trial which he has put in place in the Queensland Police Service with respect to identifying super recognisers. Chris won a Courier Mail Scholarship and put these funds to travelling to the United Kingdom where he undertook studies in respect of identifying Super Recognisers and upon returning home he put in place the Facial Recognition Trial. So far Chris has identified at least 300 personnel in the Queensland Police Service who appear to have these inherent skills to become Super Recognisers. **Meeting held at the Currumbin RSL Club on 3 October 2023**. A QRPA Senior Member Certificate was presented to Wayne Royston Doss by President Russell Robertson. It is intended to invite all Gold Coast Retired Police Widows to attend the social functions held on the last Thursday of each month. Upon the request of QPS Acting Assistant Commissioner Geoff Sheldon, NSW Superintendent Dave Roptell and AFP Acting Superintendent Joshua Kinghorn, members of the Gold Coast RPA attended The Gold Coast National Police Remembrance Day Service along with some 250 people and dignitaries which was conducted at the Dream

Centre Church, Carrara. Margie Milham designed and created a magnificent wreath which was placed by Vice President Colin Sullivan. Welfare: Neville Hackett was in hospital recovering from pneumonia and Camille Dellit was also a patient in the same hospital. The Guest Speaker was the relieving Officer in Charge of the Robina Police Station Senior Sergeant Bradyn Murphy. Bradyn gave a very informative and professional presentation of Queensland Police Service's involvement and dedicated support of the "WALL TO WALL RIDE FOR REMEMBRANCE". He advised how the Wall to Wall Ride was initially founded by Assistant Commissioner Michael Corby of the NSW Police Service and Inspector Brian Rix of VICPOL in 2009 and that this was later strongly supported by former QPS Commissioner of Police Ian Stewart to such a degree that the QPS now has a dedicated former QPS motor cycle allocated to the Queensland Branch of the Wall to Wall Ride. Bradyn spoke at length about the Wall to Wall Baton which is presented to the Commissioner of each State and Territory and the significance these batons are to honouring deceased members. **Meeting held on 6 November 2023**. The Christmas Luncheon will be held at the Mermaid Waters Hotel on 15 December 2023. Next meeting: Currumbin RSL on Monday 5 December 2023. (Secretary – David Manfield 0413 957 610)



Wayne Doss receiving his Senior Member Certificate from President Russell Robertson.

GYMPIE

The Club's annual luncheon was held on **23 August 2023** at the Southside Bowls Club. Fifteen members and nine guests attended. Hervey Bay Branch was represented. Special guests: Michelle Perrett who represented her MP husband Tony, retired Superintendent Chris Sang and his wife Tina, Jason Goodwin, Queensland Police Legacy Scheme, Andy Henderson, QBank Director, Alex Granlund, State Vice President and Gympie Inspector Brad Inskip. They had a lucky door prize and twenty two raffle prizes. **Meeting held on 4 October 2023** at the Tin Can Bay Golf Club. Retired Northern Territory Police Officer Garry Casey's application for membership was recommended for approval. It was resolved to donate \$500 to the Queensland Police Legacy Scheme. Thirteen members attended the NPRD service in Gympie. Ron Cooper was the flag bearer, Norm Breen placed a wreath and Kevin Lewis read the remembrance on behalf of the Branch. Welfare Report: Norm Breen, Annabell Andrews and Tony Barton gave a report on members they had been in contact with over the past few months. Next meeting: 7 February 2023. (Secretary – Wayne McDonald 0406 728 070)

LOGAN-BEENLEIGH

Meeting held on 23 August 2023. Guest speaker: Andrew Jones, Director, Crimestoppers Queensland. He advised that there are currently over 400 volunteers from Cairns to Warwick who assist the organisation with handling information received from the public which is forwarded onto Queensland Police. He provided statistics on arrests/charges for drug related matters and proceeds of crime; also that rewards are still paid for the receipt of information. Welfare by Eileen Riley: The Branch was represented at the funeral of member Ross Melville. Rod Bloss had a four day stint in Logan Hospital recently. Darryl Murtha recently came out of a long stay in hospital. (*Unfortunately he passed away on 1 September 2023*). John Taylor had been unwell with a respiratory infection. (*Unfortunately he passed away on 19 September 2023*). The NPRD service was held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Loganholme.

Meeting held on 27 September 2023. Maurie Alker was presented with his Senior Member Certificate by President Col Thorne. An application to join the Association by Leslie Maxwell Spencer, who lives in the ACT, was recommended for approval. Guest speaker: Acting Assistant Commissioner Geoff Sheldon: Part of his address: In 1975 there was 1 Commissioner and 3 Assistant Commissioners with a total staff of 3,500. Today there is 1 Commissioner, 7 Deputy Commissioners and 19 Assistant Commissioners with a total staff of 17,000. Included above are AC's which have been appointed to manage the service's Domestic Violence and Youth Crime response, plus a Deputy Commissioner has now been put in control of the Youth Crime response. The role of that Deputy Commissioner will be to work with other responsible agencies to ensure that the police aren't left holding the basket. In 1975 the annual budget was \$51 million compared with today which is \$3.2 billion. Many initiatives are introduced to ensure that the budget is spent in the right areas. One of those is the purchase of hybrid vehicles which has resulted in sufficient savings in fuel use which enabled a further 12 vehicles to be purchased. Logan currently has 120 police vehicles in operation. Operational policing has changed dramatically over the years with the officers now spending 65% of their shifts processing Domestic Violence incidents and on many occasions, the remainder of the shift is dealing with mental health jobs. It was resolved to relocate the general meeting venue from Club Beenleigh to the Beenleigh RSL Club commencing with the 25 October meeting. Gerry Stevens has collected another \$800 and it was decided to donate it to the Queensland Police Legacy Scheme. Welfare by Eileen Riley: Sadly we have lost two more colleagues: Darryl Murtha and John Taylor. **Meeting held on 25th October 2023.** Vice President Kay Halford welcomed Sarah Sigley of OzHarvest and Andrew Gough, Secretary-Manager of the Qld Police Legacy Scheme to the meeting. Beenleigh RSL Branch Padre Peter Palmer gave members a warm welcome to the new meeting place. Guest speaker Sarah Sigley of OzHarvest. OzHarvest was formed in 2004 by Ronni Kahn AO after she noticed a huge volume of food going to waste and has since become Australia's leading food rescue organisation. Most western countries

waste a large amount of food per year with Australians wasting approximately 200 kg per person per year. OzHarvest provides food to over 2,000 charities. OzHarvest collects food from donators and provides it to charities that then either cook and distribute it to the needy or provide food packages to those in need. Since 2004, 225 million meals were prepared, 77,000 tons of food was rescued and there are 3,000 donor companies across Australia. The Brisbane office operates 9 trucks and the Gold Coast has 4 trucks. OzHarvest also provides education programs to adults and children. The Branch resolved to donate \$500 to OzHarvest. Andrew Gough, Secretary-Manager of the Qld Police Legacy Scheme presented Gerry Stevens with a Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding effort in raising much needed funds for Legacy through his Cash for Cans campaign. A roll of honour has been completed and added to the Branch page on the QRPA website. The roll consists of the years and names of persons who have served on the Executive Committee since the Branch was commenced. Welfare by Eileen Riley: Our Branch received a beautiful card from the Taylor family and it was nice to see Bev at the meeting. At the time of the meeting John Enright was in the QE2 hospital suffering from mobility issues. Jim Wagner had an operation the day before the meeting. The NPRD Service was very well attended by our Branch and I thank everyone who took time out to attend. Our attendance was much appreciated and acknowledged by serving officers. Meeting held on 22 November 2023. John Ellsworth was presented with his Veteran Member Certificate by President Col Thorne. Phil Clohesy was welcomed back to the Branch after transferring from the Gold Coast Branch. Guest speaker: Caroline Hogan, Qld Chairperson, International Police Association, who provided information concerning her background advising that she was sworn into the New South Wales Police Force and served from 1990 to 1999. She then moved to Queensland joining the QPS in 2000. She is currently a Sergeant at Capability Command. Caroline became involved with the IPA through a friend during the Commonwealth Games in 2018. The IPA was formed in England by a police officer named Arthur Troop and currently has nearly 380,000 members world-wide. The Queensland branch currently has 700 members. Membership is for serving or former members of a police force or organisation whose members have or have had a power of detention. The Association's motto is 'Service Through Friendship'. Welfare by Eileen Riley: We reflect on our colleagues Ross, Darryl and John and we think of their families at this time as they face their first Christmas without loved ones around. Unfortunately a number of our members are on our sick list. Dale Ellsworth is currently undergoing treatment for a re-occurrence of cancer. At the time of the meeting John Enright remained in hospital with his condition unchanged. Max Faulker is recovering slowly from his recent knee replacement operation. It was wonderful to see Jim Wagner back among us after his recent operation. Des Libke is now home after being in hospital on the Gold Coast these past weeks with heart issues. Next Meeting: **24 January 2024.** (*Secretary – Kevin Francis 0401 668 760*)



Maurie Alker receiving his Senior Member Certificate from President Col Thorne.



Gerry Stevens receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from Secretary-Manager of the QPLS Andrew Gough.



President Col Thorne presenting John Ellsworth with his Veteran Member Certificate.

SUNSHINE COAST

Meeting held on 22 August 2023. Michael Hawthorn, former ACT and AFP member's application to join the Association was recommended for approval. Welfare: President and Welfare Officer Dick Turpin presented a detailed report on the welfare of members/partners who were suffering various forms of illnesses. The guest speaker was Branch member and Cop This Newsletter Editor Narelle Walker who spoke of her very interesting experiences and her highs and lows after leaving the Sunshine Coast to work in Bouliia and Mount Isa before heading overseas for a tour of duty with Mercy Ships in Senegal and then other duties in Poland, Turkey, Canary Islands and Madagascar. There were a number of eye opening and heartbreaking experiences for Narelle while overseas, especially when dealing with poverty and its devastating effect in some countries. As she said in closing, "We are just so lucky to live here." **Meeting held on 26 September 2023.** David Betts chaired the meeting in the absence of President Dick Turpin. David gave a report on the medical condition of John Walker and Dick Turpin. Police Chaplain Matt Govan said a prayer for both members. Several members attended the NPRD service which was held at the Kawana Surf Club. David

Betts' resignation as Secretary was accepted with regret. John Ballard was nominated for the position and he accepted the nomination. Appreciation was shown for David's many years as President and Secretary. Warren Lindsay's application to join the Association was recommended for approval. Guest speaker: Christine Parry from the Australian Border Force gave an excellent presentation on that organisation and how it works closely with law enforcement agencies throughout Australia. **Meeting held on 24 October 2023.** Welfare report: The Welfare Officer, President Dick Turpin, presented his lengthy report to the meeting. His report indicated a large number of members and/or family members are suffering illnesses. Unfortunately Gary Maher, who was to be guest speaker, passed away on 20 October 2023. Next activity: Christmas luncheon on 28 November. (Secretary – John Ballard 0447 432 622)



State President Greg Early presenting Jim Dowden with his Veteran Member Certificate.

SOUTHERN DOWNS AND GRANITE BELT

Meeting held on 1 September 2023 at the Stanthorpe RSL Club. The NPRD service was held at St Mark's Anglican Church, Warwick. Welfare: Keith Love is basically housebound and is not in good health. Madonna Foan is recovering from a recent procedure and was unable to attend the meeting. Monica O'Mara spoke on her attendance at the 50 year celebration of the Homicide Squad's formation, she having been the first female Detective to join that Squad. The meeting which was to be held in Tenterfield on 3 November 2023 was cancelled. The traditional Christmas gathering will be held in Warwick on 12 January 2024. Secretary Brian Cannon wrote these words recently: "As I write these words, I am aware that there have been many changes in all our lives over the last twelve months, with funerals of old workmates to attend, attendance at other branch's luncheons and our own, all very joyful events, yet some events and memories tinged with sadness – such is life. Irrespective, I believe we are very lucky, as individuals, as a group and dare I say as friends, the sort of friends who can meet up throughout the year, with a camaraderie not always evident in others around us and have some fun. The fires of Tenterfield, Stanthorpe, Warwick and surrounds show the environment in which we live decides much of what we do. The members impacted, both on the ground and in the response/recovery space, are acutely aware of the power of Mother Nature. The technological age also gets a mention. As I type these words, Optus is working towards rectification of their network's outage, labelled the 'worst we've ever had'" (Secretary – Brian Cannon 0476 156 968)

ROCKHAMPTON

Meeting held on **2 August 2023** at the Frenchville Sports Club. Carolyn and Andrea advised that a ladies coffee morning was had at Yeppoon with Carolyn, Andrea, June, Rose and Gloria in attendance. This will become a regular event. **Meeting held on 6 September 2023.** President Barry Self gave feedback on the Gladstone annual luncheon which was attended by ten Rockhampton members. **Meeting held on 4 October 2023.** Visitor: Police Chaplain, Reverend Leighton Johannesen who addressed the meeting and gave a brief rundown on his antecedents and duties in the Capricornia District and Central Region. President Barry Self gave feedback on the 17 September 2023 Cockscombe BBQ which was attended by some twenty members. Barry also gave feedback on the candlelight vigil and the NPRD service. Six members marched with the QPS contingent. **Meeting held on 1 November 2023.** Rose, Carolyn and Andrea advised that they enjoyed lunch together at the Victoria Tavern. It is intended to again meet in Yeppoon with June and maybe Gloria towards the end of November. President Barry made contact with Col Weeks, brother of the late Kel Weeks and cousin of the late Graham Weeks and invited him and his wife to the dinner. **The annual dinner was held on 20 November 2023** at the Victoria Tavern, North Rockhampton. Special guests: Paul Wilson, QBank representative, State Senior Vice President Bob Pease, Police Chaplain Leighton Johannesen and Inspector Mark Burgess, Capricornia District. Fifty three members and guests attended and there were seventy multi draw prizes. Branches represented were Gladstone (2) and Bundaberg (3). Cockscombe Retreat was represented by four persons. Resident Piper Sergeant Jon Cookson (District Office) joined Glenn Churchill, President of the Gladstone Branch, with his snare drum to give a pipes and drum rendition. Bob Pease presented Carolyn Uhr with her Life Member Plaque and Gold Badge. Terry Hanly donated two cut sapphires as lucky door prizes. The proceeds of the multi draw raffle will be donated to the Queensland Police Legacy Scheme when known. Next meeting 6 December 2023. (*Secretary/Treasurer – Dennis Smith 0408 321 416*)



Senior State Vice President Bob Pease presenting Carolyn Uhr with her Life Member Plaque and Gold Badge.



Piper Sergeant Jon Cookson and Glenn Churchill on his snare drum giving a pipes and drum rendition at the luncheon.



Six Rockhampton members led the NPRD march in Rockhampton.

MACKAY-WHITSUNDAY

Meeting held on 19 August 2023. The position of Secretary was not filled at the AGM held on 15 July 2023 and at this meeting Andrew Wijtenburg accepted a nomination for this position. Dennis Hansen addressed the meeting regarding the placement of a plaque at the grave of Constable Doyle and ongoing discussions with the State Museum and Mackay Regional Council. The position of Social Director remains unfilled. **Meeting held on 16 September 2023.** Peter Gray's application to join the Association was recommended for approval. Welfare by Barry Downs and Peter Howard. Jean Hammond has been able to alleviate some of her arthritic pain. As Norah Spreadborough cannot attend meetings any more, Peter and Gale arranged and took a sumptuous morning tea to her house. They were accompanied by Dennis and Denise Hansen and Barry Downs. She appreciated the visit. Debbie, Dawn Hodgson's daughter, advised her mother has a couple of little issues but generally is doing well. Grave of Constable Doyle: Dennis advised the plaque is chipped and current thinking is to place a second plaque below the original. Dave Gray is going to undertake some minor repair work on and around the grave of Dave Johnson. Museum items: Bev Houley advised the Proserpine Museum is interested in seeing what the Branch holds. Guest speakers: Sergeant Steve Smith and Senior Constable Tamara Cook each gave a talk on the Thrive to Drive Road Safety Virtual Reality Program. It has been described as an awesome program which deserves support and commendation in the highest degree, for the hard work, time and effort it took to produce. **Luncheon held on 20 October 2023** at Souths Suburban Bowls Club. Twenty four members and guests attended. Special guests were State Vice President Bob Atkinson and QBank Director Paul Wilson, both of whom gave inspiring and interesting speeches. Twenty five prizes were won by members and guests in the multi draw raffles. Unfortunately, due to pressing business, representatives of the QPS and other community representatives were unable to attend. As usual a happy and fun time was had by all engaging socially, having a lovely meal and some fellowship during the event. The Master of Ceremonies, Craig Joy, did a superb job. The efforts of Lorraine and Bev in conducting the raffle were acknowledged. **Meeting held on 18 November 2023.** Appreciation was shown by President Bob Maher to those who participated in this year's Candlelight Vigil, the NPRD march, the service and the

'smoko'. Bob has suggested that some Branches could have greater interaction with the QPS. Funeral Planning Request Forms were forwarded to all members. Peter Gray has accepted the vacant position of Social Director. New member Peter Gray gave a run down on his police service. Dennis Hansen presented a quote of \$624 to refurbish the grave of Constable Doyle. Dennis is going to approach the QPS and the Queensland Police Union for possible contribution to the cost. A diary of events for 2014 is being considered. Next meeting: **9 December 2023**. (Brought forward 1 week due to Christmas.) *(Secretary – Andre Wijtenburg 0437 230 840)*

IPSWICH

The annual general and monthly meetings were held on **10 August 2023**. State President Greg Early chaired the election of officers with the following result: Chairman – Ken Morris, Deputy Chairman – Dan Murdoch, Secretary-Treasurer – Ken Martin, Welfare Officer – Bruce Raymond, Assistant Welfare Officer – John Hawkins, Police Widows Co-ordinator – Di McCrae, Newsletter Editors – Maxine and Mal Renouf and Raffle Co-ordinators – Di McCrae and Margie Kussrow. Greg spoke of the success of the Branch and stressed the need for members to complete the Funeral Planning Request Form in order to ease stress on families. The meeting expressed appreciation to Matt and Elaine Dale who had stood down as Raffle Co-ordinators. A special welcome was given to prospective members Rosa and Geoff Holzberger. Welfare by Bruce and John: Vince Beutel, 98 years, was not travelling too well at the time of the meetings, Terry Bohn's funeral was pleasant, if funerals can be pleasant, with a wonderful ending. As the hearse drove away the song "Wish me well as you wave me goodbye" was played over the PA. Paul Hogg was then in Canossa Hospital, Oxley, receiving treatment for bone cancer. Guest Speakers: Detective Sergeant Paul Renouf and Detective Senior Sergeant Andy McCaul, both from the Logan CIB, who gave an excellent presentation on the 'Toolbox Murders' committed in Logan in 2016. It was a five year investigation into what commenced as two missing person reports and resulted in the arrest and later conviction of multiple offenders for murder and manslaughter. What a remarkable investigation which demonstrated outstanding tenacity of purpose and dedication to duty. **Meeting held on 14 September 2023**: Guests: Detective Acting Superintendent Heath McQueen, Detective Sergeant Sharny O'Brien and Detective Senior Constable Noral Piers-Blundell. Bruce Raymond's Welfare Report: Mark Ballin underwent back surgery at St. Andrews Hospital Ipswich and was recovering at home. Mark Clark was undergoing eye surgery on the day of the meeting. Greg Tutt was recovering from a hospital admission. Di Hart was hospitalized July/Aug with acute gastro but now was fully recovered. Di Topping contracted autoimmune hepatitis which attacks the liver. Doctors advised it is genetically related and she was on heavy steroids. John Hawkins was unable to attend the meeting due to health issues. An application to join the Association by Robbie Goodger was recommended for approval. Guest Speakers: Detective Sergeant Sharny O'Brien and Detective Senior Constable Noral Piers-Blundell from Toowoomba

Child Protection and Investigation Unit. Sharny and Noral presented on the death of eight year old Elizabeth Rose Struhs at Toowoomba on 7 January 2023, which followed in the arrest of 14 people for "murder by reckless indifference." The matters are still before the Supreme Court. The accused all refused legal aid, did not apply for bail and remain in custody. A very complex and landmark case for Queensland. Detective Acting Superintendent Heath McQueen praised the efforts of the investigators and their dedication to duty. **On 12 October 2023** a Police Widows Morning Tea was held at Brothers Leagues Club. Guest speakers: Superintendent Kylie Rigg, who became Ipswich District Officer on 16 October 2023, gave an outstanding talk on her life and career as a family member and a police officer. During her career she was able to overcome adversity and continue on with her impressive career which is highly commendable; and Narelle Walker, retired Sergeant and volunteer extraordinaire. Since retiring, she has travelled the world as a humanitarian volunteer working for several organisations. The visual display she provided outlined conditions that we, as Australians, could never imagine. She has worked and lived in many countries teaching English as a language and has strong connections with families in Madagascar. She hopes to return to Madagascar early next year and is seeking, among other things, reading glasses that are no longer being used. Police Widows Coordinator Di McCrae addressed the meeting and thanked the widows for attending. She also thanked the Branch for supporting the widows. Chairman Ken Morris thanked the police widows for their attendance and a small gift was presented to: Celia Buckley, Narelle Bohn, Di McCrae, Margie Kussrow, Patricia Priddle, Noelene Ladlay and Roslyn Rooney. The widows unable to attend were recognised: Kathy Bown, Cheryl Hayes, Beth Suhr, Shirley Zillman, Kaye Magill, Louise Cahill and Dot Hogan. **Meeting held on 9 November 2023**. Welfare by Bruce Raymond: Margie Kussrow and Bruce have been in touch with Paul Hogg who was still in the PA Hospital where Paul is recovering from a bout of Covid on top of his other condition. Brad Parfitt was also in PA Hospital having had toes removed from one foot after suffering gangrene. Guest Speaker: Senior Constable Chantelle Dowell from the Yamanto Crime Prevention Unit. Chantelle provided an update on the latest scams and preventative measures. The majority of attendees had all been the subject of some type of scam, be it on email or phone. Next gathering: Christmas luncheon on 14 December 2023. *(Secretary – Treasurer Ken Martin 0407 345 500)*

GLADSTONE

Gladstone Branch Members met at the Gladstone Police Station on **16 August 2023**. Junior Vice President Neil Coleborn chaired the meeting in the absence of President Glenn Churchill. Acting Welfare Officer Darryl Saw reported that Glen Josefski is still doing well. Glen is a lung cancer survivor. His oncologist advised Glen that he did not wish to see him anymore as he is considered cleared. Diane Janas is receiving ongoing post shoulder operation checks. Keith McCann advised that John and Val Catterson are still doing well. Senior Sergeant Glenn Fletcher has obtained a police

badge plaque for Sgt Dan Stiller's roadside memorial. Chris and Debbie Lette attached the plaque. The Branch donated \$300 to the Queensland Police Legacy Scheme as a result of the recent annual luncheon. Senior Sergeant Fletcher and Inspector Darren Somerville gave a presentation of District/ Patrol operations. **Meeting held on 6.9.2023** at Harvey Road Tavern. Acting Welfare Officer Darryl Saw advised Annie Miria Vidler was remembered on the Gladstone Branch Memorial Roll. Darryl advised that Glen Josefski is still doing well, Sue Churchill had flu symptoms and John Joannidis is having ongoing treatment for Leukaemia. John and Val Caterson and Sharon Noy's husband John are all doing as well as can be expected. A vote of thanks was carried for Chris and Debra Lette for attaching the police badge plaque to Sgt Dan Stiller's roadside memorial. Meeting held at Flavours Marina on **4 October 2023**. The National Police Remembrance Day service at St Saviours Church Gladstone was well attended and presided over by Central Region Police Chaplain Leighton Johannesen. Prior to the service Gladstone Thistle Pipe Band played in the church grounds - a tribute "Amazing Grace" in memory of Constables Matthew Arnold and Rachel McCrow. If the Council cannot install Benaraby Neighbourhood Watch signs, Branch members will do this. An application to join the Association by Carolyn Ailsa Woudenberg was recommended for approval. Glen Josefski is still doing well. John Joannidis reported that he no longer needs treatment. John and Val Caterson are still doing well. Mike and Irene Ball are still doing well. David Thomas advised that he is still doing well and is over the minor illness that he suffered. Meeting held at Tannum Sands Hotel on **1 November 2023**. Welfare: Glen Josefski, Mike and Irene Ball and John and Val Caterson are all doing well. Doug Jones was having a medical scan on the day of the meeting. His partner Marlene Archer, although she still has an almost permanent headache after contracting shingles 8 years ago, is otherwise going Ok. Carolyn Woudenberg underwent successful cataract surgery in Bundaberg on her right eye and on the day of the meeting was undergoing cataract surgery on her left eye. Applications to join the Association by Allan Bassett, former NSW Police Officer, and partner Marysha Polkington were recommended for approval. Next meeting: 13 December 2023 at the Calliope Central Bowls Club. *(Secretary – Darryl Saw 0447 417 746)*



Gladstone members attending the 4 October 2023 meeting.



Members, Thistle Pipe Band members and serving QPS members who attended the Gladstone NPRD service.

TOWNSVILLE

The **2 August 2023** meeting was cancelled due to the venue not being available. President Merv Johnston welcomed all members, guests and partners to the **6 September 2023** annual general and monthly meetings. A special welcome was given to Regional Police Chaplain Rev Glenn Louttit. Brendan White conducted the election of officers which resulted as follows: President – Merv Johnston, Vice President – Brendan White, Secretary – John Urquhart, Treasurer – John Cran, Welfare Officers – Gordon Thomas and Ian Palin, Welfare Officer (Ingham) – Roger Bow and Raffle Co-ordinator – Wendy Thomas. Merv presented Michelle Bagent with her Veteran Member Certificate. **Meeting held on 4 October 2023**. A special welcome was given to Brian and Carol Bensley as this was their first attendance this year. Member Peter Pascoe and Steve Wilson, a visitor from Home Hill, were welcomed to the meeting. (Later in the meeting an application to join the Association by Steve was recommended for approval). Welfare Officer Gordon Thomas informed the meeting that Ian Palin had cancers cut from his face resulting in over 20 sutures; also that Jill Hardy was at home trying to get over the flu which has brought on her asthma. Police Chaplain Glenn Louttit spoke on the Police Remembrance Day Candlelight vigil held on the Strand in Townsville; all 61 recruits currently in the Academy turned up. Ceremonies were also held in Ingham and Ayr. Peter Pascoe was presented with his Detective Appointment Certificate and pin by President Merv Johnston. **Meeting held on 1 November 2023**. The President, Merv Johnston gave a special welcome to guest speaker Acting Inspector Neil King. Welfare: Trevor Errington had spent a couple of days in hospital suffering from stones in his bladder. John Urquhart had been in hospital overnight to have a MRI scan on his brain. He wondered how many people have a photo to prove that they actually have a brain. Peter Hardy was going into day surgery to have needles in his back to try and fix his back problems. Tony Goddard was at home recuperating from his replacement knee surgery. Jenny Urquhart was in bed suffering from her continuing back problems. Acting Inspector Neil King gave a very interesting talk on the latest protective vests being issued to front line police. Next activity: Luncheon on 6 December 2023. *(Secretary – John Urquhart 0407 734 497)*



Police Chaplain Reverend Glenn Louttit attending the 6 September 2023 meeting.



President Merv Johnston presenting Michelle Bagent with her Veteran Member Certificate.



John Cran demonstrating the latest protective vest in the presence of Acting Inspector Neil King.

DARLING DOWNS

Meeting held on 10 August 2023: Welfare: Roger Deshon reported that Rick Niland was to undergo further surgery on his spine and was still in St Andrews Hospital. John MacKay stated that Boyd Wilson was as good as could be expected considering his illness. John stated that he recently had an operation on his hand which was successful. Roger Deshon gave a further report on the arthritis in his spine. Bob Lehfeltd stated that John Cooper's condition remained unchanged. John MacKay stated that the Honour Board needed updating. Bob Lehfeltd agreed to attend to this. The lack of suitable parking and no socialisation possible where the Branch meets lead to John MacKay, Richard Creagh and Steve Kenny being tasked to research alternate possibilities. **Meeting held on 14 September 2023.** Welfare: Rick Niland was expected to leave hospital the day after the meeting. John MacKay had been advised that Col Watson's wife was suffering from Pneumonia. Ian Hegarty advised that he had undergone more treatment on his heart. John MacKay stated that the rededication ceremony had gone well on 26 August 2023 and suggested possible changes to future ceremonies. Viv Nolan and Richard Creagh placed a wreath on behalf of

the branch at the NPRD service. Richard Creagh stated that he had done some research into possible alternate venues for branch meetings. He stated that the City Golf Club did not have any suitable space but he had made a tentative booking for the meeting rooms at the City Library. It was later resolved to make use of the Library Meeting Room for the Branch's meetings, commencing from October and investigate the possibility of holding their partner meetings every three months at the Hockey Club. Estelle Deshon's application to join the Association was recommended for approval. **Meeting held on 12 October 2023.** Welfare: Malcolm Twine reported that Rick Niland was again unwell and was back in hospital once more. Richard Creagh stated that Alan Lane had recently undergone an operation in Toowoomba. The application for membership by Ian Reimers was recommended for approval. The annual luncheon took place at Futures Restaurant at Toowoomba TAFE on **19 October 2023.** Forty seven members and guests attended. Special guests included Paul Wilson representing QBank and State President Greg Early. There was a strong representation from the Southern Downs and Granite Belt and Gold Coast Branches. The function was somewhat different in that instead of the usual buffet-style meal the four course meal was served to the tables by the students of the hospitality section of Toowoomba TAFE. **Meeting held on 9 November 2023.** Welfare: Dave Lynch stated that a melanoma had been detected in his bowel and he was to undergo an operation within the next few weeks. Mike Jordan reported that Rodger Harvey had been undergoing regular Chemo treatment. John MacKay stated that Kathy had a fall and would require about eight weeks of treatment for her injuries. Ian Reimers gave a report on the Awards Ceremony held earlier that morning. John MacKay thanked those who attended the Police Memorial Day functions. The Branch banner which had been supplied several years ago by QBank could not be located and John MacKay indicated that action was being taken to acquire a new one via State President Greg Early. In light of this, John presented a handover statement to the meeting and suggested that it be put into use when the Branch Executive changes. John MacKay presented Ian Hegarty with his National Police Service Medal. Next meeting: 14 December 2023. (*Secretary – Mike Jordan 0438 111 423*)



President John MacKay presenting member Ian Hegarty with his National Police Service Medal.

NEAR NORTH COAST

The annual general and monthly meetings were held at the Bribie Island RSL Club on **21 August 2023**. President John Warner commended Senior Vice President Allan Hawkins, Treasurer Paddy Higgins, Secretary Merv Melling, Ray Hoelscher and Allan Hawkins as Welfare Officers and the Social Organisers lead by Helen Guy for their efforts on behalf of the Branch. He also mentioned the passing of members Jack Gibbison, Errol Walker and Col Guy. The result of the election of officers follows: President – John Warner, Senior Vice President – Allan Hawkins, Junior Vice President – Keith Schultz, Treasurer - (Keith Schultz was elected to the position until February 2024 when Bill Feldman will take on the role) - Secretary – Merv Melling and Welfare Officers – Ray Hoelscher and Allan Hawkins. Welfare Officers Ray and Allan reported on the welfare of various members. Alan advised he had been in contact with Des Kelly and Gerry Morgan. **Meeting held on 18 September 2023.** Welfare: Alan Hawkins has been in contact with Des Kelly and Gerry Morgan. The annual luncheon was held at Sports Central, Caboolture, on **26 October 2023**. Thirty eight members and guests attended. As usual, members had been very busy making or donating prizes or seeking sponsorships which amounted to 97 prizes. Special guests were Andy Henderson, Director of QBank, and State President Greg Early. It was a great luncheon and enjoyed by all who attended. **Meeting held on 20 November 2023.** Welfare: Allan Hawkins advised that Gerry Morgan was awaiting a wheelchair so that he could get around but other than that he is well. Ron Cordwell has had some problems and was hospitalised. Other members who had minor ailments are now recovered. An application to join the Association by Ian John Rice was recommended for approval. Bill Feldman has been tasked to arrange either the February or March meeting at Woodford Gardens. Next meeting: 15 January 2024. (Secretary – Merv Melling 0408 587 624)



Attendees at the Near North Coast luncheon held on 26 October 2023.



Near North Coast Vice President Allan Hawkins with QBank Director Andy Henderson at the Near North Coast luncheon held on 26 October 2023.

REDLANDS

There was no meeting on the 22 August 2023 as the entire executive was absent travelling. **Meeting held on 26 September 2023.** New member Tony Rand was welcomed to the meeting by President Marty Fitzpatrick. Members were advised of the welfare situation of members by Welfare Officer Chris Gibney. Guest speaker: Superintendent Mark Norrish, Ethical Standards Command, who gave a great presentation on 'Technology and Innovation – real life application'. **Meeting held on 24 October 2023** at Redlands RSL Club, Cleveland. President Marty Fitzpatrick welcomed Merv Collins to the meeting after recent hospitalisation. Special mention was made by Elton Mitchelson on the passing of former Superintendent William Patrick Howley, aged 104 years, on 12 September 2023. He mentioned how they worked together at Wynnum from 1962. He also discussed Bill's war service and mentioned attending his wake. Review of NPRD service: Concern was expressed about the small number of Branch members who attended. A debrief will be held by the Executive. Request to members to email/contact executive with ideas to increase numbers at event, location of the event and also lack of participation and engagement by the local media. The application to join the Association by Jocelyn Mitchell, who attended the meeting, was recommended for approval. **Meeting held on 28 November 2023.** New member Veronica McComb was welcomed to the meeting by Acting President Mark Stewart. Ron Lewis was presented with his Veteran Member Certificate and Cathy Orchard was presented with her Senior Associate Member Certificate. The annual luncheon will be held on 27 February 2024. An application to join the Association by Veronica McComb was recommended for approval. (Mark Stiles – Secretary 04143269)

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

Meeting/lunch held at Obi's Restaurant, Atherton, on 25 August 2023. A special welcome was given by President Mal McKaskill to Chaplains Luke Smallwood and Peter de Haas. Welfare by Brigitte McKaskill: Diane Mills has been quite unwell. Graham Jonsen is still having quite a lot of treatment. Frank Wagner was out of hospital and back at Mercy Place. The Tablelands NPRD service was held at Abundant Life Centre, Mareeba, while the Cairns service was held at Cairns Regional Council, Spence Street, Cairns. Max Lewis provided his member snapshot. Meeting held at Dunwoodys Tavern, Cairns, on **22 September 2023**. President Mal McKaskill gave a special welcome to Chaplain Luke Smallwood and his lovely wife Tiffany. As some of the members don't wish to drive down either the Gillies Range or the Kuranda Range but would consider driving to Innisfail via Palmerston Highway, it was agreed to hold a lunch at Innisfail on 23 February 2024 with Roy and Glenda Wall to locate a suitable venue. To assist some of their older members to hear better at meetings, it was resolved to purchase a PA system. Meeting held at Top Rail Tavern on **27 October 2023**. Welfare by Brigitte McKaskill: Trevor Adcock had an aortic valve replaced in his heart in St Vincent's Hospital Northside in Brisbane; also a triple bypass at the same time. He returned to Cairns on 15 November 2023. Allan Wall shared some memories and stories about Ken Willimott, who passed away on 2 October 2023, when they were in training at the Police

Depot and residing in the old wooden barracks. The Christmas function will be held at Red Beret on 24 November 2023. (Secretary – Brigitte McKaskill 0408 281 979)



Members attending the 27 October 2023 meeting at the Top Rail Tavern.

HERVEY BAY

Meeting held on **19 September 2023** at the Hervey Bay RSL Club. Guest speaker: Tammy from Hervey Bay RACQ Travel attended and addressed the group on trends, pricing and availability of overseas travel for this and next year. Of interest to the group was the cost and cover of travel insurance for those over eighty years of age. A well presented talk and well received. This year's NPRD service was held at Life Church in Maryborough. A wreath was placed on behalf of the Branch. Welfare: Ian spoke of a number of members doing it tough at present. As always contact with these members to be made periodically to gauge what assistance they may require. The Branch resolved to donate \$500 to the Queensland Police Legacy Scheme. A BBQ was held at Splashside near Anzac Park, Cheapside Street, Maryborough, on 17 October 2023. **Meeting held on 21 November 2023** at Homewares from Everywhere, Maryborough. Travellers: Stewart and Deb Archbold are caravanning in N.Q. and Graham and Lyle Gronow are at Lady Elliot Island. Welfare: Brosey Paton is still suffering the after effects of radiation treatment. On the day of the meeting Bill Johnson was having his regular tests. Roger Barlow is battling on with help from family and Home Care. Vice President Derek Mayne presented President Ian Anderson with his Senior Member Certificate. Next meeting: 16 January 2024 at a venue to be announced.



Vice President Derek Mayne presenting President Ian Anderson with his Senior Member Certificate.



Members attending the 21 November 2023 meeting.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

The Branch met back at the Gretna Green Hotel on Sunday **10 September 2023**. This was where we had our foundation meeting some fourteen years ago. It was great to welcome Geraldine Byrne back after major heart surgery. Members met from 10.30am and as always it was great to catch up. We held our usual short meeting at midday and then everyone enjoyed lunch and desert which was first class. We have just had our last meeting for 2023 at the Bothwell Golf Club on **19 November 2023**. We had a great turn out and a fabulous day which started at 10.30am in beautiful weather. Ian Tinker arrived with some very nice venison sausages which went down very well as a starter. After our usual short meeting we had a great barbeque lunch and salads which was arranged by Karen with help from Colleen. It must have been a good day because we didn't finish until after 3pm. Unfortunately, we have said goodbye to Steve and Val Kummerow, who have moved back to the big island. They are both foundation members of the Branch and we wish them all the very best for the future. We have recently welcomed four new members to our Branch, Mark and Julie Barrett, Ian Tinker and Kath Callander. All are residing in the north of the State. Ian and Kath were able to be with us at Bothwell and we hope to see Mark and Julie soon. Deb Kent and Bob Fitzgibbon were married in early November and are now known as Mr & Mrs Fitzy. We wish them all the very best for their future happiness together. We again laid a wreath on Police Remembrance Day at the Tasmania Police Academy. We have always been well received by the Tasmania Police and are very grateful that we can lay this wreath on behalf of the Queensland Police Service. Branch Members Greg and Maggie McPherson are again travelling down to Tassie and we are having a gathering at Oatlands for lunch on Sunday 17th December at the Pancake and Crepe Shop. Our next meeting will be on Sunday 10th March 2024 at Bracknell. We would like to wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and a fantastic New Year. Until next time, stay safe and remember if you are travelling down this way, please let us know if we can help you in any way. All the best from Tasmania, Editor - Jennifer Johnston. (Andy Beasant – President/Secretary 0409 030 142)

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State Secretary:

Chris Sang, admin@qrpa.asn.au, 0497 104 061

QRPA Website: www.qrpa.asn.au

Email: qldretiredpolice@gmail.com

Courtesy of the QPS, a confidential psychological support service is available to retired Queensland police officers – 24/7 – 1800 277 478. If you know of someone doing it tough, please urge them to use the free service or talk to someone.

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