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POLICE UNION JOURNAL

ALLOWANCE INCREASE

THE QPU HAS SUCCEEDED IN GAINING PARITY FOR ALL MEMBERS WHO WORK LATE NOSA SHIFTS



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Level 8, 157 Ann Street, Brisbane

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ALLOWANCE INCREASE

The QPU has succeeded in gaining parity for all members who work Late NOSA shifts.

(Photo courtesy of QPS)

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JOURNAL CONTACT

QUEENSLAND POLICE UNION JOURNAL

PO Box 13008 George Street Brisbane QLD 4003
PH: (07) 3259 1900 | FAX: (07) 3259 1950
journal@qpu.asn.au | www.qpu.asn.au
MEDIA ENQUIRIES: PH: 0459 241 291 | media@qpu.asn.au
ADVERTISING: PH: (07) 3259 1989
SUBMISSIONS: The Journal accepts letters and articles to be considered for inclusion.



IAN LEAVERS

GENERAL PRESIDENT & CEO

0419 786 381

ileavers@qpu.asn.au

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE WILL NO LONGER BE TOLERATED IN AUSTRALIAN HOMES. MAY IS NATIONAL DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION MONTH AND LEADING INTO THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN MILLIONS OF PEOPLE TOOK PART IN RALLIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THEIR VOICES QUITE CLEARLY CONFIRMED EVERY COMMUNITY WANTS IT TO END AND ACTION TAKEN TO ENSURE SAFETY AND PROTECTION FOR ALL VICTIMS.

Police have always wanted the victims to be protected and the perpetrators to be held to account for their actions, however police are being shackled in some ways in their effectiveness.

Since 2017 domestic violence orders issued in one state apply and are enforceable in all Australian States and Territories. The scheme was aimed at increasing perpetrator accountability regardless of where the offence took place.

Police could also vary the order to increase protections from the original state where it was issued. However not every state has shared their data in a format that first response police can access rapidly.

Sometimes the system simply says there's an order in place but without any detail. We need to know all the information and interactions that have taken place so we can make an evidence-based decision for the protection of a DFV victim.

This type of information would dramatically assist in assigning priority codes for police to attend as well as assessing the safety of a victim or protecting children affected by Family Court orders.

DFV legislation has been repeatedly modified since the 80's and it is a significant task for first response police to keep up with the legislative change in their own state let alone changes in other jurisdictions where terminology can be completely different.

We have had inquiry after inquiry on DFV. All that has resulted is an increase in paperwork, red tape, and statistics gathering. I do not understand how tying frontline police up with mountains of paperwork makes DFV victims safer.

Most people do not understand Domestic and Family Violence is not actually a crime. These are civil orders.

I have been advocating for an offence of 'commit domestic and family violence' for about a decade now, yet all politicians both LNP and Labor and many in the DFV support sector seem bewildered by the idea of a stand alone offence.

All police do not understand why anyone would oppose making DFV a crime.

It is about time government started to listen to frontline police charged with enforcing this legislation. It is the frontline officers who are attending violent domestics at 2am on a Saturday morning; not some latte sippers in other departments responsible for drafting the legislation.

At the moment, a DFV protection order can only be issued should an act of DFV occur, and there's a need for an order on the basis it is necessary or desirable. This requires police to investigate the history of the parties with a view to proving past DFV and then a need for protection going forward.

Once made, an order is usually enforceable for five years. The steps involved in making the application, including gathering the necessary affidavits and evidence, serving documents and subsequently

filling out paperwork for court are convoluted and take considerable time.

After that happens, and the court makes the order, there is further time wasted as the order again needs to be served.

It is not just frontline police whose time is spent on these things, but also prosecutors, court staff and Magistrates. All of this time could be saved by introducing an offence. It would be a considerable saving, not just financially, but also in terms of resources.

There are additional issues with the current system. A protection order only has effect from when it is served (if the respondent is not present in court when it is made), and all protection orders expire. That means a respondent only commits a criminal offence for breaking the order once it is served, and assuming it is still in force.

I do not understand why it is simply not an offence to attack one's loved ones (or former loved ones).

An offence means people visiting Queensland from interstate or overseas would not need to be served with DFV paperwork (following an extensive DFV application investigation) if they commit DFV whilst guests in our State.

It means respondents who have been in custody for extended periods, and therefore are unable to breach their orders, would not have free reign when released because an order has expired.

Police are trained to investigate criminal offences. They are not process servers. They are not social workers. They should not be making civil applications.

Instead, a stand alone offence, which makes it a crime to commit DFV should be introduced. Such an offence would mean the time limits on orders would be removed. It would mean the extensive waste of time in making applications would be removed. It would mean victims are truly and always protected in Queensland.

You should not need a piece of paper to tell you not to beat or harm your loved ones; for the vast majority of us, that is simply common sense and decency.

National Cabinet in a meeting on May 1, 2024 agreed that system responses need to be strengthened, with a focus on high-risk perpetrators and serial offenders to prevent homicides.

All states and territories agreed to undertake a range of work that will report back to National Cabinet later this year.

- Police Ministers Council and the Standing Council of Attorneys-General will be tasked to develop options for improving police responses to high risk and serial perpetrators, including considering use of focused deterrence and fixated threat strategies.
- Agreement to improve information sharing about perpetrators across systems and jurisdictions, led by the Commonwealth Minister for Women.
- Agreement that States and Territories will explore opportunities to strengthen national consistency and drive best practice approaches across jurisdictions, including relating to risk assessment and responses to sexual assault, led by Victoria and South Australia.

It's a start to reform however I believe Prime Minister Albanese needs to know the facts from frontline police. Remove the bureaucrats and those with vested interests from the States who all believe their system is better.

By standardising the laws, systems and terminology and apply some common sense that assists police who are on the frontline every day, it could become one of the Prime Minister's greatest legacies.

At the moment police feel like they are being set up to fail. Recently I was talking with a Constable in Far North Queensland who had just spent hours working on a variation to a domestic violence order... the paperwork sat eight centremetres high.

The system needs to deliver easy to understand common language and understand police are not social workers, counsellors or responsible for providing emergency accommodation, food and clothing.

The Government agencies and NGO's that have very significant budgets need to do their part, and be available outside office hours.

We recently achieved agreement for a National Firearms database sharing information across jurisdictions in a format police can rapidly access, the same should be done with Domestic and Family Violence.

YOUTH JUSTICE ACT

I don't believe the recent rewriting of the Youth Justice Act to replace detention as a last resort will change anything but optics to make people feel good.

This type of change providing more sentencing freedom is actually a toothless tiger. It's clear to me the judiciary need to have legislation removing any wriggle room to avoid the true intent of the legislation.

The process would be better providing greater instruction to the judiciary on what sentencing outcomes should be. The community expects young criminals to be kept in custody so they can no longer reoffend and victims can be protected.

To treat this seriously we need to look at the root cause, prevention and rehabilitation so we can effect generational change.

That will require other government agencies and NGO's to step up and do their job but also work with communities, work with elders of different cultures to be part of the partnership to effect this change

otherwise it's going to be the same actual problem of young recidivist offending will not alter.

GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS

You will have noticed in recent weeks the State Government have confirmed a number of commitments to assist police.

I've campaigned heavily for the extra resources including police helicopters. As a result of my conversations with the Premier, we have delivered a police aerial platform to Townsville, Cairns and Wide Bay. The Townsville air asset is credited with an immediate decrease in crime and a surge in community confidence and safety.

I will always campaign for extra resources to do our job safer and more efficiently.

The introduction of the Taser 10 will provide better safety for police in volatile situations with enhanced capability, better accuracy, increased velocity allowing minimal disruption to the barbs from atmospheric conditions, laser sight, audio warning and the automatic activation of an officers body worn camera when the taser is removed from the holster is another beneficial aspect an officer doesn't need to worry about in a high stress interaction.

All of these announcements I've been working on behind the scenes to get change. These commitments don't just happen overnight, it comes as a result of strong advocacy from the QPU and working with the elected leaders to ensure we get the resources needed to do our job and bring about efficiencies and reforms.

The announcement of another 900 police numbers including frontline and support staff is a commitment that's fully financed not only the positions but also the equipment, training and superannuation.

NATIONAL FIREARMS REGISTRY

Following the murder of our colleagues Constable Matthew Arnold and Constable Rachel McCrow in 2022 the QPU immediately reviewed the firearms systems available to frontline police and found it was clunky, unworkable and of little help to frontline police.

I initiated conversations with the Queensland Premier, The Prime Minister and Leader of the National Party to deliver a true National Firearms Registry. The Federal Government agreed to the project in December 2023 and on April 27 this year confirmed $161 million dollars in funding to be delivered in the next budget.

For the first time ever a Firearms Registry will provide near real time information to frontline police on firearms, parts and weapons owners. The data will come from all police jurisdictions, government departments, the courts and the National Crime Intelligence System.

Unfortunatey it could take four years to deliver but that's because some states need their systems digitised and common categories, classifications and terminology standardised.

If you are a licenced firearms owner there's no need for concern. Nothing changes, just the data is shared more efficiently.

This will be an ongoing legacy honouring the lives of Matthew, Rachel and Alan Dare.

BRANCH OFFICIALS

In April eleven QPU members from across the State attended the QPU Offices in Brisbane for an intensive course as part of Branch Officials Training.

These colleagues have an interest in their workplace, contributing to make it a better and safer environment for their colleagues and I thank them for stepping up to the mark.

They will be utilised across the state and I will be calling upon them at different times to assist our members. And as much we join the police to make a difference and keep the community safe those QPU members who are putting their hand up to be involved with the Union are giving a further commitment.

Please don't hesitate to engage with them and seek their help when needed.



April 2024 Branch Officials Training participants and QPU staff.



SHANE PRIOR

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - HQ & SUPPORT REGION
QPU VICE PRESIDENT
0414 383 182
sprior@qpu.asn.au

THE ELECTION MAY NOT HAVE BEEN CALLED YET BUT ELECTIONEERING IS IN FULL SWING. WHILST THE POLITICIANS AND THEIR MINDERS WILL DO THEIR BEST TO CAPTURE THE ATTENTION OF QUEENSLAND POLICE, THE PRESSURES THAT ARE IMPACTING THE FRONTLINE CONTINUE.

The events in Bondi Junction have once again signalled the importance of policing in Australia and our role as the leading community safety agency in each of the States and Territories.

Police will always run towards danger to protect our community, it is the responsibility of others to be there to support our police once threats are contained and the danger has passed.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

The QPU has proudly advocated for Domestic and Family Violence reforms to support safety in our community and to support the work that police are doing on the frontline.

It seems to me however that more often than not complicated societal issues, usually results in police left holding all of the problems in the end. The sad reality is we are now seeing the manifestation of decades of neglect in frontline services play out in the community, and on each available occasion, politicians of all persuasions have contributed to the duck-shoving of these responsibilities to police.

At this point in time the Queensland Police Service (QPS) is building a detention facility custom built to manage the issue of detaining youth offenders.

This is an issue that belongs in part to Queensland Corrective Services (QCS), Youth Justice and the Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG). The willingness to cooperate from some of these agencies on our shared responsibilities is less than desirable, to say the least, yet continuously Government hands responsibility of fixing the problem to police.

I accept that police are dedicated professionals who have a legacy of successfully tackling difficult challenges.

The fact remains that the issues which are handed to police require a whole ecosystem including support agencies, frontline services, and non-government organisations (NGOs) to manage them.

The responsibility for managing the laws around youth justice, domestic and family violence are shared across a number of agencies and this practice must continue.

We cannot continue to accept the QPS being the lead agency for difficult social issues. The QPS should be focussed on servicing the needs of the frontline.

Police are passionate about de-escalating the violence and trauma in incidents of domestic and family violence. The important after hours call out work that must happen cannot continue to be the sole responsibility of police. Agencies like DJAG, Child Safety, Health and Housing must be involved in the work after police make a situation safe enough for social services to come in.

The DFV support sector has existing contracts and relationships with agencies other than police and the integration of responses to DFV must occur at the highest levels.

We need collaboration and organisational structures inside all our key community safety agencies to ensure that the services are available.

Police are being injured, our mental health is suffering and our capacity to continue on with the system as it is nearly full.

Government and those who aspire to achieve Government have to focus less on cheap sugar hits. This is not about moving legislation to different agencies to 'tackle' an issue better. What this is about is recognising that police can no longer be the 'fix it' solution at the end of long line of successive policy failures.

Homelessness, poverty and property crime are interrelated. Mental health issues and an inability to access support exacerbates disadvantage. Coupled with a lack of education, housing, healthcare and basic amenities the most in need can become offenders.

Once that offending occurs, a run in with police is inevitable. Police successfully divert a large number of offenders but police interventions cannot overcome years of failure and missed opportunities.

Police are tasked with a duty to protect the community, to protect property and ensure peace and good order. At this point in time, Police are taking responsibility for offenders who the system has failed. Police are not social workers, they are not psychologists, health care workers, youth workers or counsellors. They exist to intervene, make a situation safe and move onto the next crises.

There must be an intervention that occurs after police have left. The QPU believes that should be led by other agencies and deploy a different set of skilled professionals.

Police are tired of going to the same house on the street, dealing with the same scenario knowing that without an external reset nothing changes or a horrific escalation will occur.

The QPU will always demand solutions which address problems and creates a safer working environment for our members.

This is not about fancy gadgets, use of force options or tough laws. This is about support services and skilled professionals who can come in to fix the break downs in society and ensure that police do not spend their time policing people who should be receiving support elsewhere.

NATIONAL FIREARMS REGISTRY

The announcement of a National Firearms Registry is a relief to the more than sixty-six thousand police in Australia.

Our lives at work will be safer from this vital reform, our families will have another safeguard to ensure that we come home at the end of our shifts.

The work of QPU President Ian Leavers and the Queensland Police Union has to be recognised in getting this over the line. There is still a way to go to see the $165 million-dollar registry operational, but I welcome this announcement.

The task for the QPU and the Police Federation of Australia is to be at the heart of the implementation of this registry to ensure what we get is fit for purpose and improves the safety of all police.

WATCHHOUSE INSPECTIONS

I have to commend the work of our members across the state who work tirelessly in outdated facilities to provide a safer Queensland.

Our watchhouse facilities are overdue for an update in a number of communities across Queensland and the QPU is building the evidence to put to Government about the need for urgent improvements.

The reality remains that capacity in our watchhouses is unsustainable, most facilities are over capacity, housing prisoners that simply do not belong to the QPS, but in the care of Queensland Corrective Services.

The reliance by QCS on *section 6 of the Corrective Services Act 2006* which enables a prisoner to be detained in a watchhouse for up to 21 days before being conveniently taken into a Corrective Services facility must end.

Simply saying we have no room is no longer good enough for Queensland Corrective Services. It is not unusual that 70-90% of prisoners in watchhouses are on remand, and the inability for matters to progress in a timely manner through the courts is needlessly adding to the pressure in the system.

I accept the lack of QCS infrastructure is a challenging proposition for QCS, but the continued practice that the QPS will just pick up the slack is no longer good enough.

Prisoner transportation is another area of staggering concern. For decades it has become custom and practice that police are the main supplier of transportation for all prisoners throughout the state.

Tens of thousands of police hours are getting pulled from the frontline to conduct transportation of prisoners that should be the responsibility of Queensland Corrective Services.

Our police in regional Queensland are required to utilise police that should be first responders in a community away from that to drive hours to pick up prisoners for court appearances.

This practice is a complete waste of police time and the cost is borne by the QPS.

With our frontline so stretched, this practice needs to end now and Queensland Corrective Services must perform all required transportations of prisoners in their custody.

There has to be a better way to process people through to trial or to find a better way to manage the flow of prisoners across the whole system.

The health and safety of staff that work in these difficult environments are knowingly being compromised by a system of convenience for Queensland Corrective Services.

I reiterate my calls for QPS, QCS, and Youth Justice to work more closely together to address the issues in the system. The formation of an 'Centralised Admissions Team' made up of QPS, QCS, and Youth Justice to manage prisoners to ease this crisis is needed now.

If more funding is required to make the system function then the QPU will call for more. Bean counters in Brisbane should not be the final decision makers on matters that will result in a death in police custody.



ANDY WILLIAMS

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - SOUTH EAST REGION

0404 460 773
awilliams@qpu.asn.au

TIMES ARE TOUGH, I KNOW WITH RISING HOUSING COSTS AND INFLATION PUSHING THE COST OF EVERYTHING UP MOST OF YOU WILL BE KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON THE BUDGET.

I'm sure, like me, you will be making sure you are paying for the essentials. If you have a bit left over you might spend it on a night out, or put it away for a future holiday. To do the reverse would no doubt be fun, but you will end up without a house, car etc. Eventually becoming a financial wreck unable to function.

When it comes to staffing, the QPS must also stick to a budget.

The basics must be prioritised over the luxuries, regardless of how good having them would be. There is no point creating spots for DV units, Path to Treaty or anything else unless the frontline is fully staffed.

Currently, every one of these spots takes away from the ability of the frontline to do their job, every vacancy is absent shifts and more work to be given to those who remain, more unanswered jobs on the list, some for days.

Closing the loop is the newest buzzword, but to close it, you need to open the loop.

To close the loop, you need time to investigate, make inquiries. Time you're not getting because you're too busy responding to calls for service.

The staffing of the front line, be it General Duties, CIB, CPIU, Watch Houses and Communications must be the absolute priority of the new Commissioner. Personally, I would put a freeze on creating any new position until the frontline is totally staffed.

I would also ensure that the current burden of vacancies is shared equally around the Service, every section should suffer a small burden of having vacancies so that no one is carrying the whole burden.

The new Commissioner's first call to action 'Operation Whiskey Legion' was designed to help the frontline. Let's face it, any help is good help, but I wonder why this operation could not have been used to give some frontline GD Coppers a bit of a break (remember recommendation 38? I'll talk about that later).

What's worse is that the email then goes out asking for 'files that are ready to be actioned' (ie you've done all the work).

I have been doing this long enough to know that when we have an operation, we like a sugar hit of easy pinches to make it look like we are doing a great job, but I wonder why we couldn't find our top 10 offenders, identify what they are wanted for and use the experience and availability of the detectives to work up all the files they are named in, then go forth and pinch them.

Imagine the grub hitting the bin on the totality of their offending all at once. Perhaps they might be denied bail, it's not sexy, but if your top 10 offenders are in the bin, they can't continue to commit crime.

It also helps the frontline, because the stress of trying to take statements, follow up on CCTV etc is taken from them. Win/Win.

In November 2022 the DV Commission of Inquiry was publicly released. You may recall the then

Premier committing to implementing all the recommendations contained within.

This started a flurry of reform within the QPS, some good, some not so good, some simply ill-informed.

Recommendation 38 stated:

Within 12 months, the Queensland Police Service develop a scheme to allow frontline officers and those commonly exposed to traumatic subject matter to be able to choose to be periodically placed in less stressful environments for a period of time sufficient to allow them a proper break from the work they were doing. Such placement should not include a Domestic and Family Violence and Vulnerable Persons Unit.

Here we are in May 2024 and so far precious little has been done to implement this important reform.

Police on the frontline are going from DV to DV, by the end of the shift they struggle to remember which one was which. We really need to give them some relief, an opportunity to de-stress and work in an area that is less likely to respond to DV incidents.

We also need to maximise their time away from work. We implemented 'Critical Incident Leave' on the basis that Doctor Gilmartin stated it takes 3 days to reduce hypervigilance to what would be considered 'normal'.

It stands to reason that a 5 day work week, does not give members the opportunity to de-stress.

Every week when a front-line member has just 2 days off then returns to duty, they are not returning refreshed and with a normal level of hypervigilance. We should expand recommendation 38 to allow a 4 day work week for those most exposed to Domestic Violence, to ensure that they are given the time away from work to relax and recover.

This will go some way to ensure that those who attend the most complex of jobs, are as empathetic and alert as possible.

We also need to have a hard conversation on the need for members in other units to do secondments to General Duties to provide opportunities for respite from DV.

We simply don't have the numbers available to allow respite to occur any other way.

My suggestion would be to rule a line in the sand, and any position advertised after a particular date should come with the requirement to do two months a year in a General Duties station. Those already in the positions would be encouraged, but not required to assist.

This will create the opportunity for General Duties members to take a secondment elsewhere. Whilst there would be some specialist areas that it couldn't occur.

In the main, I think it is an achievable goal, and over time will create a large number of opportunities for members to take a break from the frontline and ensure a degree of operational readiness within the service.





COL MULLER

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - SOUTHERN REGION

0407 177 207
cmuller@qpu.asn.au

I THOUGHT I WOULD SHARE A COUPLE OF ISSUES THAT I FIND ARE OFTEN POORLY DEALT WITH BY THE QPS, SOMETIMES DUE TO DIFFICULTIES IN THE REMEDIES AND SOMETIMES DUE TO COST ISSUES BUT THESE SHOULD NEVER BE USED AS AN EXCUSE NOT TO CORRECT PROBLEMS.

Over the past twelve months we have seen extreme weather conditions around the state and this region. Storms, rain and flooding have been commonplace. I am aware that mould has become an issue at some of our stations and establishments.

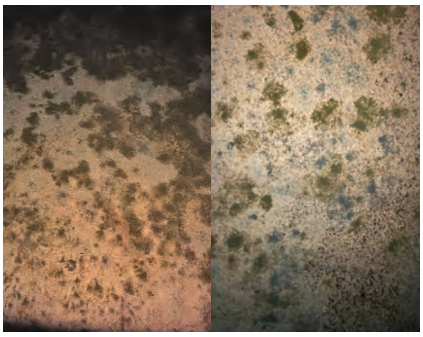
This can be a big problem, especially if not treated promptly and effectively.

Exposure to mould and mildew can lead to respiratory problems, such as coughing, wheezing and asthma symptoms. It can also lead to much more serious health issues from bacteria than can be amongst it.

Mould is a type of fungi, which produces tiny particles called spores which are carried in the air and help it to grow and spread.

The QPS must meet primary duty of care obligations by providing and maintaining a work environment without risks to health and safety and a safe system of work.

If you have genuine concerns talk to your officer in charge, union representative and make an entry on the hazard management system.



Mould found under desks in a meal room and day room.



Mould inside a desk draw.



Mould in the storage areas of a police station front counter.

ASBESTOS

The second issue I see frequently across the region relates to asbestos.

Asbestos was used in the building industry from the 1930's up until the late 1980's. Primarily in sheets, roofing and insulation but also in floor coverings and many other forms.

Asbestos can be deadly especially where it becomes exposed, breaks down into poor condition or when it's disturbed dislodging fibres that can be inhaled.

Unfortunately, many police houses and establishments were constructed in the asbestos era.

The QPS has training packages designed for awareness. It is a



Snr Sgt Kim Clist spoke about her experience with bowel cancer and recovery.

must view item for anyone in police housing or stations of this vintage.

The QPS have an obligation to meet primary duty of care obligations by providing and maintaining a work environment without risks to health and safety and a safe system of work.

If you have genuine concerns talk to your officer in charge, union representative and lodge an entry on the hazard management system.



Peeling paint on police stations revealed asbestos products and exposing the asbestos to weather.

BOWEL CANCER AWARENESS

Congratulation to Senior Sergeant Adam Cooper for the work and effort delivering this event to the District. The QPU was proud to help support this event.

I was shocked to learn the statistics around bowel cancer. Many people I have spoken to have been in some way been touched or have friends and family affected in some way by bowel cancer.

People aged over 50 and soon I am informed people over 45 will be supplied with Bowel Cancer kit bi-yearly. I strongly encourage you to make use of them.



The QPU with the help of law firm Gilshenan & Luton supplied 110 free bowel scan test kits at the function.



The statistics for bowel cancer in Queensland are concerning.



Snr Sgt Adam Cooper did a great job organising people to participate and hosting the event at Brothers Leagues Club in Ipswich.

I recently joined North Coast QPU representative Grant Wilcox for a series of inspections at Kingaroy, Murgon and Cherbourg recently. We met with staff at these locations and discussed some of the difficulties they are experiencing locally through their policing duties.

Police housing is extremely inadequate at both Murgon and



The event was an opportunity to openly discuss health issues amongst police and raise awareness that officers can be vulnerable.

Cherbourg, comparisons between the housing supplied by Health and Education should be an embarrassment to the QPS.

Staffing numbers are extremely low across the whole patrol group and many smaller stations are currently vacant and are being covered by larger stations.

The situation is below standard on every level.

The QPS and State Government need to get serious and start taking housing and staffing seriously.



Staff at Murgon revealed they are regularly being targeted by offenders in their vehicles and at police housing.



QPU North Coast Rep Grant Wilcox inspects the door of a police house at Murgon where offenders tried to break in.

Yes believe it, this is the standard of QPS housing in 2024….. this is a property that could qualify as dump of the month.

VEHICLE ATTACKS

Police at Murgon and surrounding stations are routinely being ambushed and attacked by offenders while they are on patrol.

It doesn't matter the size of the police vehicle, it's markings or how many officers are on board, objects are thrown at the drivers or some brazen criminals walk up with bricks, golf clubs or other improvised weapons and launch violent attacks.







Police housing at Murgon where windows are boarded up due to offenders constantly smashing the glass.

There's concern that one of our members could be seriously harmed or be temporarily disabled while driving and lose control.

The repair cost and time off the road for these first response vehicles is also becoming a serious issue. The QPU is urging senior managers to take immediate action to improve security around police housing and introduce strategies to protect our members and remove these offenders from the community.













DION READMAN

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE -
FAR NORTHERN REGION
0405 108 405
dreadman@qpu.asn.au

ONE OF THE PLEASING CHANGES THAT WE HAVE WITNESSED SINCE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW COMMISSIONER OF POLICE STEVE GOLLSCHEWSKI IS THE ENGAGEMENT FROM PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE MANAGERS (PPM'S) AND MANAGEMENT AROUND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY DOCUMENTS (PDSD'S) ON MEMBERS.

Despite it being in the Ethical Standards Command (ESC) guidelines that members and their union representatives be involved in the construction of any potential PDSD, this was rare prior to the CoP's appointment.

Although this process is publicised as a 'no fault' style document, the members when issued these without any consultation quite rightly feel aggrieved and in some cases the moral injury caused particularly to those 'closer to the finish than the start' can be career ending.

The concept has merit and when done properly with member engagement can be a good outcome for all.

But engagement is the key, so if members are receiving PDSD's without any prior contact from the PPM or a QPU official let me know.

There are some circumstances where it is not possible to contact the member prior, but these should be the anomaly and not the norm.

QBUILD

Anyone who has lived in police housing knows the challenges of dealing with QBUILD. However recent events have seen this taken to the next level.

Surely it is time that the QPS enters the business world and starts engaging other providers to repair, install and build to its needs.

Corporate competition would know doubt be good not only for the quality of work completed but also the limited budget the QPS has to spend on infrastructure.

The Far North has over 190 police residences and there are very few that don't require major upgrades to comply with the RTA principles which they are now subject to.

The QPU is currently undertaking a review of all police housing with the view of holding the landlord (QPS) and their preferred repairer (QBUILD) to account.

The potential standard of housing is definitely one of the deciding factors for officers when considering to work in remote locations.

So if you are residing in 'less than ideal premises' contact me and we will raise the issues not only through the QPS but the RTA if needed.

SPECIAL CONSTABLES

Like most people in the QPS, when this concept was first raised I thought who would want to come back after serving their time to work frontline again.

However it appears my view has been proven wrong from the Far North perspective when the returning members have assisted the frontline immensely since their implementation.

Their willingness to travel and work in remote locations with the experience they bring, greatly assists our fulltime members in these locations.

Initial reluctance by the QPS to provide the Special Constables with

the same travelling entitlements as all QPS members has been overcome with some strong advocacy from the QPU.

Although this program will no doubt be scaled back once the recruitment drive kicks in, these members are an excellent 'break glass' back up plan especially in our part of the state.

VALE SCOTT DUFF

"You only realise the importance of someone, when they are gone," is one of the more common phrases used after the passing of a loved one.

And no truer words were spoken on May 1 when the Far North policing family farewelled Scott.

Scott served his entire 28 year policing career in the Far North.

Duffman was loved and respected by all who had the pleasure of meeting, working and socialising with him.

The tragedy and learning for all us from his passing is that we all need to hear how important we are to others from those closest to us more often.

Rest easy my friend.





RICHARD JACKWAY

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - METRO NORTH REGION

0412 783 879

rjackway@qpu.asn.au

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FOR THE QPS AND GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNISE AND ADDRESS AN IMPENDING CRISIS? BRISBANE'S WATCH HOUSE HAS BEEN BURNING MILLIONS IN OVERTIME TO KEEP UP WITH A STAFFING AND CAPACITY CRISIS.

In fact, multiple watch houses throughout the State are in crisis.

This has resulted in burnout rates never seen before. It has also increased the risks of deaths in custody.

This crisis in the Brisbane Watch House took two decades to arrive, with several tactics being implemented at different points in time over many years to address capacity issues. So it's now hard to understand how 'no-one' saw it coming.

To address capacity, twenty years ago they started limiting acceptance of people deemed 'drunk in a public place', which was a way to remove volatile people from the streets to keep the public safe. Years later they started issuing Infringement Notices to move people out of the door quicker.

More years later they started asking the stations to bail their own offenders. Several years ago, they started posting the occasional capacity restriction, and diverting officers to other watch houses. Now capacity restriction posts are emailed out multiple times per day.

The staffing crisis' inflection point appears to have started with COVID. This means the watch houses have been operating under a staffing crisis situation for four years now.

The QPS has tried to address this with millions of dollars in overtime, but this was only every meant to be a temporary measure.

Constant overtime creates fatigue issues (reduced concentration & decision making ability in a volatile environment) and was recognised as unsustainable long term. Yet here we are now, long term into the crisis.

A major contributor is the lack of prison capacity. Corrective Services claim they have no room, and by legislation, offenders remain in police custody until Corrective Services accept them as a prisoner.

This means many prisoners are staying long term in watch houses with small cold hard cells, no entertainment, very little socialisation, and extremely limited exercise. This is psychological torture for many.

As a result, watch house prisoners (who should be corrective services prisoners) are acting out abusively and violently due to their mental health deterioration, resulting in more injuries to themselves, and injuries to officers having to work in this volatile environment.

Officers psychological health itself deteriorates due to constant and escalated verbal abuse, endured for the duration of their shifts for years on end.

Assistant Watch House Officers in particular are at further risk, they receive a great deal less training than police. Most police arrive in the watch house with years of experience talking people down, while Assistant Watch House Officers come in straight from a five week training course.

Then when it comes to Excessive Use of Force complaints, the Assistant Watch House Officers

face further disadvantage in such discipline interviews, not having the understanding gained from training in application of law, years of investigating, years of writing court briefs explaining their application of law, and the understanding of evidentiary standards, which are all considerations in how to truthfully and fully explain your decision making process.

These factors contribute to a perception of different treatment by management of police officers versus Watch House Officers, which reduces Assistant Watch House Officers trust in the system and their colleagues, resulting in further risk to their psychological health.

Watch House Officers (and in particular, Assistant Watch House Officers) are asking to leave or be seconded in droves to get away from this, or at least have a break from it, for the sake of their mental health, only to be told 'we can't afford for you to leave'.

The QPS has an obligation to Workplace Health & Safety (WHS). They know of the issue. They are failing in their duty to their employees. Granted they have legal obligations to their prisoners that require certain numbers of staff.

To be fair COVID accelerated and exacerbated the crisis. But no-one can really argue they didn't see it coming, the strategies the watch house has used to cope with capacity restrictions started 20 years ago.



NOTICE TO MEMBERS

THE QUEENSLAND POLICE BRANCH OF THE POLICE FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA *(BRANCH)* HAS HELD, AND WILL BE HOLDING, AN ELECTION FOR OFFICES THAT CORRESPOND WITH OFFICES OF THE QUEENSLAND POLICE UNION OF EMPLOYEES *(QPU)*.

The Branch is the federal counterpart body of the QPU.

To avoid holding two elections for a corresponding office, the QPU will make an application for exemption from holding an election under section 802 of the Industrial Relations Act 2016 (Qld).

The QPU is making this application so that the member who filled, or fills, an office in the Branch will fill the corresponding office in the QPU.

The members of the QPU will not be detrimentally affected as members have already voted, or been given the opportunity to vote, in the election held for the federal counterpart body of the QPU.

This notice will apply to any vacant offices in the QPU until the expiry of the term which commences in 2024, where the office in which the vacancy occurs (in the QPU) corresponds with an office in the Branch, and where the Branch has held an election for its vacant office.

If you have any questions please contact the QPU.

Ian Leavers
GENERAL PRESIDENT
QUEENSLAND POLICE UNION OF EMPLOYEES



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Brisbane 4000

gnechlawyers.com

07 3558 1040

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Queensland Police Union of Employees, PO Box 13008, George Street, Brisbane, Queensland 4003
Phone (07) 3259 1900 Fax (07) 3259 1950 Email police@qpu.asn.au

ALLOWANCE INCREASE

THE QPU HAS SUCCEEDED TO CORRECT AN ANOMALY IN LATE NOSA CLEARING THE WAY FOR MEMBERS NOT IN RECEIPT OF OSA TO ALSO RECEIVE THE 20% PENALTY.

The QPU became aware not every member covered by our Certified Agreement that worked a late night shift between 0200hrs and 0600hrs was eligible for the same penalty. QPU President Ian Leavers took the issue to the Acting Police Commissioner who agreed with the Union that the intention was for all police to receive the 20% penalty irrespective of their OSA.

Mr Leavers said, “Late NOSA was to give a benefit to those police working the early morning hours but it became evident that the Service would only approve the 20% to designated shift workers.

“The reality is many police who do regular shift work are not officially classified as shift workers, so we challenged the Service on their stance and Commissioner Gollschewski who was the Acting CoP at the time agreed that it was unfair for police doing the same shift to be paid different rates.”

Late NOSA was a benefit established by the QPU in the 2022 Enterprise Bargaining Agreement with the QPS.

Mr Leavers said, “The QPU insisted on a level playing field for our members regardless of who works a night shift within the designated hours gets a flat rate 20% allowance. This money is to assist every QPU member who works the same shift.”

The Service has advised the 20% allowance will be backdated to March 22, 2024 and will be automatically adjusted to Officer’s accounts in the next pay runs. QPU Members do not need to make a special application for the additional 5% penalty on top of the 15% already paid however our industrial team has advised members to check their pay records against their own shift records.

The next pay rise negotiated during EB 10 will be a 3% increase on a QPU member's base salary from July 1, 2024.



(Photo courtesy of QPS)

GOLLY, HE GOT THE JOB

SOME OF HIS OLDEST MATES IN THE POLICE SERVICE ARE ALREADY CALLING HIM '21' WITH STEVE GOLLSCHEWSKI'S ASCENSION TO OFFICIALLY BECOME QUEENSLAND POLICE COMMISSIONER ON APRIL 21, 2024.



*Steve Gollschewski was appointed as the 21st Queensland Police Commissioner by Premier Steven Miles.***Photo courtesy of the Courier Mail.

The State's most experienced Senior Police Officer was cleared for the role after a full merit procedure and approval from a selection panel including the Crime and Corruption Commission Chair, Integrity Commissioner and the Tasmanian Police Commissioner.

In March, during his role as Acting Police Commissioner, Mr Gollschewski confirmed to the QPU Journal he was going to 'give it a crack' and apply for the job as full time Police Commissioner and not be a seat warmer for another candidate.

Acting Commissioner Gollschewski initiated Operation Whiskey Legion effectively directing police normally based in the Brisbane Headquarters to work in the Regions for two weeks at a time to support police frontline operations and arrest significant and repeat offenders to enhance community safety.

QPU President Ian Leavers said, "We support the concept of Whiskey Legion reinforcing first response policing and bolstering the frontline, with the success of locking up serious offenders and changes to DFV legislation our colleagues can have space to return to high visibility policing and with that comes a change in community sentiment of feeling more safe and secure. Steve Gollschewski gets things done, he's firm in his decision making process but he leaves you in no doubt on the action he wants and the direction he expects."

Mr Gollschewski said he was honoured to be offered the role and he does not intend wasting anytime on workshopping reform. Mr Gollschewski said, "This is my 45th

year with the QPS. I was expecting the gig to be pretty full on, our demand is going through the roof, DFV is really become an issue. I'm advocating pretty hard to get some changes in that space to ease things up. You are talking 190,000 DFV occurrences by the end of the year if we keep the current tracking and that's enormous.

"We've turned a bit of a corner with the success we've had with Operation Whiskey Legion for frontline police. I think there could be more to be done to support the troops on the frontline, the Government has since announced extra police, new resources, new facilities. But it must not stop there, I will continue to advocate for our police need.

"Everyone understands that community safety and crime is an issue and we as police are at the forefront of that, I get the feeling the community expect more and they expect police to be supported. So far the Government is listening and I will keep bringing them ideas.

"Legislative changes around ramming police makes a difference for our people as well. Previously the offence was the same as if you had rammed any other vehicle on the road network but now there's really significant consequences (14 years maximum jail) for targeting our police while they are doing their work.

"I hear from first response police they don't get enough time to do more proactive patrolling and actions. I'm confident with DFV reform we will create space to enable discretionary patrols and enforcement. High visibility policing like walk arounds in retail precincts, mobile police beats and RBT along with closing the loop for victims and providing feedback on investigations will make people feel safer."

The new Commissioner is also acutely aware of the widespread dissatisfaction with the Police Discipline system and the anxiety it has created amongst all non commissioned police.

"Since I started, we've set up the Integrity Discipline Board and there's been significant dialogue with the QPU. I understand the frustration police feel when matters take too long to be resolved. I can see there's people that need to be held to account but I'm also concerned some people are getting dragged into the discipline system that shouldn't even be there.

"The system needs to be robust enough to deal with things and move on. I don't believe many police had confidence in the system. It's not quick enough and fair enough and it's one thing I'm going to concentrate on and I want further detailed discussions with the QPU on that.

"In terms of pressing for Commissioner's Confidence Powers (allowing dismissal if the Commissioner felt the office no longer had confidence in an officer to perform to the QPS ideals or oath) I would like the ability to deal with things quickly and fairly but unless everybody feels they are being treated fairly, you've got a problem with the system."

Confirmation Mr Gollschewski had been offered the job as Commissioner brought out a rarely seen emotional side of the veteran officer, who comes from an established police family. He thought of his dad who was an operational police officer all his life retiring as a Senior Constable and his brother who was also a Senior Sergeant. "I hope they are proud I have achieved this rank and will do something meaningful while I'm here."

MR GOLLSCHEWSKI PARTED WITH, "TELL THE FRONTLINE POLICE THEY SHOULD BE PROUD OF WHAT THEY DO EVERYDAY. IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE IF THERE WAS NO POLICE OUT THERE DOING WHAT THEY DO.

There was no broad philosophical statements from the Commissioner or rehearsed pre prepared lines from a spin doctor during his discussion about his appointment, just a sharp operational focus. Mr Gollschewski parted with, "Tell the frontline police they should be proud of what they do everyday. Imagine what it would be like if there was no police out there doing what they do.

"There's things we need to fix and I'm working on it but police should be very proud of what they do. Every time they are on shift I want them to be the best they can be, professional at all times and do their job as best as they can and if goes wrong I've got their back we will look after them. People who want to ignore the rules beware there's consequences for that as well."



Courtesy of the Courier Mail.

POLICE BONANZA

DURING APRIL AND MAY THE STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO SOME SIGNIFICANT ANNOUNCEMENTS TO SUPPORT POLICE OPERATIONS AND ENHANCE LEGISLATION.

The commitments provide for new helicopter platforms outside the South East corner, building expansion, additional frontline police and support staff, increased penalties for offenders evading police resulting in death or injury crashes and a fourteen year maximum penalty for offenders who ram police and emergency service vehicles.

Many of the reforms are the result of advocacy from the QPU. The evidence based approach delivered by QPU President Ian Leavers proved to be compelling when presented to the Premier, Police Minister and Treasurer.

Admittedly there is a State election due in October 2024 however the QPU has been engaged for months working on enhancing resources, regulation and working conditions for members across Queensland.

Some of the recent media releases detailing the commitments have been included here for members to review.

MILES GOVERNMENT BACKS POLAIR EXPANSION TO SUNSHINE COAST AND WIDE BAY

Published Friday, 26 April, 2024 at 12:45 PM

JOINT STATEMENT

PREMIER
THE HONOURABLE STEVEN MILES

DEPUTY PREMIER, TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT
THE HONOURABLE CAMERON DICK

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
THE HONOURABLE MARK RYAN

- **Miles Government set to fund a police helicopter for the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay region in Community Safety plan**
- **Investment in this aircraft to enhance police operational capability, stopping criminals in their tracks**
- **New Polair helicopter operations will cover Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay areas**

The Miles Government will provide the Queensland Police Service with funding to establish a Polair helicopter capability for the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay.

The decision follows advice from Queensland Police and strong advocacy from Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay MPs on behalf of their local communities.

Polair operational capabilities have proved extraordinarily successful in South-East Queensland and in Townsville.

The Polair aircraft will be able to assist police officers conducting operations across the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay areas.

The Queensland Police Service will now embark on a procurement process to secure an appropriate aircraft and operator.

Timing for the aerial resource will be announced following its procurement.

GOVERNMENT'S COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN TO MAKE RAMMING AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE AN OFFENCE

Published Friday, 26 April, 2024 at 08:15 AM

JOINT STATEMENT

PREMIER
THE HONOURABLE STEVEN MILES

MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN
THE HONOURABLE SHANNON FENTIMAN

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
THE HONOURABLE MARK RYAN

- **New law making 'ramming' of emergency vehicles its own offence to be put before parliament.**
- **Proposed legislation will make it a criminal offence for a vehicle to be used to cause damage to any emergency vehicle.**
- **Penalty of up to 14 years imprisonment**

The Miles Government is driving tough action on reckless and dangerous driving – making the ramming of an emergency vehicle a stand alone offence – as part of its community safety plan.

A new law will be introduced to parliament next week, making the ramming of emergency services vehicles its own criminal offence, with a penalty of up to 14 years imprisonment.

In addition, a person who causes wilful damage to an emergency vehicle will now face up to 7 years imprisonment.

Every day emergency services staff face highly volatile situations across the state while performing their duties to protect the community.

The proposed legislation would see any person who uses a motor vehicle to cause damage to police or ambulance vehicles or fire appliances face an additional charge for that action on top of other relevant associated offences such as dangerous operation of a motor vehicle.

Over recent months there have been a significant number of ramming incidents targeting police vehicles.

Of those incidents, two resulted in a police officer being admitted to hospital and eight required medical or first aid treatment for injuries sustained from the crash.

This legislation aims to protect frontline emergency workers, while ensuring those recklessly putting lives at risk by ramming emergency vehicles, face the appropriate penalty before court.

The proposed new law draws on similar offences introduced in other states.

Quotes attributable to Queensland Police Union President Ian Leavers:

"This new legislation is something the QPU has advocated for to protect police and other first responders. While it won't directly form a barrier to shield police, paramedics and firefighters it will hold those to account who threaten the lives of those who are working to assist the community.

"The Premier and Police Minister have listened to frontline police and have done something positive to make this type of dangerous and reckless behaviour a special offence. Using a vehicle as a weapon is disgraceful and the potential for life changing injuries is extreme.

"I encourage all sides of politics to support this legislation in a bipartisan way and enact this law as soon as possible."

SAFETY PLAN DELIVERS MORE POLICE FOR QUEENSLAND

Published Wednesday, 24 April, 2024 at 06:00 AM

JOINT STATEMENT

PREMIER
THE HONOURABLE STEVEN MILES

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
THE HONOURABLE MARK RYAN

- **Miles Government's Community Safety Plan delivers big boost to frontline policing.**
- **Government to uplift the Queensland Police Service by 900 police personnel**
- **This means the government's record investment is delivering more than 3,000 extra police personnel across Queensland**

Premier Steven Miles and Police Minister Mark Ryan have today announced more cops for Queensland's frontline.

The boost will uplift the Queensland Police Service by 900 personnel, including 500 extra sworn officers and 400 unsworn.

This investment is in addition to the biggest investment in policing in more than 30 years that is delivering and now more than 3,000 extra police personnel.

Despite a globally tight labour market, Queensland is leading the nation when it comes to police recruitment.

Nearly 700 recruits are currently undergoing training and over 2,000 applicants are in the recruit pipeline. That's a record for Queensland's Police Academies.

The comprehensive incentive package, combined with an aggressive recruiting campaign has seen the recruit pipeline improve by 200 percent in the last year.

The Queensland Police Service also advises that the number of police officers, combined with recruits undergoing training, is now the highest it has ever been in Queensland's history.

In 2024 alone, more than 217 officers have joined the Queensland Police Force, graduating from the Police Academies in Brisbane and Townsville.

Queensland Police Service advise the 900 additional officers and support staff will aid their dedicated efforts to keep the community safe and provide even more boots on the ground to support extreme-high visibility police operations that are disrupting and preventing crime across the state.

DANGEROUS DRIVERS SET TO COP UP TO 20 YEARS UNDER GOVERNMENT'S COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN

Published Sunday, 28 April, 2024 at 10:31 AM

JOINT STATEMENT

PREMIER
THE HONOURABLE STEVEN MILES

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
THE HONOURABLE MARK RYAN

- **Miles Government set to toughen laws as part of community safety plan**
- **Someone who drives dangerously, evades police and causes death or grievous bodily harm to face up to a 20 year jail sentence**
- **Someone who drives dangerously and leaves a crash scene after causing death or grievous bodily harm to be liable for a 20 jail sentence**
- **Maximum penalty for dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing death or grievous bodily harm to increase from 10 to 14 years**

Under tough new laws to be introduced by the government, people who drive dangerously, evade police, and then become involved in a crash that causes death or grievous bodily harm will face up to 20 years in prison.

This is a new penalty that targets those who show reckless disregard for the directions of police and the welfare of other people in the community.

This new circumstance of aggravation, and the new 20 year penalty are part of a package of reforms targeting people who drive dangerously.

The maximum penalty for someone who drives dangerously and leaves a crash scene after causing death or grievous bodily harm will be increased from 14 years to 20 years.

In addition, the maximum penalty for dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing death or grievous bodily harm will increase from 10 to 14 years.

This new circumstance of aggravation will also apply to youth offenders who drive dangerously, evade police and cause death or grievous bodily harm.

These tough new measures come as the government prepares to release a comprehensive community safety plan, to ensure Queenslanders are safe and feel safe.

Queenslanders from Coolangatta to the Cape have touched by tragedy at the hands of dangerous drivers, and too many innocent people have lost their lives because of the reckless actions of another.

The Miles Government's commitment to keeping Queenslanders safe is unwavering, and this package of reforms is further evidence of that commitment.

Quotes attributable to Queensland Police Union President Ian Leavers:

"Evading police can result in horrific consequences and first responders are left to deal with the trauma of this negligent behaviour.

"I would prefer that no-one is ever charged with these offences because it means the driver has taken responsible action when intercepted by police however if these offences are proven the judiciary need to deliver the maximum sentence each and every time.

"It will be too late to stop the injuries they've created or bring back the lives taken but it's some justice for the victims and their families."

NEW POLICE CHOPPER TO BE 'EYES IN THE SKY' FOR CAIRNS

Published Wednesday, 24 April, 2024 at 11:21 AM

JOINT STATEMENT

PREMIER
THE HONOURABLE STEVEN MILES

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
THE HONOURABLE MARK RYAN

- **Following strong advocacy from Cairns MPs on behalf of their communities, the Miles Government will fund a police helicopter for Cairns and the Far North in the Community Safety Plan**
- **Police advise Polair aircraft will enhance police operational capability in Cairns**
- **New Polair helicopter operations will cover Cairns and the Far North**

The Miles Government will provide the Queensland Police Service with funding to establish a Polair helicopter capability for Cairns and the Far North.

The decision follows advice from Queensland Police and strong advocacy from Cairns MPs on behalf of their local communities.

Polair operational capabilities have proved extraordinarily successful in South-East Queensland and in Townsville.

Police advise that Polair capability can significantly enhance police operations in regional areas.

Polair helicopters deliver advanced camera, thermal imaging and night vision capability.

Polair aircraft are deployed on a daily basis to assist police operations including tracking offenders, surveillance operations and search and rescue missions.

This new Polair capability will be able to assist police officers conducting operations across Cairns and the Far North.

The Queensland Police Service will now embark on a process to establish an interim capability ahead of a full procurement process to secure an appropriate aircraft and operator for a permanent and dedicated capability for the region.

Timeframes for its commencement will be announced following market sounding for an interim solution.

NEW TOWNSVILLE POLICE ACADEMY TO PROCEED AS FUNDING LOCKED IN FOR STAGE 2 OF MAJOR COMMUNITY SAFETY PRECINCT

Published Wednesday, 24 April, 2024 at 01:50 PM

JOINT STATEMENT

PREMIER
THE HONOURABLE STEVEN MILES

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
THE HONOURABLE MARK RYAN

- **$100 million funding locked in for new Townsville Police Academy**
- **New Academy to be co-located with new Kirwan police station, a new Townsville PoliceLink, as well as a number of specialist QPS functions**
- **The Townsville Police Academy is one of three Queensland campuses complementing the Brisbane campuses in Oxley and Wacol**



ARTIST IMPRESSION

Construction of a new Townsville Police Academy is locked in with funding of $100 million now allocated.

The new academy will be constructed at the new community safety precinct currently underway at the site of the old 1300 Smiles Rugby League stadium.

The new academy will be co-located with the new Kirwan police station, a new Townsville PoliceLink, as well as a number of specialist QPS functions.

The Townsville Police Academy is one of three campuses across Queensland, complementing the Brisbane campuses at Oxley and Wacol.

The primary purpose of each campus is to provide the infrastructure required for the provision of education and training to recruits and the continuous improvement of skills for all members of the QPS.

The current Townsville Police Academy is located in Belgian Gardens.

While it has produced many fine Queensland police officers, it's clear that bigger and better recruit training infrastructure is needed for the future.

The new Academy will deliver infrastructure that includes purpose-built and flexible training facilities that provide for specialist scenario-based training for police to better protect vulnerable victims.

It's anticipated that the construction program will be progressed over a four year period.

PROPOSED JACK'S LAW EXPANSION SUPPORTED BY MORE WANDS FOR THE FRONTLINE

Published Wednesday May 1, 2024.

JOINT STATEMENT

PREMIER
THE HONOURABLE STEVEN MILES

DEPUTY PREMIER, TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT
THE HONOURABLE CAMERON DICK

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
THE HONOURABLE MARK RYAN

- **Miles Labor Government introduces bill to expand Jack's Law to more places, including shopping centres.**
- **To support the expansion, more metal detecting devices will be rolled out to the frontline under the *Community Safety Plan for Queensland*.**
- **Investment of $900,000 to deliver an additional 3,000 wands, bringing the total number of wands in operation to over 4,500.**

Queensland Police Minister Mark Ryan has today introduced a bill to the parliament, proposing the expansion of Jack's Law to more places in Queensland.

Jack's Law enables metal detecting wands to be used to detect knives being carried in public spaces and gives police the powers to issue penalties for unlawfully possessing a knife in a public space.

The proposed expansion will see Jack's Law used in additional locations like shopping centres, licenced premises, sporting and entertainment venues and high-risk retail outlets.

This builds on its used in safe night precincts and public transport hubs.

The proposal also extends the trial period until October 2026.

To enable this expansion, the Miles Government is investing $900,000 to ensure frontline police and police stations have access to enough metal detecting wanding devices.

An additional 3,000 wanding devices will be provided, bringing the total number to over 4,500 statewide.

'Jacks Law' was initially passed by Queensland Parliament in March of 2023 and commenced in April 2023.

This legislation was in response to the tragic death of Jack Beasley on the Gold Coast in 2019.

Since its introduction, over 540 weapons have been seized as a result of Jack's Law.

Quotes attributable to Queensland Police Union President Ian Leavers:

"As a result of recent events I discussed the prospect with the Premier of expanding the wanding trial to shopping centres, entertainment precincts, sporting venues and retail areas to enhance officer and community safety.

"I thank the Premier for listening to police and broadening the trial.

"Frontline police developed the rollout and training for the detection wand in a very short time frame and its use has removed potentially lethal weapons from the community.

"The use of the wand by frontline police has been so effective there has not been a single complaint made when officers have intercepted somebody to undergo a scan.

"Queensland has again led the rest of the country in the use of the detection wand and it's encouraging that other states are now considering adopting our legislation and procedures."

COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN DELIVERS WORLD FIRST FOR QUEENSLAND POLICE

Published Wednesday May 1, 2024.

JOINT STATEMENT

PREMIER
THE HONOURABLE STEVEN MILES

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
THE HONOURABLE MARK RYAN

- **Queensland Police to adopt new Taser 10 technology, as part of the Community Safety Plan for Queensland**
- **Taser 10 more than doubles the functional distance of existing technology**
- **Police say Taser 10 will save lives, reduce trauma for attending police and reduce trauma for involved persons families**

The Miles Government is funding the rollout of world leading taser technology to front line officers in the Queensland Police Service.

It will mean Queensland will become the largest police jurisdiction in the world to be equipped with this technology.

The Miles Government is providing the QPS with funding of $8.5 million over three years to purchase 1,000 Taser 10 devices.

This commitment also ensures that all tasers retired from service moving forward will be replaced with the Taser 10 technology.

The Taser 10 deliver a significant increase (more than double the existing capability) in its functional distance out to a range of 13.5 metres.

The Taser is also far more accurate than existing technologies used by Queensland Police and also does not need to be reloaded to fire multiple shots.

This greatly reduces the need for police to escalate to a lethal use of force option.

In instances where persons of interest are outside the limited range of the current taser fleet, Police will typically and necessarily present firearms to de-escalate or resolve the incident.

The Taser 10 extends the use of taser out to a far greater range, which will lessen the need for presentation, and critically use, of lethal force in a wide number of incident types.

Police advise the Taser 10 will save lives, reduce trauma for attending police and reduce trauma for involved persons families.

Quotes attributable to Queensland Police Union President Ian Leavers:

"The QPU will always advocate for technology and equipment upgrades for police and the addition of the Taser 10 is a tool that will significantly enhance use of force options for frontline police and provide greater stand-off distance between police and an offender.

"I have used the Taser 10 in trials and found the laser sight allows for better accuracy plus the option to fire up to 10 darts if the target is missed or does not connect.

"The inbuilt warning strobe light and audio alert leave no doubt that the Taser 10 is ready to be deployed resulting in greater compliance from offenders.

"The smart holster also automatically activates an officer's body worn camera when the Taser 10 is drawn, this enhances officer accountability and will provide significant evidence if required of an offenders behaviour.

"Queensland is the first State in Australia to utilise the Taser 10 and the QPU eagerly awaits every frontline police officer being issued with the upgraded Taser 10 following the initial roll out."

MILES GOVERNMENT LEADS NATION WITH NEW REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS

Published Monday, 06 May, 2024 at 09:00 AM

JOINT STATEMENT

PREMIER
THE HONOURABLE STEVEN MILES

MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR RACING
THE HONOURABLE GRACE GRACE

MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN
THE HONOURABLE SHANNON FENTIMAN

- **Miles Government marks Labour Day with new workplace entitlements**
- **Queensland public sector workers will get 10 days of reproductive health leave and have superannuation contributions paid on all parental leave – paid and unpaid**
- **Around 265,000 Queensland workers set to benefit**
- **Government calling on private sector to follow their lead**

The Miles Government has marked Labour Day by announcing new workplace entitlements for Queensland public sector workers, including a nation leading 10 days of reproductive health leave.

The leave can be used for things like fertility and IVF treatment; chronic reproductive health conditions like endometriosis; preventative screening for things like breast and prostate cancers; and other treatments associated with reproductive health like hysterectomies and vasectomies. It will be in place no later than the end of September this year.

The Government will also begin to pay superannuation to those on unpaid parental leave to ensure new parents – and especially women – are not left with gaps in their retirement savings. Currently, superannuation is only paid during periods of paid parental leave.

The 2023 Queensland Gender Equality Report Card shows that the average superannuation balance gap between men and women was 19.8% (2020-21 data) and only 13.9 per cent of Queensland women can rely on their superannuation as their main source of retirement income.

From July this year, superannuation will be paid for every single week of the entire 52-week period of parental leave for Queensland public sector employees, whether the leave is paid or not.



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Acting Sergeant Matt Minz.

MAKE MINZ A LOCAL HERO

Royal Flying Doctor Service
QUEENSLAND SECTION

DALBY ACTING SERGEANT MATT MINZ IS A FINALIST IN THE ANNUAL ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR LOCAL HERO AWARDS FOR 2024 AND YOUR SUPPORT COULD HELP RECOGNISE HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE WESTERN DOWNS COMMUNITY.

Each year, the RFDS Local Hero Awards thank fundraisers, healthcare workers or community volunteers who go above and beyond to make a difference to their community.

The RFDS Queensland Hero is awarded a $20,000 grant, courtesy of Ergon Energy Retail, to help fund a vital health or wellbeing program in their community.

The voting is online, by logging onto *rfdslocalhero.com.au* so no matter where you are in Queensland you can log on and help Acting Sergeant Matt Minz. (You are able to vote every 24hrs, so make sure you ask people to check back in and vote every day!)

Voting closes on Thursday June 6, 2024 and the winners will be announced at a function in Cairns on Saturday June 8, 2024.

The QPU Journal has included the official nomination details from the RFDS on why Matt was considered a finalist for the award.

NOMINATION

In the Western Downs Region of Queensland, one man is making a big difference. Queensland Police Service (QPS) Acting Sergeant Matt Minz has been named the 2024 RFDS Local Hero for the Roma Region for his dedication to ensuring the safety of his community.

Whether it is serving on the frontline, presenting to a local school, or checking in with vulnerable community members Matt is the 'big friendly giant' who's always there to save the day.

While reflecting on his tenure as a police officer in Tara, Matt expressed his passion for assisting those in need and positively impacting lives. "Being a police officer is the best job I've ever had as I love being able to help people who need it and make a difference in people's lives," Matt said.

"While there are around 500 people in Tara, we have about 5,000 people in between here and Chinchilla. You meet people in town and the same families that have been here for generations from the butchers to bakers to the pub owners, it is a very tight-knit community."

Matt's extensive community involvement is well-known and highly regarded by all in Tara.



RFDS LOCAL HERO Awards
Proudly Presented by Ergon Energy Retail
Royal Flying Doctor Service
QUEENSLAND SECTION
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One example of this was when he provided assistance and support to the community and the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) dental team after a significant act of violence in Tara in December 2022.

Not long after the incident, the RDFS dental team visited the community to provide free oral health care services from the mobile dental unit. During this time, Matt regularly checked in with the team, ensuring they could continue to safely provide the service to the community.

"The incident came as a shock as it is not at all what Tara is about," Matt said. "I was glad that I could assist the RFDS team while they were here so that they could continue to provide their services to the community."

RFDS Senior Dentist George said Matt had helped the team many times when the mobile dental unit had been on rotation in the region. "Matt is always friendly and easy to approach when we need a hand," George said. "He assisted the team when the town experienced flooding and gave them regular updates to ensure they could travel safely in and out of town."

Over the years Matt's community-minded focus has grown stronger by participating in the local Adopt-a-Cop program at the local schools.

Matt regularly visits the school to speak to students about various topics including drug and alcohol abuse, bullying, harassment, and safe practices with social media.

"I'm passionate about the kids in this community, the education of those kids and providing them with opportunities," Matt said.

"I'd love to see more programs available at the local schools to provide meals, clean clothes, and school supplies to help those kids obtain the best they can in life."

Matt was surprised to be called a 'hero' but was grateful to be recognised for his community efforts. "To get that level of recognition for some of the things I have done to help the community provides an immense feeling of pride," he said.

GRADUATION DAY WATCH HOUSE OFFICERS

BY DARREN CURTIS

THE WATCH HOUSE OFFICER TRAINING PROGRAM CONTINUES TO EXPAND WITH FOURTEEN APPLICANTS GRADUATING AT THE OXLEY POLICE ACADEMY ON MARCH 27, 2024.

The five week course covered the legislative requirements for staff, training in their roles, responsibilities and the custody process. Operational Support Skills including use of force, tactics and record keeping responsibilities are incorporated with an emphasis on adult self learning.

Training Officer Rod Green said "the course is constantly evolving based on advice and feedback from experienced police who have worked extensively in watch houses and have a good model in mind for the skill sets required. Our new graduates certainly should know what to expect when they start work at their stations. It's very pleasing to be able to place Watch house Officers in stations where there hasn't been a designated WO before."

This cohort of Watch house Officers were assigned to facilities in Caloundra, Brisbane, Ipswich and the Gold Coast. New courses are currently underway with applicants headed to Mt Isa, beyond Cairns and Townsville.

All course elements are conducted at the Oxley Academy with the QPS offering free accommodation, meals and a training salary. Rod Green said "the Academy accommodation is full at the moment so applicants from outside a certain radius are offered lodging at motels, and meals for the five week course."

Watch house Officers have the same legislative powers as sworn police however they primarily assist in the processing of prisoners, maintaining security of the watch house and provide care to those in custody.

QPU Vice President Shane Prior said "having dedicated watch house officers is helping get sworn police back onto the frontline and that's a good outcome. Having spoken



The Watch house Officer graduates during their ceremony at the Oxley Academy.



Training Officer Rod Green guided the applicants through the five week intensive course at the Oxley Academy.

with many of the recruits during their training I can see there's a real desire for them to contribute in a meaningful way.

"The blend across the course is a mix of people returning to the workforce after a break, some who are using the job for an income while they continue further tertiary study, others changing career after service in other frontline organisations all with skillsets that will prove useful.

"The QPU provides strong advocacy for Watch house Officers no matter where they are in the state and they can be reassured we use the best legal firms in the country if required for our members."







During the graduation ceremony Inspector Lynne Asher thanked the recruits for taking on the role and told the group to expect to face challenges in the job "we select our people very carefully for the role of looking after people in custody.

"If you have never worked in a custodial environment before it is an unfortunate place for some people and they see the uniform as a symbol of what put them behind bars."

Applications, requirements and locations for the Watch house Officer Program can be found at smartjobs.qld.gov.au



ALL COURSE ELEMENTS ARE CONDUCTED AT THE OXLEY ACADEMY WITH THE QPS OFFERING FREE ACCOMMODATION, MEALS AND A TRAINING SALARY.




David Gorton


Harley Dewar


Sarah Newlyn




Certificate of Appointment


Leona Kish
Watchhouse Officer


















Penny McholsonQueensland Police Service
Certificate of Appointment


Paul Langley
Queensland Police Service
Certificate of Appointment


Maddison Bignell
Queensland Police Service
Certificate of Appointment
Watchhouse Officer






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THE MARK OF A MINISTER

MARK RYAN IS NOW THE LONGEST SERVING POLICE MINISTER IN QUEENSLAND'S HISTORY, HE'S HELD THE POLICE PORTFOLIO SINCE 2016 AND IN DECEMBER 2023 WAS CONFIRMED AS MINISTER FOR POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IN THE NEW MILES GOVERNMENT.

The 41 year old will often greet people at official events as 'Mark from Morayfield', he's a proud local member who was first elected in 2009. He lost the seat to the Liberal National Party candidate in 2012 but regained the seat in 2015. In the last election in 2020 Mark Ryan claimed victory with a 7% swing.

The seat of Morayfield is on the outer suburban fringes of Brisbane, west of the Bruce Highway and south of the Caboolture River.

Although Mark Ryan has been a long serving Police Minister he has also held a number of significant Parliamentary portfolios in his career including Chair of the Ethics Committee, Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee and Deputy Speaker.



Married to Holly, they have three young boys Danny 7 years, Flynn 4 years and Gabriel 18 months.

It is clear Mark deeply cares for police and making the lives of police and their families better.

The QPU put a number of questions to the Police Minister for our members to review on Mark Ryan's opinions, thinking and his Government's policies on issues including the future of police payrises, superannuation increases, compulsory age retirement and what he wants to see from a new Police Commissioner.

QPU: A father to three young boys what do they think their dad's job is?

RYAN: I have been the Police Minister before any of them were born, they know nothing else. I'm sure there's lots of little boys and girls out there who have dreams and ambitions about becoming police officers, but it is a regular theme that I hear from Danny and Flynn about how one day they want to be a police officer. And I wonder to some extent whether it is because they have heard of me talking about my pride in the Queensland Police Service and the impact that the Police Service has on the community.

QPU: Would you be happy then if the boys did become police officers?

RYAN: There's a great appreciation you get for policing the closer you are to it. You know, I can never fully understand the sacrifices that people who commit their life to service. It is beyond just a job. It is a vocation. It is very clear to me about how people feel so passionate about their service, particularly in the Police Service.

It would be one of my greatest dreams if one of my boys became a police officer because of the commitment that I know it takes for someone to commit their life in a vocational way to serving others.



Police Minister Mark Ryan is renown for his passion during parliamentary debates.

QPU: You were a corporate lawyer, did any of that training assist with the role of Police Minister?

RYAN: It was a very valuable experience for me. The law teaches you a way of thinking, teaches you a way of analysing challenging problems, but also gives you an understanding about how systems, particularly government and criminal justice systems, work.





It shows why it is important to have good structures and frameworks around people's actions and accountability and the scrutiny that goes along with that.

QPU: You are now the longest serving Police Minister in Queensland's history. What can we learn from photos of when you started in the role compared to now?

RYAN: I don't think anyone would be fooled by me saying that it is an easy role, because it is certainly challenging. I've always been as the Minister for Police, a champion for the portfolio.

And often that comes with pointed criticism, because you are often out there defending the organisation,reinforcing the good work that's done, promoting the good work that's done, and often having robust conversations with your colleagues around the need for certain legislation, or certain resourcing for the Police Service.

In many respects I've been successful with those robust conversations, but certainly when you invest yourself entirely in a role, you take a lot of things personally, and I don't doubt for one moment that every single member of the police family feels things personally when something happens to the service, or a member of the service.

There have been examples and instances where it has impacted me very personally, and it is because of my advocacy and commitment to the service and the understanding of how that criticism or how that event might ripple through the police family and how that has a significant impact on the individuals who make up the Police Service.



Minister Ryan at a ceremony for construction to begin on Pimpama Police Station.



Minister Ryan announcing new taser roll out.



Minister Ryan announcing an $11M rebuild of Dalby Police Station.

QPU: What are you significantly proud of in terms of your achievements during your time as Police Minister?

RYAN: My motivation has always been how can we make the Police Service better, how can we better support members of the Police Service and then, of course, how that then connects to community safety more broadly.

There's been some tremendous reforms when you think about it. We've led the world on some of this

EVERY SINGLE MEMBER OF THE QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE SHOULD BE PROUD OF WHAT THEY DO. AND I HOPE IN MY SMALL WAY I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SUPPORT THEIR GOOD WORK.

stuff. The advocacy to bring about Jack's Law, that is nation leading, a legislative power for police which improves community safety. It is quite extraordinary.

The framework around presumptive post traumatic stress support, I think we were the second place in the world to do that, because of advocacy from Ian Leavers and the Queensland Police Union but it became reality due to a supportive and passionate minister that convinced ministerial colleagues to support the proposal.

Integrated load bearing ballistic vests, again world leading. The Queensland design won an international award.

In many ways we are a small policing jurisdiction on a country in the bottom corner of the world, yet we lead in so many ways and are progressive in so many ways and make such impactful actions in ways that there's no wonder the vast majority of Queenslanders are very proud of their Police Service because it truly does bat above its weight when you think about it.

Every single member of the Queensland Police Service should be proud of what they do. And I hope in my small way I have been able to support their good work.



Minister Ryan speaking with recruits at the Oxley Academy.

QPU: Recruiting has been a bit of a touch point for a while now. You made a commitment of 2025 police positions by 2025. So far, about 1,500 new police recruits have come into the service. Yet there's also been about 1,700 separations. How frustrating is it recruiting significant numbers but also losing experienced police at the other end?

RYAN: The positions have been provided, the funding has been provided, the extra cars, the expansion of buildings, all of that. A hell of a lot of money we've thrown at recruiting. Global pressures are frustrating the best efforts of the Police Service and the government to deliver on those recruitment targets.

That being said, I was really impressed by the Police Union demonstrating great enthusiasm and ingenuity in identifying the challenge. It is not just a challenge in policing, it is a challenge across every single sector in the economy.

Go to a mine in Central Queensland and they are desperate for workers. Go to a cafe in the middle of Fortitude Valley, they are desperate for workers. You go to a newsroom in any media outlet, they are desperate for workers.

When I'm talking to my interstate colleagues I appreciate they are in a very challenging position when it comes to recruiting, a more challenging position than Queensland.

The government has spent almost $90 million in advertising and recruit incentives, and we're finally turning that corner. We've had over 100 graduates in the last month, by the end of June, so only three months, it is expected that over 350 will graduate from the academy.

We've got hundreds in the academy, almost 2,000 in the pipeline. No other jurisdiction in Australia, and very few around the world, can point to that recruit effort. Still a long way to go, but we're turning the corner. Credit for the entire academy staff for really working double time to turn the corner on this.



QPU: What about retention then, is it time to start thinking about retention bonuses?

RYAN: People make decisions for their own individual reasons. There's always decisions made by individuals about how long or short they might stay in a role and what other opportunities they might pursue.

I know Ian Leavers is an advocate and supporter of retention payments and I'm always open to conversations with the union and the Police Service about what we can do to better retain staff.

I know the Police Service is already putting in place a number of strategies around well being supports, about how people may consider career breaks, or transitions in and out. All of that is important. But it does come back to a fundamental issue and that is, how do you support people, but also what does your workforce look like in a contemporary time?

We're at the end of a generation of police officers who joined in their teens for many of them this was truly their lifelong vocation. I think it is a reasonable observation to say that it doesn't matter what profession, career or vocation you have these days, people have a broader appreciation of other opportunities that are available to them.

I think part of the work police have to do about retention is using the full width and breadth of the Police Service to say, "You can serve in many ways within the Police Service". It may well be reinforcing those messages that you can be in the water police on Thursday Island and then in the stock squad down in Miles.

Supporting people so that they can have longevity of career and life is really important. I'm always happy to support efforts of the Police Service and the Police Union about how we can better retain people.

QPU: Would you look at a cash bonus?

RYAN: That's a good proposition. I will always advocate to government towards about supporting that.

It would be interesting to see and hear what the workforce's view is on that.How big is the cash payment? When does it get paid? Is there a question about "Why do they get it and I don't?" So it is not as easy as just saying "yes" or "no" about cash payments, but it is how best you support people, whether cash does incentivise people to stay.

I would suspect that people would always like more money. Don't kid me. But I think you would find there would be some themes emerge around whether people feel fulfillment in their role, whether they feel supported, whether the broader well being matters are being considered and supported.

I think there needs to be some more work done about, you know, what are the levers to pull and how affected they would be. Once that work's done, you know, I'll support anything that is backed up in evidence and will make a difference.



QPU: Would the Government consider changes around compulsory retirement at 60?

RYAN: I think we've got a good example of the opportunities that are presented post 60 with the special constable idea. I know that it is quite a polarising issue within the workforce. There are some people very strongly in favour of keeping mandatory retirement. There are some who think it should change and get rid of.

I think we have got some insights around how people go post 60 now with the special constable idea. The latest data shows a gradual take up; 40 special constables sworn-in to date. Over 30 have applications in. So there is a critical mass building.

I don't have any doubt at all that it will be a debate that will continue. I am always happy to get insights from representative bodies, like the union, as well as individual members about their views on it.

At this stage, there is no plans to change it, but we've got the special constable idea. That allows for people to work beyond 60 and contribute.



QPU: What is the Government proposing for pay rises for police?

RYAN: A good example of what you can expect in the future is past behaviour. I don't think anyone can deny the government's commitment to ensuring that police are remunerated according to their contribution and effort here in Queensland. Record EB's.

You know, the current EB that the Queensland Police Service has through the hard work of the QPU, leads the nation. The most recent agreement is an extraordinary EB.

I know that other jurisdictions and other policing associations and unions have passed their feedback on to their Queensland counterparts to say, "How did you get that?" Or, "How did you achieve that?" You know. But it is working together. It is hard work. It is strong advocacy. And it is also a reflection of a government that wants to show its appreciation to the workforce.

So, as we head into the next round of EB, people can have some assurances from a Labor Government, and that is Labor Governments value workers' rights irrespective of the profession or workplace you are in, and we will always ensure that workers' rights are protected and that workers are appropriately remunerated for their contribution.

I will repeat the point I first made: you know, what people can expect in the future, they only have to look at past behaviour to see that a Labor Government will always back in the police and ensure that police have appropriate EB's and if relected I guarantee we will ensure we will continue to lead Australia with our next EB for police.



Minister Ryan has yet to confirm when Labor will release their election commitments for the Police portfolio.

QPU: When do you think we will start to see some solid commitments for police leading into the election? Actually putting your hand up and saying, "This is what we commit to."

RYAN: I think we've always been very open about our election commitments. We've always been very transparent, announcing those election commitments with plenty of notice.

Last election, we announced commitments a number of months prior to the election. And we were very clear about it, that was in stark contrast to the alternate who weren't too clear about their commitments, probably because part of their

commitments were an effective cut to the Police Service.

So, at the right time, we'll always be open. The assurance I can always give is that our commitments particularly around investment in the Police Service, our commitment to workers' rights, and in guaranteeing employment entitlements, they'll always be very open and transparent.

We will always remain committed to working with the relevant unions, in this case the Queensland Police Union, about how we can better deliver support and services to the frontline and the police officers who make up that frontline.

QPU: The Commission of Inquiry, many police viewed it as an attack on police and were concerned about a number of the findings. The findings were mainly directed towards police, nearly every agency was forgotten about. What's your view on the findings of the COI?

RYAN: We all irrespective of where we are, subscribe to the process around independent inquiries and the findings they've got. So, we've got to acknowledge that it was an independent inquiry and it produced a report and some findings.

The challenge I've always had is my personal interactions with police officers have always been positive, have always reflected the exempla character of the police officers that I've dealt with and have emphasised a constant commitment across all of those officers doing the best they can in the circumstances to support people, to correctly identify victims and support them, to correctly identify criminals and ensure they are accountable through a criminal justice process.

So I get why there are people in the Police Service, good people in the Police Service, who take the findings of the Commission of Inquiry very personally, because certainly in my personal dealings with them they do everything in their power to ensure that victims are supported and that their colleagues do the right thing and that the Police Service is seen to be as an organisation that all Queenslanders can be very proud of.

I'm on the public record in saying that whatever the challenge is when it comes to complexity in the community, people often look to police first to address that challenge, but it does require everyone working together. That's not just government agencies working together, it is community organisations, it is levels of governments, it is family units, it's individuals. Everyone's got to come together.

Around things like domestic and family violence, it can't just be seen as a police challenge and a police response. It has got to be seen as a wholistic response and if there is a silver lining that's come out of any of these inquiries is an acceptance that it does require a wholistic response and that investment needs to happen across multiple agencies and multiple organisations to support the police role, which is often the critical role of intervention when something is going wrong.

QPU: Would you support the establishment of a Police Integrity Unit and are you satisfied with the current police discipline system?

RYAN: I know that there's a recommendation around the Police Integrity Unit. I've always said it is a very complex piece. There's a process around how an entity of that kind may work but I'll leave that to the experts.

The CCC needs to work with both the Police Union and the Police service and there is a need to work with other government departments about how that might work.

I do think that there is constant commitment across the Police Service because this is part of the oath, the affirmation that police officers make, to ensure that members of the organisation act within their left and right arc, to act within the bounds of their role, to act with integrity.

There is a great commitment and acceptance about that. How best to ensure that happens is obviously a conversation that agencies and Police Services have had for generations around the world. But whatever can be done to improve police discipline from both the complainant point of view, the officer point of view, and the broader Police Service point of view, I think, is a good thing.

One of the particular highlights of my time as Minister has been that collaborative approach that was taken over five years ago with the CCC, the Police Service, the Police Union, Department of Justice and the opposition.

It was bipartisan to design a new and better discipline system. And, yes, refinement is always needed when it comes to new systems, but when you get the right people around the table together, and people are committed to a better outcome, you do get good things done.



Minister Ryan at the passing of the Jacks Law Bill at Parliament.



Minister Ryan at the opening of a new Police Station at Logan Village.



Minister Ryan promoting a gun amnesty.

QPU: Recently, you have made an announcement around an aerial platform for Townsville. Why did it take so long for Townsville to get aerial support?

RYAN: One of the things I've always appreciated is when it comes to policing, police are the experts. The Police Service advice to government changed, and that was, "We now need a helicopter."

You know, the type of offending style had changed, technology had changed, the way that air space could be managed had changed. And the Police Service said, "It now stacks up." Immediately upon that advice changing, the government funded it.

So we've always acted on police advice. Previously the police advice was, "We can use the existing providers in Townsville to provide that aerial support." The type of offending was such that, you know, an aerial surveillance platform was not needed at the time. But things have changed.

I think it is testimony to the Police Service that they are frank and fearless in their advice, but also I think it is a reflection of the new Premier that, upon that advice being provided by the Police Service, he immediately supported the funding request. Now there's a helicopter in Townsville.

And I have got to say this because I know that there are a number of excited people in Townsville that recognise it is not just about the helicopter, but it is about the digital comms which were funded as well, which is the game changer in Townsville.

QPU: Your opinion of Premier Steven Miles?

RYAN: He's a good guy. I have been impressed with him, how attentive he is to requests from the Police Service. We've seen that in Townsville, in Ipswich, in how he's opened the door to the previous Police Commissioner and the current Acting Commissioner to provide advice around laws that need to change and support for the Police Service.



Minister Ryan at the announcement of a helicopter for police use in Townsville.

He's got a great respect for police, and he says it so often as well. But when he says it, he also means it. When he says, "If the police need things, they ask and we'll deliver it."

He's good to his word. He's shown that. So a genuine person, committed to the Police Service, also very supportive of what police do in helping the community.

QPU: Your opinion of Opposition Police Spokesperson Dan Purdie?

RYAN: Look, I have got a lot of time for Dan because, you know, he's one of these people who committed himself to service, committed himself to service as a police officer, now committed himself to service as a Member of Parliament.

I'll leave it to others to say whether that's a step up or a step down. I went from being a lawyer to a politician, so I'm sure others would have reflections on that.

But I will always respect someone who will put themselves forward to contribute and serve their community.

I don't agree with a lot of what he says, but that should be encouraging for people in a democracy, that you do have this contest of ideas around how best to serve community and support government outcomes. So I'll have a few robust discussions with him from time to time, but it doesn't take away from my appreciation that he's a person of service. And good luck to him.

QPU: Your opinion of QPU President Ian Leavers?

RYAN: I've got a lot of time for Ian. He's got great respect across community and across the Police Service. He certainly fits within the frame of being a person committed to service, but he takes it a step further by living and breathing advocacy for the Police Service. And I have got to say, you know, he doesn't hold back around his advocacy.

I know that often people will only get a glimpse of him doing a press conference, but he works hard behind the scenes. Whether it is with Ministers, or Commissioners, or providing that pastoral care and support to officers. I know that he rings people who have been injured and supports families of fallen officers. It is a real credit to the character of the person when you get to see them behind the scenes being absolutely committed to what they do.

History will be very kind to Ian Leavers, for not only being a person of service and integrity, but for his contribution as a member of the Police Union.



QPU: Your opinion of former Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll?

RYAN: I'm actually sad that Katarina's timing was not necessarily her own, in that there was a lot of commentary in the community, in the media around her commissionership and what her decision would be around her contract.

I think it says a lot for a person who, in light of all of that noise, makes a decision in the interests of the Police Service, the organisation that she's committed her whole life to, essentially, and puts that commitment ahead of her own interest. I think it is quite extraordinary.

She's a good person. I wish her well. I think it is a true story of state and our nation when you think that the daughter of some migrants from eastern Europe, who couldn't speak English, who were in a tiny little place in Far North Queensland, Innot Springs, can, one, serve their community as a police officer, but then rise to the highest office and be the Commissioner.

It says a lot about opportunity in our country, doesn't it, when you can come from that background and still have the opportunity to serve in the most highest esteemed office in the Police Service.



QPU: LNP gold standards, what does that mean?

RYAN: What does that mean? I don't want to make this interview about political attacks, but I think people need to be really transparent about what they are going to do and what things mean.

There's a lot of views around community safety and crime in Queensland, and I'm the first to acknowledge that there is concern in the community. There are people committing crime and causing significant harm. That's concerned everyone. It's not something exclusively held by one side of politics over the other.

Everyone wants a safe community. You're kidding yourself if you think you hold some exclusivity around compassion for someone who has been affected by crime. We all do. No one wants to see tragedies. No one wants to see victims.

And I've always been very upfront about the government's resolve, we'll continue to do everything we can. We'll take the advice of police and experts. We'll provide the extra resourcing for police. We'll strengthen laws. But people just can't come along and use three word slogans and somehow think that that's going to fix everything overnight.

I would very much welcome bipartisanship on this issue because there is a universality when it comes to concern about this issue and concern by people affected by crime.

QPU: Your view on retired police that like to engage in social media debate and feel they can influence and change culture, or share outdated experiences. Should they enjoy their retirement and walk away from the keyboard?

RYAN: Everyone is entitled to an opinion. People will often hear me say, around reflections on court decisions, that "No one is immune from criticism." Nor should anyone be immune from being able to provide that criticism.

So I get that people want to have a say, and I get that people might want to reflect on, their time in the Police Service and how things might have changed for the better or worse. That's people's entitlements.

I'll never be someone to deny someone the opportunity to have a say. Notwithstanding, those people may be quoted in the media from time to time about their particular opinions, but each to their own.

QPU: Your view on improving Police housing?

RYAN: It has been a bit of a passion of mine. We've done some good work in recent times around boosting the budget for police housing, getting some maintenance addressed sooner, a bigger bucket of money, rolling out new accommodation.

It is critical from my point of view around particularly those who choose to serve in some of the most rural and remote parts of the state. I think there's more work for us to be done there. Certainly over the last few years we've been working with the Police Service about how we can do more.

I think a good insight about the government's commitment around police housing is that the very first house that came out of the Queensland Rapid Build Accommodation Centre went to Tara for police housing.

I think that says a lot about government priorities. Could have gone to somewhere else for a teacher. Could have gone somewhere else for a nurse. Could have gone somewhere else for whatever other purpose, but it went to Tara for the police, the very first one.

Those factories that we've brought onboard are run by QBuild, giving apprentices career pathways into skills, delivering value for money for taxpayers, bear ramping up. So we're going to see more and more housing stock roll out of those factories and more and more investment for police housing.

QPU: The next Police Commissioner. There's some considerable debate that it should be a Queenslander no matter what. Your view on that?

RYAN: I'm conscious that there's a process underway and I want to make sure that whoever gets the job gets the job without anyone thinking that it is in some way been influenced by views of Ministers or others.

But, when you look at the Queensland Police Service and the people who have gone through and are currently in the Police Service, it is an organisation of great depth and breadth, exceptional leaders, well trained, good operational people.

I think anyone who looks at the Queensland Police Service and the people who make up the Queensland Police Service could identify a number of great leaders immediately.

So if any one of those people put their name forward, I'm sure they will be considered in a very good light by the selection panel.

QPU: If you had an opportunity to speak with a police officer in Mt Isa or anywhere in between, down to Coolangatta, what would you say to them that they should consider re electing you and your government?

RYAN: I don't think anyone can deny that the government and my time as Minister has been one of great advocacy and staunched defence of the Queensland Police Service. There's a great admiration for what police do. And in acknowledgment of that, the government will always have the back of police officers and the Police Service.

I say that specifically because in having the back of police officers it is about good employment entitlements, ensuring that they do get good EB's, that their rights aren't undermined, because there is an alternate when it comes to that, and Labor Governments have always prioritised the workers' rights, but also then having the back of the collective of the Police Service.



Minister Ryan at the commemoration for the officers murdered at Wieambilla.

No other government can point to the commitment that this government has in the Queensland Police Service.

At the last election, there were options around investment in the Police Service. The other side actually made a commitment which would have been an effective cut to the Police Service with the growth numbers commitment not being matched. We always ensure that the Police Service has the associated funding to go along with new officers. We're always investing in the new technologies

I think my style as well reinforces that we're always prepared to listen to the Police Service and police officers and act on their advice. And very clear recent examples from the commitments made by the Premier around the Townsville helicopter and more police for Ipswich. People will get more of that from us, and an absolute commitment that we'll always prioritise policing.

NO OTHER GOVERNMENT CAN POINT TO THE COMMITMENT THAT THIS GOVERNMENT HAS IN THE QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE.





IS DAN THE MAN?

FORMER POLICE OFFICER DAN PURDIE WAS RECENTLY ELEVATED BY LNP LEADER DAVID CRISAFULLI TO THE ROLE OF SHADOW SPOKESPERSON FOR POLICE IN THE COALITION TEAM PREPARING FOR THE QUEENSLAND STATE ELECTION ON OCTOBER 26, 2024.

It's the second time he's held this role after seven months as the Opposition Police Spokesperson in 2020 leading up to that year's election. A signature element of his 2020 policy alternative was for a juvenile curfew for areas like Townsville, some people described the proposal as racist and the LNP polled disastrously in the northern electorates.

After the election he was stripped of the Police portfolio and has spent a number of years in the political wilderness. His return to the Opposition front bench is viewed as a reinforcement of the LNP's importance on youth crime in the upcoming election.

During his twenty five year policing career Dan Purdie has operated in some vastly different areas of law enforcement. General Duties at Petrie, City Mobiles, Red Hill Station, General Duties in Fortitude Valley where he worked permanent night shift for years before moving to the Covert Surveillance Unit in 1996, The Prostitution Enforcement Taskforce before a two year secondment at the Australian Crime Commission starting in 2007.

He later returned to the Homicide Squad and finishing up as a Detective Senior Constable at CPIU on the Sunshine Coast.



Dan Purdie in his role as Plain Clothes Detective on the Sunshine Coast.

Following a redistribution of electoral boundaries in 2017, Dan Purdie was elected as the first representative for the seat on Ninderry on the Sunshine Coast. The seat is considered safe for the LNP stretching between the Bruce Highway and the Sunshine Coast Motorway encompassing Buderim, Coolum, Peregian Springs, Yandina, Bli Bli, Forest Glen and Eumundi.

The QPU offered the man who could be a potential Police Minister the opportunity to share his opinions, policies and thinking on issues including police pay rises under

an LNP Government, the future of police discipline, compulsory age retirement and what the LNP's Gold Standard actually means.

QPU: Dan Purdie you've been quoted that since you were a child you were determined to be a Police Officer, what was the feeling reaching that life goal very young?

PURDIE: I had no backup plan, it's all I ever wanted to be was a copper. I was one of the first MUPET's. One of the first 400, which was post-Fitzgerald in '91. MUPET's stood for the Most Useless Police Ever Trained. We did a portion of University and then six months at the Academy. And I got sworn in December 12, 1991.

QPU: After working in a variety of police units and locations, when you look at the scope of your 25 years in the job, what's your standout highlight job?

PURDIE: For me it was the joint job we did at the ACC where we charged dozens of people, Middle Eastern, South-East Asian crime networks, seized millions of dollars. But I think in 2015 arresting the dad of Corby Akehurst who got tortured over a period of time and murdered was the hardest job but most rewarding because it's a baby that's been tortured and is now dead, that can't defend itself.



The 1991 QPS Graduation photo for Constable Dan Purdie.

QPU: In 2017, you put your hand up to run for Ninderry. You win and walk away from the coppers. How hard was that transition to leave being policeman to politician?

PURDIE: I remember just saying to my wife, "I'm just gonna nominate. Probably not going to win. You know, we'll cross that bridge when we come to it." I think my wife was like, "Well, get it out of your system and we'll worry about that when it happens."

I remember saying to my guys at work, "Don't, don't touch my desk. Don't touch my stuff. I could be back in six weeks. Then I go through and win and the next day I kept saying "Oh crikey, I really haven't thought this through."

Then I got a call from my OIC at the CPIU, and I hadn't really absorbed the policy but the QPS automatically resigned you and backdate you to the date of the election. After 25 years of policing, the only job of my adult life knowing nothing else really, I was like "What have I done?"

QPU: During your service you were a member of the QPU. What was the benefit or attraction you saw as being part of the Union?

PURDIE: I was a member of the QPU the whole time. I was a big admirer of the Union, even though I can't remember ever really calling on them. I always respected the work the Union did. But I had a bit of a personal insight to the Union.

My best mate, the whole time I was in the coppers, was Shaun O'Gorman, the son of John 'Bluey' O'Gorman who was the QPU President. To see just how passionate 'bluey' was about coppers, about the frontline. We knew we were supported and the role the Union had in that. "Bluey's" attitude molded me.



QPU: You seem energized to be in this role for the LNP.

PURDIE: You know, you can throw your slippers at the TV every night, or you can put your hand up to make a difference. I'm still in contact with all my old colleagues, all my old friendships are still my police mates. I just still see myself as a copper and now I'm a copper in Parliament.

I'M JUST SO PASSIONATE ABOUT LAW AND ORDER. I'M SO PASSIONATE ABOUT SAVING COMMUNITIES.

I'm just so passionate about law and order. I'm so passionate about saving communities. As long as I'm in this privileged position, not only as a member for Ninderry, but now as the Shadow Police Minister, I'm in a position to have a bigger mouthpiece, or to have a bigger soapbox to advocate for my old mates and I'm thriving in that position.

QPU: Do you think Dale Last who was Shadow Police Spokesperson for a long while had that?

PURDIE: No, look, Dale's an ex-copper too. And I think Dale's still got an awfully big portfolio. He's still part of the leadership team.

QPU: But you did replace him.

PURDIE: Yes. I think I can be more agile as things come to hand in the Southeast. I think I'm just in a location, a position where I can more rapidly respond to things as they need to be responded to.

I think just leading up to the election, being in Southeast Queensland where I can more rapidly respond to, to policing issues, as they arise, and not be, you know, an overnight flight, you know, like a 24 hours logistically, you know, to respond, I think I'm just more geographically placed to respond to those issues.

That will continue to intensify between now and October, I think that was the only, the only real decision in it.



Reshuffle Day. Dan Purdie returns to the LNP front bench at the direction of Leader David Crisafulli. Laura Gerber was also promoted the same day December 22, 2023 to become Opposition spokesperson for Youth Justice and Victims Support.

QPU: There are many in the LNP that believe you undermined Dale Last. Did that happen?

PURDIE: Absolutely not. I get along well with Dale. I've spoken to him a couple of times over the phone. He's still part of the leadership team. You know, it's not like Dale got demoted.

I don't think there's any evidence that I leaked to the media about him, or that I undermined him, or that I took the credit for stuff that he was doing. I don't think there's any evidence of that at all, because I certainly wasn't doing that.

QPU: Last time you were Shadow Police Spokesperson you advocated for a youth curfew policy. It didn't resonate with the community at the 2020 election did it?

PURDIE: Yes, look, it didn't. I think we could have explained it better. We were trying to come up with a way to empower the police in those circumstances as an early intervention option.

I'm not suggesting that's on the table now because, it didn't and it's certainly nothing I'm looking at now. But since that time, crime has gotten worse, particularly in places like Townsville.

QPU: Critics put the blame for the loss of seats in Townsville, Cairns and the election on you and the curfew policy. Is that hard to swallow?

PURDIE: We were trying to communicate with people in Townsville about crime when I think they were voting, in October 2020, on COVID. So it was hard to cut through on crime and communicate our message on crime.



QPU: You lost your job as a shadow frontbencher as a result of your policies and that election result, what have you learnt in the political wilderness since?

PURDIE: Well, look, we were hoping to pick up a number of seats off the back of crime. And we should have. I was the Shadow Police Minister and we didn't. So that is essentially all on me. We didn't pick up any of the seats we wanted to on crime, and I was the guy supposed to be selling our message.

So it's just like going back to reserve grade for a little while and sharpening your skills and thinking about how you could do things better.

Now I've got this position again, I've got more experience now, and leading up to the next election, hopefully we'll have clearer air to focus on the things that are important to Queenslanders, which seem to be crime, and cost of living, and housing and health at the moment.

No curfews certainly, not something that I am entertaining in any way, shape or form at the moment, and I won't be between now and October.

QPU: You advocated for a $3million investment in a police helicopter for Townsville in 2020. The Government in 2024 has now established air support in Townsville. Do you feel vindicated or annoyed?

PURDIE: One of the local members up there was on the radio saying that Steven Miles was on a plane with some senior police and one of them said, "I wouldn't mind, you know, a helicopter would help." And then he got off the plane and announced the helicopter.

So to find out all these years later how easy it was for our Townsville police to get a helicopter, but they never had one, and now how blown away the Premier and Police Minister are as their capabilities.

It's like, Townsville would be a safer place now if it had have been given four years ago. Maybe we wouldn't be in a situation now where young offenders are stealing cars, and chasing police, and police are being sent back to the police station to take refuge because they are being chased by offenders.



Caloundra Watch house will return to the QPS after an attempt to repurpose the facility for juvenile detention.

QPU: Caloundra there was a proposal to put in a temporary youth detention-type facility in there, by converting the police watch house. The community turned on it. Do you see something wrong there?

PURDIE: It was a ridiculous place to put a youth jail. I think it was Ian Leavers that said in 2017, that more planning goes into building a local McDonald's. We get a police watch house taken off the coppers.

They're driving to Maroochydore if they have got to process someone overnight. And the Nicklin Way can be 40 minutes in peak hour. So I'm not going to advocate for police giving up watch houses and their resources to alleviate a problem for youth justice.

QPU: What's your position on the police discipline system and will you change it?

PURDIE: I remember Ian Leavers and the Police Union, really supporting it and everyone was really quite complimentary of how the Union, the police and even Alan McSporran at the time how well they all worked together to streamline the process.

I still hear, constantly that these investigations are dragging on and that does seem unacceptable. From a frontline perspective, when I was on the frontline you know how people's careers were destroyed, or put on hold for a long time for investigations that went forever and went nowhere.

QPU: So can you see a fix?

PURDIE: If that's not working, well, that's something if Ian Leavers and the Union brought forward deficiencies in that legislation and it hasn't worked how they thought it was going to work well, certainly. Certainly. Because, you know, at the end of the day I am for a frontline police.

QPU: Would you support a Police Integrity Unit?

PURDIE: Well, that was a recommendation of the DV Inquiry, wasn't it? In the couple of weeks I've had this job, I haven't revisited that. If and when, we do win and I'm in this position, I'd certainly be consulting the union as to how that current system's working and whether it needs changing. I won't change



anything in the Police Discipline System unless Ian Leavers and the Police Union supported the proposed changes.

QPU: Police felt like they were getting smashed backwards and forwards through the Commission of Inquiry. Do you support or reject the findings that came out of that and were directed towards police?

PURDIE: Oh, look I haven't even reviewed it. And it's not on my big to-do list at the moment that I've my made since getting this job.

QPU: What is the LNP proposing for pay rises for police?

PURDIE: I think the police are worth every cent. I haven't sat down yet to try and work that out. I don't even know what stage the EB agreement is up to.

POLICE ARE LEAVING IN DROVES. YOU KNOW, YOU DON'T ENCOURAGE POLICE TO STAY BY NOT REMUNERATING PROPERLY.



QPU: Under the last LNP Government, led by Campbell Newman it was the only time in the history of the police in Queensland, they received less than inflation. Will you freeze wages?

PURDIE: Definitely not. From what I've learnt, since coming to Parliament, David Crisafulli will admit that there were mistakes made and we have no intention of making those mistakes again. But if I do end up in a position, I'm going to advocate for the police, they need to be remunerated properly. I don't think they get enough for the work that they do.

QPU: But will you advocate for increases?

PURDIE: Oh, 100%, of course. I can't see there being any appetite from anyone from the LNP page to try and reduce what's been happening. I don't think anyone in the LNP leadership team wants to see police go backwards. The thing is, we need more police. You know, we need to invest in police.

Police are leaving in droves. You know, you don't encourage police to stay by not remunerating properly. So when we win, we need to look at what we can do to ensure the police stop leaving in droves. I know the government's doing a lot now to entice police to join, but I know they're not doing anything to retain police.

QPU: Would you look at a retention bonus?

PURDIE: If you're a detective with twenty years' experience, that the police have spent millions on you, training you and you want to leave, you get on the HR portal, click a few boxes and you leave. Like, you don't even get a call. There's no separation meeting.

QPU: What would you do to stop that?

PURDIE: Overwhelmingly people are leaving because they feel unsupported, not necessarily because if you gave me twenty grand I'd stay. So look, I don't have an answer for that at the moment, but we need to retain the staff that they've got.

QPU: What about the compulsory age sixty retirement?

PURDIE: Well, police get good super at 18% because of that early retirement. I know for just as many senior coppers approaching retirement who come and see me about increasing the age, I get just as many coming to see me about absolutely not increasing the age.

So it is a bit of a 'be careful what you wish for', bit of a poisoned chalice. We need to maybe look at giving people an opportunity to stay past 60 that won't impact the superannuation of all those who are looking forward to retirement at 60.

I know the former President of the Commission Officer's Union, was an advocate for raising the retirement age, however I always listen to Ian Leavers and the QPU.

QPU: Aside from the age 60 retirement debate would you support an increase in the Government contribution in superannuation for police? Perhaps as a retention option?

PURDIE: Well, look, that's something that I haven't really canvassed police about. Something I haven't spoken to the union about. People are leaving in droves because of feeling unsupported in some other avenues. I'd really need to research that.

QPU: With an election this year when will you give a commitment about pay rises, superannuation, retention bonuses? When will you let people know?

PURDIE: Well, I think long before the election. The EB agreement has still got a couple of years to run. I think there's more pressing issues.

QPU: You could have the drive and determination to support police, but if the new Premier says, "No, mate, there's no cash." There's no cash. Support and promises don't pay the mortgage.

PURDIE: If I'm in cabinet, I am going to be as fierce an advocate for frontline police as what we've probably ever had in cabinet, because it's why I became a politician. I'm not going to get into cabinet and walk away from what my passion is and supporting police. One thing I can guarantee all your readers and all members is that I was a lifelong member of the Police Union. I was a lifelong frontline police officer, which I loved. I got the opportunity to get into government to try and make a difference. And should I ever be in a position where I am in government I'm going to be a fierce advocate for the police.



Dan Purdie with Former Deputy Commissioner Bob Gee.

QPU: You are sometimes in the headlines not all of it favourable. You have been under the spotlight for fundraising that may skirt around the law. Is there an issue?

PURDIE: It didn't bother me because it wasn't true. I've never been the subject of any investigation. So having a journo with an agenda coming after me is part of doing business in politics. I've always been a copper. I've always abided by the law. Every law of this state. I'll continue to.

People throwing mud is the cost of doing business. The longer I'm in politics, the more people are going to throw mud. As long as I continue to operate with integrity and honesty, I'll never be concerned about the mud that gets thrown.

QPU: Your opinion of QPU President Ian Leavers?

PURDIE: I've known Ian Leavers for 30 years. I always thought he was a great guy. I've always got on well with him. I knew him well when I was a copper. We are a similar vintage. He's a great advocate for police, I've got a great rapport with him. I hope I will continue to have a great friendship, and I actually believe that.

QPU: Your opinion of Police Minister Mark Ryan?

PURDIE: I think Mark Ryan is a nice guy. You know, when I get the chance in Parliament, I'm friendly with him.

QPU: Your opinion of Steven Miles, the Premier?

PURDIE: I don't know him other than saying "Hi" to Steven Miles. I don't really know him as a person. I have the same concerns that I think the public do about Steven Miles. I think he's been behind a lot of the decisions of government that are now coming back to bite the government.

My political positions and philosophies certainly don't align with Steven Miles. I think he's made a lot of decisions in his previous



positions that have come back to bite Queensland. I certainly don't have a glowing endorsement of him. I can't believe that how someone like that can get up and talk to the media as if they weren't the person responsible for Wellcamp.

You know, I just play a straight bat. I look at politicians who can stare down the camera and just pretend to play a smoke and mirrors game with the public. I think Queenslanders are smarter than that.

QPU: What about retired coppers that won't let go, that still hang on and still believe that they should be having an opinion on everything that happens with the police? Should they walk off into the sunset and enjoy their retirement, or should they curb their commentary and things like that?

PURDIE: I know a lot of police who leave and they've still got a lot to give. They don't want to come back for the odd Sunday shift on the frontline doing DV's and wrestling, you know, grubs. I think there needs to be an opportunity to try and harness some of that experience.

QPU: Some seem to want to influence modern policing and believe their opinion is worth more. They could call some of your policy ideas rubbish, what would you say then?

PURDIE: I think that's a case-by-case basis. Former Commissioner Bob Atkinson presented to the Youth Justice Select Committee, and we hung off every word. I've reached out to people like Bob Atkinson and others who are now retired to be a sounding board.

I'm not going to sit here now and say "Bob Atkinson should keep his mouth shut, and he's been gone for 12 years, and he's retired and move on", you know. In contrast, if it's a copper that spent a year on the frontline and then come up through training and policy and has never seen an angry man in 60 years and then tries to tell the frontline what to do, well that's a case-by-case basis.

QPU: We hear LNP Leader David Crisafulli regularly mention he wants to introduce Gold Standard laws, youth justice and police. What is gold standard?

PURDIE: Well, look, I've never heard "gold standard" being referred to in laws. I've heard it being referred to for early intervention because local police say they're not assessed as to whether they work. There is no real assessment of what works and what doesn't.

We need to find "gold standard" is what works and what doesn't. If there's an Early Intervention Program that gets results, well, maybe more money should be put into that, and less money in programs that aren't assessed or either don't work.

When it comes to laws, I've never heard "golden intervention" to talk about laws. Isn't that a concern that the government doesn't have a KPI? (Key Performance Indicator)

For the tens of millions being farmed out, that there is no KPI to have a benchmark to know what rate of recidivism there is, what's working, what's not.

QPU: If you had the opportunity to speak to a police officer in Mt Isa, Coolangatta or anywhere in between, what's the one thing that you could say to them during this campaign, that should make them even think about supporting you?

PURDIE: Well, I have been a frontline police officer all my adult life. I ran for politics because I was frustrated about crime and law and order. I'm still passionate about it, and they've got a passionate advocate. Essentially my blood still runs blue.

I still see myself as a police officer who's now in Parliament. Should we win government, I will always be a fierce advocate for our frontline police. I've learnt a lot in policing, I love frontline policing.

This opportunity presented itself, and every day I've got this job I'll use this platform to fight for my brothers and sisters in blue, for as long as I'm here. That's the headline.



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HONOURS AND AWARDS IPSWICH

BY DARREN CURTIS

POLICE FROM THE IPSWICH PATROL GROUP WERE PRESENTED WITH QPS HONOURS AND AWARDS DURING A CEREMONY AT THE NORTH IPSWICH RESERVE FUNCTION ROOMS ON THURSDAY MARCH 21, 2024.

QPU Southern Region Rep Col Muller congratulated the award recipients and made special mention of the family members who attended "there's so many happy faces here and it's important they share moments like this because without their continual unwavering support as we do this job it would be very difficult to stay balanced and focussed. I love seeing the kids having photos with their parents while they hold their medals or certificates. It kind of compensates a bit for the hours everyone commits when there's an intense job on."



QPU Southern Region Rep Col Muller congratulates Boonah Division S/C Andrew Conway on receiving the National Medal and National Police Service Medal.

Ipswich Dog Squad Officer Senior Constable Nathan Ross received a District Officer's Certificate for his use of Tactical First Aid that potentially saved the life of a fellow officer slashed with a box cutter during an arrest at Carole Park on February 12, 2024.

The injured officer was bleeding heavily and at the time there was concern a major artery had been damaged in his arm. Acting without hesitation Senior Constable Ross applied a tourniquet under the armpit of his injured colleague with extreme composure while also keeping his friend calm "the tactical first aid training we received really kicked in and I was able to stop the bleeding and pack the wound before the paramedics arrived. He later had surgery and has returned to full operational duty. We should all carry a tourniquet and a bandage, because you just never know when you might need it for yourself or another police officer."

Four officers were also awarded District Officer's Certificates for Operation Victor Afford in relation to an attempted murder at Coominya in April 2023. Police were called to an isolated property where a 33 year old man had been shot multiple times and flown to hospital. Detectives worked around the clock for twenty days to identify and arrest the offenders.

Detective Sergeant Tim Martin from Ipswich District CIB said "this offence occurred on Easter Saturday 2023 so immediately we had limited resources and zero witnesses. There was myself as the senior detective and three junior officers and they really stepped up and took on a lot of responsibility. We spoke to associates of the victim and family members, executed search warrants, SERT were engaged, a number of covert methodologies were utilised as well and telecommunications strategies used. I'm very proud of our investigative group, they learnt a lot and their commitment can never be questioned, I'm confident they will be better investigators for it."



Plain Clothes Const Dana Larkin, Detective S/C Tom Land, Detective S/C Kyle Dixon and Detective Sgt Tim Martin, were awarded District Officer's Certificates for their work on Operation Victor Afford in 2023.

Four officers were also presented with their Detective Certificates and Gold plated badges to recognise their new appointment. To be designated a detective, police must have completed three years in an investigative role and successfully completed the detective training module plus demonstrated experience in investigating a wide range of criminal offences delivering complex evidence briefs using contemporary investigative strategies.



Recipients of QPS Detective Certificates including Det S/C Jesse Gould, Det S/C Jason Miller and Det S/C Belinda Phillips.



S/C Nathan Ross received a District Officer's Certificate for his professionalism, composure and dedication to duty.



Det Sgt Tim Martin led Operation Victor Afford that resulted in the arrest of an offender for a shooting but also yielded intelligence that resulted in a second operation seizing illicit firearms.



Detective S/C Belinda Phillips from Ipswich CPIU was awarded a District Officer's Certificate for an extensive investigation into serious offences against three children that resulted in the offender receiving an 18 year sentence.

Superintendent Kylie Rigg said the ceremony was an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of police who have made significant contributions to their community "2024 has already been a challenge and rewarding year for police in Ipswich. In February there was the murder of Eileen White at Redbank, however there's also been great accomplishments as our staff have risen to the challenge everyday and made a real difference in the lives of others."



Recipients of the Queensland Police Service Medal 10 years.

THERE'S SO MANY HAPPY FACES HERE AND IT'S IMPORTANT THEY SHARE MOMENTS LIKE THIS BECAUSE WITHOUT THEIR CONTINUAL UNWAVERING SUPPORT AS WE DO THIS JOB IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO STAY BALANCED AND FOCUSSED.











Detective S/C Jesse Gould and Detective Sgt Ben Cox were presented with District Officer's Certificates for their work in arresting an offender for setting fire to police vehicles and property in Lowood in November 2022.









Recipients of the National Medal and National Police Service Medal.





Recipients of the Queensland Police Service Medal 15 year clasp.



Recipients of the Queensland Police Service Medal 20 year clasp.









Plain Clothes Const Taylah Dowling and Plain Clothes Const Cameron Knust received a District Officer's Certificate for their investigative work on a shooting incident at Goodna in 2023.



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BOOK REVIEW

BLAST FROM THE PAST

BY DARREN CURTIS

QUEENSLAND HAS HAD A FAR MORE SINISTER PAST THAN IS OFTEN ACKNOWLEDGED WHEN IT COMES TO DOMESTIC TERRORISM AND PEOPLE ATTEMPTING TO BLOW UP BUILDINGS, SET 'BOOBY' TRAPS, HARM OTHERS OR EXPERIMENT WITH HOMEMADE EXPLOSIVES.

Queensland Police have had a stand alone dedicated bomb squad since 1983 and they provide a twenty four hour, seven day week capability. They've attended some of the most terrible crimes that attracted enormous media attention to quiet targeted raids that yielded hundreds of kilograms of unstable and lethal explosives.

'Blast from the past' provides an insight from the officers who took part in these events and provides details never revealed to the media.

After twenty five years in the Queensland Explosive Ordnance Response Team (EORT) Sergeant Mick Gardiner felt the traditions, experiences and achievements of the State's Bomb Squad were vanishing without an accurate historical record or chronicle of the unit's traditions and successes.

Sergeant Gardiner said "the book is giving people a glimpse into a world a lot of them didn't realise exists, some people still think the Australian Army are the only ones who do bomb response in Queensland. I was recently talking to someone about the Iwasaki Resort bombing at Yeppoon in 1980 and they looked at me blankly and had never heard of it. It dawned on me then, that if I didn't get all of these stories in the one place together it would be lost to time. All of us with this vast array of first-hand knowledge will eventually pass away and no-one will know."

**The Iwasaki Resort bombing occurred in the early hours of November 29, 1980 State Election Day and it was labelled as a terrorist attack on the Japanese backed resort being constructed on a 9,000 hectare property. It's believed the offenders detonated more than six boxes of gelignite causing significant structural damage.*



EORT Sgt Mick Gardiner has contributed more than 25 years in bomb detection and investigation for Queensland.



An improvised flame thrower found after a siege on the Gold Coast.

THE IWASAKI RESORT BOMBING OCCURRED IN THE EARLY HOURS OF NOVEMBER 29, 1980 STATE ELECTION DAY AND IT WAS LABELLED AS A TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE JAPANESE BACKED RESORT BEING CONSTRUCTED ON A 9,000 HECTARE PROPERTY. IT'S BELIEVED THE OFFENDERS DETONATED MORE THAN SIX BOXES OF GELIGNITE CAUSING SIGNIFICANT STRUCTURAL DAMAGE.

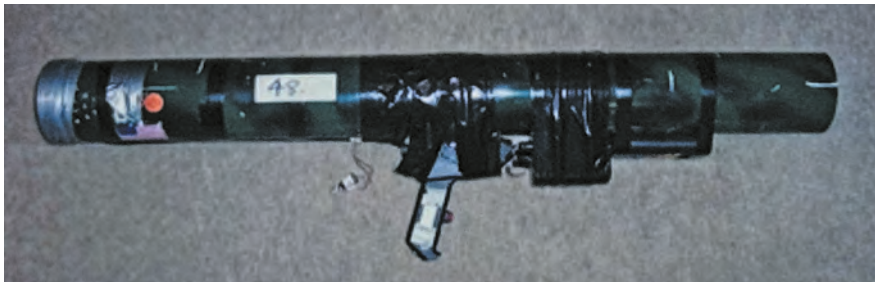
Sgt Gardiner has heard all the EORT puns but wanted some residue of this valuable section's life story to remain for generations, detailing attacks against police, politicians and those caught up in innocent explosions.

From schoolboys manufacturing explosives and selling it for spending money to classmates at Deception Bay, and a self taught chemist who was discovered with hundreds of kilograms of explosive material at a Rochedale house just days before the G20 Summit in 2014. *'Blast from the past'* gives an insiders view of how the offenders were detected and what EORT discovered during their 'render safe' process.

There's details around an incident at Logan Police Station in 1998 when a man walked in with a device but was intercepted by officers before he could activate the material.

Interesting photos and facts surrounding the Grand Apartments siege at Labrador on the Gold Coast in December 2004. Police technicians discovered an elaborate array of homemade firearms including a rocket launcher, improvised flame thrower and electric stun weapons.

'Blast from the past' also gives an insight into some of the investigative



An improvised rocket launcher using PVC pipe and a glue gun rendered inert after EORT officers searched the property following a tense stand off with police.



Homemade firearms designed with laser pointers seized after a Gold Coast siege.



'BLAST FROM THE PAST' IS ON SALE FOR $26 PER COPY AND SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN COMING MONTHS THROUGH THE OXLEY ACADEMY SHOP OR BY CONTACTING SERGEANT GARDINER ON MICKJG@BIGPOND.NET.AU.



and forensic work that was used in major cases including the West Ipswich blasts in 2013 and the people caught swapping explosives for drugs.

The material they created was TATP (triacetone triperoxide) known in the terrorist community as 'mother of satan' and at one stage it was discarded on the street and a young boy crippled for life after a golf ball full of the explosives detonated without warning.

For Sergeant Gardiner the sideline gig becoming an author has been intensely satisfying "I've been involved in just about every major bomb related incident in Queensland for the best part of a quarter of a century and when you gather all this material together it paints a rotten picture of what some people have been up to in this state."

It's hoped *'Blast from the past'* will become a virtual catalogue, a complete historical reference guide that should be on the reading list for recruits and all frontline first responders.

'Blast from the past' is on sale for $26 per copy and should be available in coming months through the Oxley Academy shop or by contacting Sergeant Gardiner on mickjg@bigpond.net.au. All profits from the sale of the book will be donated to Queensland Police Legacy.

Queensland Police Legacy President Shane Prior said "Mick has produced a book to be treasured not only as an historical record but it's a great read including each officer's insights. I hope all future bomb techs get a copy of this as a mandatory part of their application process.

"Mick has included details around the transition from Forensics, CIB and Tactical Units for EORT but also the story of the patches they wear, the significance of their badges and some initiation traditions including drinking fresh cobra blood.

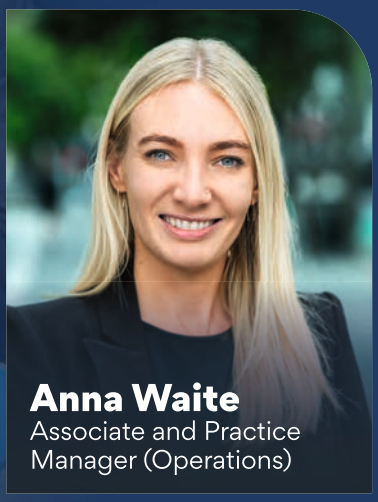
"Queensland Police Legacy is very appreciative of the generosity of Mick and his print partner in offering the profits for police families in need."

GNECH AND ASSOCIATES
LAWYERS

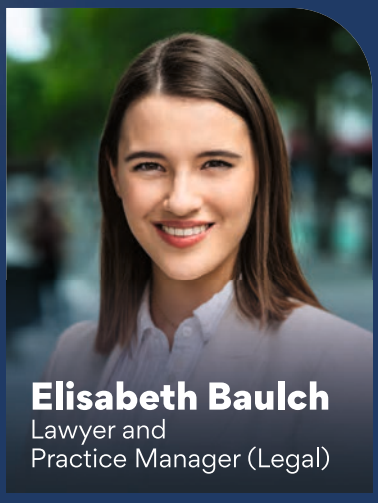




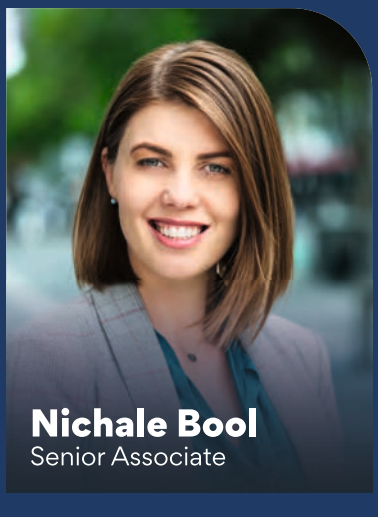
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and Principal Lawyer



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Associate and Practice
Manager (Operations)



Elisabeth Baulch
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Nichale Bool
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gnechlawyers.com

07 3558 1040

admin@gnechlawyers.com



Senior Constable John Kenworthy.

BLUE STEWARD

BY DARREN CURTIS

INJURED POLICE OFFICER SENIOR CONSTABLE JOHN KENWORTHY HAS BEEN BUSY NOT ONLY WITH HIS OWN REHABILITATION BUT ALSO SUPPORTING THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE THAT CAME TO HIS AID ON THE MOST TRAUMATIC DAY IN HIS LIFE.

John Kenworthy was on his police motorcycle at Calen, North of Mackay on the 9th of August 2020 responding to an urgent call to assist with a car that had left the road and gone into the water with people trapped inside when his bike went over an embankment. The impact threw him through a barbed wire fence and the strands penetrated his helmet visor causing horrific eye injuries.

He required urgent specialist care in Brisbane. Queensland Health tasked an aircraft from the Royal Flying Doctor Service and crew to get him from Mackay to Brisbane within a few hours of the incident. John said “if it wasn’t for the RFDS bringing me back on the night, I don’t believe I’d be anywhere near the level of capacity I have now.”



S/C Kenworthy continues to share his experience with other Highway Patrol Officers and Community Service Programs on Rider Safety.

Ten surgeries later John has very limited vision in his right eye and unfortunately he lost the use of his left eye all together. With the help of the Queensland Police Union, John and his wife Sarah have relocated to Brisbane so he could easily attend medical appointments and John has returned to an administration role with the QPS.

John said “it’s been one of my favourite tricks to turn up at work and prank a few of the new staff by sitting in the drivers seat of a marked vehicle with my cane out the window touching the ground and urging them to hurry up to get in the passenger seat to start a shift.”



Flight Night at the Kedron Wavell Services Club.

ONLINE DONATIONS HIT $3,000 FROM POLICE UNABLE TO ATTEND ON THE NIGHT, MORE THAN $3,500 WAS RAISED FROM THE CHARITY AUCTION AT THE EVENT.

Determined to show his thanks to the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Senior Constable Kenworthy created a fundraising event at Kedron Wavell Services Club on Saturday February 10, 2024 inviting his police colleagues, other first responders, friends and sponsors to enjoy 'Flight Night- The Red Eye' event.

During the night John and his doctors discussed the impacts of his accident and the extreme positivity he has radiated since the event, even though he's had a couple of medical setbacks.

John also revealed how music has become a profound element in his life as part of his rehabilitation. He's become so confident with the guitar he dropped the cane, and headed on stage to perform a number of sets and solos with the band during the function.

John said "the feedback was, it was like a big family event, there was so much love in the room. I cannot thank enough those who paid the $120 for a ticket, bought auction items and provided sponsorships, it truly was brilliant."

Online donations hit $3,000 from police unable to attend on the night, more than $3,500 was raised from the charity auction at the event.

John said "people obviously came with an intention to give. One person paid $60 for an inflatable RFDS plane, a $59 bucket of car cleaning products sold for $200, some all inclusive gym memberships went for $1,800 and then it was donated back and sold again. Every single sponsor should feel great pride in their contribution and what it will do for the RFDS."



S/C Kenworthy has maintained a healthy sense of humour at his new posting at North Lakes Station.



Guitar solo for the self taught musician using music as therapy.



Eye Surgeon Dr Sean Cheng attended the fundraiser and purchased a number of items and donated them back to John to be re auctioned.



Police Piper Charlie Mackenzie volunteered to assist with enhancing the entertainment lineup for the evening.



John couldn't resist joining the band for a number of rock classics.

John later visited the RFDS base at Brisbane Airport to present the cheque to staff. While he was there John was given a guided tour of the hangar, training rooms, communications and logistics areas. The experience was clearly emotional for the veteran police officer when he realised the various elements that all came together to make his urgent transport possible.

Senior Constable Kenworthy said "it doesn't need to be a traumatic crash, heart attack or sports injury in a very remote part of Queensland for you to need the Flying Doctor Service. It could be something as simple as a terrible infection while you are at a regional city and they need the RFDS to get you to Brisbane for specialist help. That's why I'm so driven to help this organisation. I would always have preferred to have raised more money but I thought $2,000 would have been reasonable however we exceeded our goal and hit $8186.18 and that's a start."



John ensured every sponsor was presented with a special acknowledgment of their support for Police and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

JOHN LATER VISITED THE RFDS BASE AT BRISBANE AIRPORT TO PRESENT THE CHEQUE TO STAFF. WHILE HE WAS THERE JOHN WAS GIVEN A GUIDED TOUR OF THE HANGAR, TRAINING ROOMS, COMMUNICATIONS AND LOGISTICS AREAS.

The Kenworthy family are already planning another fundraiser to benefit the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Queensland and there's no lack of confidence from Senior Constable Kenworthy to create an event that inspires and generates a healthy donation to those who helped him when he really needed it.



S/C John Kenworthy with Sgt Ty Connell from PCYC present the fundraising money to Cortney Ginivan from the Royal Flying Doctor Service Queensland.

COURT ORDERS AND CONTEMPT

BY CLAIRE MCGEE, SENIOR ASSOCIATE GILSHENAN & LUTON LAWYERS

THE BASIC PRINCIPLE TO CONSIDER WHAT IS CONTEMPT IS THAT *"CONDUCT WHICH TENDS TO PREJUDICE A FAIR TRIAL OR UNDERMINE PUBLIC FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE MAY BE PUNISHABLE AS CONTEMPT OF COURT".*[1]

The power to punish for contempt of court exists to prevent interferences with the course of justice; to vindicate the integrity of the court and its proceedings and maintain the authority of the law.

It is an important power, to enable a judicial officer to exercise control over the proceedings in a court room.

THE LEGISLATION

The power of a Magistrate in relation to findings of contempt is found in two places.

First, s 40 of the *Justices Act 1886* (Qld), which provides:

"40 Penalty for insulting or interrupting justices

(1) A person who –

(a) wilfully insults a justice or a witness or an officer of the court during his or her sitting as, or, as the case may be, attendance in a Magistrates Court or during his or her sitting or, as the case may be, attendance in any examination of witnesses in relation to an indictable offence or who is on his or her way to or from any such court or examination; or

(b) wilfully misbehaves himself or herself in such a court or in the place where such an examination is being held; or

(c) wilfully interrupts the proceedings of such a court or examination; or

(d) unlawfully assaults, or wilfully obstructs a person in attendance at such a court or examination; or

(e) without lawful excuse, disobeys a lawful order or direction of such court or justice;

may by oral order of such court or justice, be excluded from such court or examination and, whether the person is so excluded or not, may be summarily convicted by such court or justice of contempt."

This provision only applies where the court is dealing with a criminal proceeding to which the *Justices Act 1886* (Qld) applies.

Second, s 50 of the *Magistrates Courts Act 1921* (Qld), applies more generally and for example, would apply to coronial proceedings or domestic violence proceedings.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH COURT ORDERS

Most relevantly for QPS officers, is the failure to comply with a court order. Officers are regularly the subject of directions or orders from the court to produce evidence.

On some occasions the court may even order the personal appearance of an officer to answer questions about the failure to provide certain evidence.

To prove contempt on the basis of breach of a court order or undertaking, when the Court is

exercising the statutory power, it is not necessary to prove that the person wilfully did so. As soon as orders are issued, the person bound by those orders becomes responsible for taking adequate and continuing steps[2] or all possible steps[3] to comply with the order. One reasonable excuse might be ignorance of the existence of the order. This means that being on leave, or being too busy to comply with the order are not reasonable excuses for failing to comply.

Where the failure to comply with a court order is *not* deliberate, it may otherwise be taken into consideration as a factor in mitigation in relation to any penalty that might be imposed.

WITNESSES

As a QPS officer, in addition to being the subject of a court order, you may also be required to attend court as a witness on occasion.[4]

A person who deliberately fails to comply with a subpoena, by refusing to attend court and give evidence, commits contempt.

More generally, a person who is properly before a court to give evidence and refuses to be sworn or to give evidence when they should, is guilty of contempt.

The seriousness of this conduct is reflected in the penalties that are imposed. For example, a sentence of eight months imprisonment imposed by a judge of the County Court of Victoria, was upheld on appeal, in circumstances where the witness refused to give evidence in a criminal proceeding (in which he was one of the complainants).[5]

PUNISHMENT

A person convicted for contempt under the *Justices Act 1886* (Qld) is liable to one year imprisonment, or a fine of up to 84 penalty units ($13,003.02 as at April 2024).

A person convicted for contempt under the *Magistrates Courts Act 1921* (Qld) for failing to comply with an order of the court is liable to three years imprisonment or 200 penalty units ($30,960.00 as at April 2024).

Where there has been a failure, there are alternatives to proceeding to conviction for contempt, which could include:

(a) giving a warning about the conduct; or

(b) referring the matter to the Commissioner for disciplinary proceedings.

TIPS FOR AVOIDING CONTEMPT

(1) If you are informed by the prosecution that the court has issued a direction that you must comply with, confirm with the prosecutor/legal officer exactly what the order was to ensure that there is no ambiguity.

(2) If you are going to be unable to comply with a court order, contact the prosecution and advise them with as much notice as possible, so that they may request that the date for compliance with the order be amended.

(3) If you are ordered to personally appear in court for a failure to comply with a court order, please contact your Union representative immediately, so that appropriate advice, and potential representation can be provided.

1 *Attorney-General for State of Queensland v Colin Lovitt QC* [2003] QSC 279 at [52] per Chesterman J.

2 *Lade & Co Pty Ltd v Black* [2006] 2 Qd R 531 at [106].

3 *Heatons Transport (St Helens) Ltd v Transport and General Workers' Union* [1973] AC 15 at 113.

4 See s 644D of the *Criminal Code* (failure to comply with a subpoena without lawful excuse is contempt of court); and UCPR r 458 (a person who contravenes a subpoena issued by a registrar is guilty of contempt of court, unless the person has a reasonable excuse).

5 *Allen v The Queen* (2013) 36 VR 565; [2013] VSCA at [55] – [61].

THE POWER TO PUNISH FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT EXISTS TO PREVENT INTERFERENCES WITH THE COURSE OF JUSTICE; TO VINDICATE THE INTEGRITY OF THE COURT AND ITS PROCEEDINGS AND MAINTAIN THE AUTHORITY OF THE LAW.



Claire McGee joined Gilshenan & Luton in 2015 and is part of the company's law team offering advice in all areas of employment law including occupation discipline. Claire is a member of the Industrial Relations Society of Queensland and the Women Lawyers Association.



RAZORBACK GLORY

BY DARREN CURTIS

THE 2024 QPS RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP CARNIVAL WAS HELD IN MACKAY DURING APRIL AND THE HOME TEAM RAZORBACKS CLAIMED THE MEN'S TITLE AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FOUR YEARS, CITY THUNDER WON THE WOMEN'S DIVISION.

All the promotional material for the carnival was branded 'See You in CQ" and it made an impact with local community members, fellow league enthusiasts and sponsors attending every game of the carnival in significant numbers. Organisers believe it was the largest playing group assembled in the history of the Championship.

Every game was played at the Mackay Magpies home ground Sologinkin Oval at Glenella and the playing surface was genuine NRL standard. The Magpies Sporting Club became the hub for all game days, pre event and post game functions.



QRL Boss Ben Ikin told players at the opening ceremony of the strong appreciation the QRL has for police and the work they do in the community.



S/C Stacey Penola from Sarina Station offered a 'welcome to country' as a descendant of the traditional custodians the Yuwiburra people.



QPSRL President Danny Hess and Bill Dowden conducted the first round random playing draw from the Champions trophy.



Mackay Mayor Greg Williamson welcomed all the teams to the city and encouraged them to play hard on field and enjoy the regions hospitality.



QRL Boss Ben Ikin, QPSRL Committee Member Sam Bliss, Organiser Bill Dowden, Mackay Mayor Greg Williamson and Act Supt Emma Novosel at the opening ceremony.



The inaugural 'rookie sprint' was contested over 50m with footwear optional.



Winner of the 2024 'rookie sprint' Const Hayden Barrett from Rockhamption Station.

The CQ Razorbacks built momentum through the round games and were devastating in the grand final, racking up thirty eight points and keeping last years champions the Wide Bay Whales scoreless. Led by Captain Andrew Dunkley the razorbacks were punishing in attack. Andrew said "this is what we set out to do from the start. We knew if we kept our focus and our faith in each other's talent we would be unstoppable. The game plan wasn't fancy in fact it was pretty basic, we just had to stay consistent."

The celebrations at the end of the game honoured sponsor TJF Milk, and it's probably the first ever time the prized trophy has been filled with flavoured milk.











Carnival Organiser Bill Dowden said “the community have been very supportive of holding the QPS carnival here, we had the Mayor Greg Williamson here on opening night along with QRL boss Ben Ikin and most of our sponsors. Many of our corporate partners who came to the games spoke highly of the police standard of football, believing it was tough old school footy and said they’d rather watch the cops play every week than go to Cutters games.”



“I BROUGHT MY TWO SONS AND DAUGHTER DOWN HERE BECAUSE THE DAD’S WERE SAYING HOW HARD THE POLICE WERE TACKLING AND I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR THE BOYS TO LEARN SOME TECHNIQUE."

Mackay local Sherie Pattison attended on finals day after hearing a group of parents talking about the carnival at her sons' football training session on Tuesday night “I brought my two sons and daughter down here because the dad’s were saying how hard the police were tackling and I thought it might be a good example for the boys to learn some technique. We were able to get close as they warmed up and studied their drills, we managed front row for the games and in the game breaks some of the players who had already finished their games were playing with my kids out on the field. My daughter is ten and she was in awe of the ladies and couldn’t believe they were cops, she had photos with some of them and now says she wants to play and be a police officer.”

Mackay was the first time the carnival incorporated a best of three game format for the QPS female teams. City Cyclones claimed game one and game two achieving an unbeatable dominance for the title but they were aiming for a clean sweep, however Country Thunder prevented a whitewash turning the tables with a 20 to 8 win in the final game.



2024 QPSWRL Champions City Cyclones.

The carnival was also the playing career finale for Sam Bliss. A long time Country Thunder Captain 'Blissy' switched to City this year due to her work relocation to Brisbane. It was also the final chance to play alongside good friends Teresa Anderson and Steph Hancock , all three played representative rugby league for Queensland and Australia. Sam said "I wouldn't want a better way to go out than playing in my home town with some of my best ever team mates. This is definitely it for me playing, I'm happy with my playing career but it's time. Age is a big factor, I'm nearly 50 and while my head is still in the game and tactics my body isn't. It's time for me to enjoy the game, watch and admire the women's game."



Sam Bliss in her role as 'the general' playing for City Cyclones.



Sam never let a referee have any doubt about her view on a penalty.



Playing alongside fellow Australian Rep and great friend Steph Hancock.

Sam wont be lost to the sport, her focus will switch to coaching, recruiting and selection panels. Sam said "I'm a selector for the current NRL Jillaroos and I really enjoy the talent ID work. Women's Rugby League is evolving quicker than I thought it would. The three game series was brilliant and I don't think it will be long until we are adding extra women's teams to the QPS carnival."

The country thunder also farewelled stalwart Ange Murnane at the completion of the carnival. Ange and her wife Tara agreed to play one last carnival together as the timing was perfect, Tara a General Duties Officer in Mackay returned to sport sixteen months after the birth of their daughter and Ange who works in TCS in Mackay believes it's time to focus on family and work after a long and successful playing career. Ange said "we met working in Brisbane together and moved to Mackay to be closer to Tara's family so it's great to play in a tri series in front of our families. To win our games here will be very satisfying. It's time to move on now as well because there's a lot of new police joining the job who want to play league and there's some really good young police moving to the north who want to be part of the Thunder."



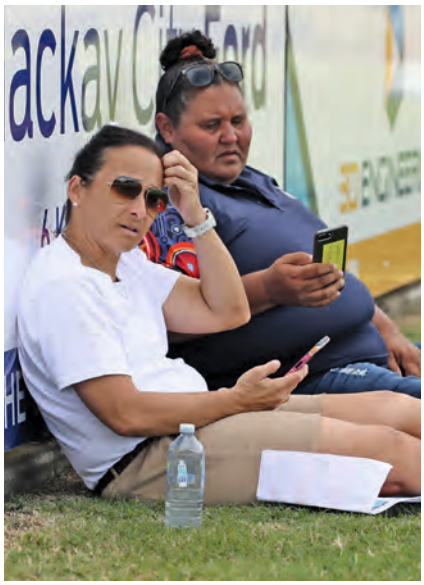
'Blissy's half time talks became legendary amongst the playing group.



In her element with ball in hand and running.



Sam had pride in knowing what to say to get the best out of her colleagues on the field.



Sam is still contributing to the sport in her role as a selector.



Ange Murnane always contributed valuable metres for her team in attack.



Ange and Tara played alongside each other for Country Thunder in front of a home crowd.

Tara has opted to keep playing and it's probably linked to her determination as an athlete. Tara made the qualifying standards to compete for Australia at the 2016 Rio Olympics in the high jump and triple jump disciplines but a significant foot injury derailed her opportunity. QPSWRL has since become a perfect sporting outlet for the Country Thunder winger. Tara said "I initially played for City because we were in Brisbane but now I'm home in Mackay it's a very natural transition to be part of Country and feels right. I haven't played for a few years due to pregnancy but to make a return in a tri series, in Mackay alongside my wife is wonderful."

"I INITIALLY PLAYED FOR CITY BECAUSE WE WERE IN BRISBANE BUT NOW I'M HOME IN MACKAY IT'S A VERY NATURAL TRANSITION TO BE PART OF COUNTRY AND FEELS RIGHT."



Tara Murnane proved difficult to handle in her return to QPS football.



The Murnane family celebrated the Country Thunder win in game three and Tara's selection in the QLD Maroons.

The carnival is also an opportunity for local teenage referees to gain some experience but one referee in particular was enjoying being at the centre of the decision making. Constable Dan Larose graduated from the Oxley Academy in December, before joining the police he was one of Queensland and Australia's elite touch football referees and had seniority with rugby league competitions as well.



Const Larose (centre) assisted with the development of local junior referees during the carnival.



Dan Larose held control of some of the carnivals most crucial games.



Dan said there was no hesitation making the tough but necessary calls.



Without the aid of video replay or the bunker Dan had to trust his judgement on the tryline.

He may have been one of the most junior on the field in terms of QPS service but he commanded the field, didn't hesitate to send a few players to the sin bin and withstood some fairly intense 'discussion' from opposing captains. Dan said "during the Gold Coast and Brisbane game the first half they weren't really interested in playing and too busy arguing. A bit of discipline and by the second they were really playing great football and it was really tight until the last few minutes. I may be the junior conny at work but when we step over the white line, rank means nothing, it's all about the game. When it's done we have a handshake and cold drink and it's all left on the field."



Const Larose believes potential police recruits should be made away of the sporting opportunities connected with the QPS.

Stationed at Bowen, Dan is living in the barracks and enjoying the demands of the job and the opportunity for overtime plus being involved in QPS sport. Dan said "they really should be letting recruits know about this side of the job, its great for us socially but with all the different cops you meet through football you find out about all different career opportunities."

Dan jokes that being a ref has also helped with his de-escalation skills dealing with players and passionate spectators.

Part of the atmosphere was generated by QPSRL Hall of Famers Coral and Tudor Young. Never one to let her opinion on a refs decision go unheard Coral is regarded as 'mother boar' due to her foundation association with the Southern Boars.



Dan says encouraging players to concentrate on the game enhanced the flow of play.

"WHEN WE STEP OVER THE WHITE LINE, RANK MEANS NOTHING, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE GAME. WHEN IT'S DONE WE HAVE A HANDSHAKE AND COLD DRINK AND IT'S ALL LEFT ON THE FIELD."



Coral & Tudor Young have attended 30 QPSRL carnivals in a variety of capacities and still are regulars in the grandstands.

"WITH THIS HONOUR AND ALONG WITH TUDOR WE WILL BE THE ONLY HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM TO ACHIEVE THIS I THINK SO IT'S EXTRA SPECIAL."

A former General Duties Senior Constable at Ipswich, Coral has held just about every management position within the Boars and has attended more than thirty QPS carnivals. Coral said "it's amazing I don't think anyone has been acknowledged for more than 30 carnivals, and for me to be the only woman with this honour and along with Tudor we will be the only husband and wife team to achieve this I think so it's extra special."



Generally the Youngs are behind the grandstand commentary and hijinks for the Southern Boars.

Tudor is a former teacher at Ipswich Grammar but has extensive skills as a sports strapper so it wasn't long before Coral roped him in to help out while she was managing teams. Tudor laughs and says "initially the cops looked at me differently because I wasn't one of them, but they could see I had something to offer and I was accepted. I've been with police teams since the early nineties. From 1998 to 2014 I was with the Queensland police team, the Australian police side between 2004 to 2013 and attended two world cups. I was made a QPSRL Life Member in 2009 and I'm pretty proud that I'm the only non cop to ever achieve that."

Coral and Tudor are both retired and enjoy ocean cruising but ensure their travel plans accommodate the QPS Carnival every year. Coral said "we plan our year around this because its great catching up with so many ex players, cops from all over the state and besides 'once a boar always a boar.' It's the next phase of police camaraderie, doesn't matter if you're in the team or left the job your still part of this sport. Me and Tudor will keep doing this for as long as we can."



Each year the Youngs re-unite with police they've met through football all over the state.



Mother Boar always a Southern Region team favourite.
























Queensland Country Bank































TOILETS
19
38




38
































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6




6
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QPS RL




ATAC








GILSHENAN & LUTON








FIRST AID




16


26




Police Health
































SULLIVAN
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LAWYERS


Melissa
19






Sciaccas














33




11
19












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QPS RL
ARTISTIC LANDSCAPES








JF Milk
HORNERY
MORANBAH
Resthaven Quarry


















HAINES
WILSON


Rapid












STRUDDY
MACKAY 2024













The finals day play determined the 2024 complete positions, with South East Muddies in third with a 12-6 win over the Far North Queensland Marlins. The Plate final to determine fifth and sixth was won by the Northern Stingers 18-0 over the Brisbane Bulldogs.



Northern Stingers won the plate final and were presented with the perpetual trophy by QPU Vice President Shane Prior, QPSRL President Danny Hess and QPU President Ian Leavers.

"THE FRIENDSHIP AND MATESHIP WE HAVE SEEN DURING THIS CARNIVAL IS SOME OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE I'VE WITNESSED AT A QPS SPORTS EVENT."

QPU President Ian Leavers presented the winners medallions but also a number of carnival awards during the official presentation event at the Mackay Turf Club.

Mr Leavers said "the friendship and mateship we have seen during this carnival is some of the most impressive I've witnessed at a QPS sports event. The week starts with some gentle ribbing with colleagues you probably haven't seen for a long time, it morphs into full competitive force as the results start to evolve and then when the finals are over there's this steel like bond. We all wear the uniform and handle a variety of stresses through the day to day but this carnival is a little relief valve, a chance to not think about the demands of work and relax amongst mates.

"The QPU has remained a significant sponsor for both men and women's rugby league and I look forward to the success of our Maroon Teams at the Australian Championships." Mr Leavers said.

Recipients of the Player Awards received a cash prize from the QPU along with a gift and their name on the perpetual trophy. Andrew Dunkley from the CQ Razorbacks was announced as the player of the men's final. Defensive player of the carnival was Kieran Melville from the Wide Bay Whales and Player of the carnival was Nelson Gibuma from the Far North Queensland Marlins.



Kieran Melville receives the Best Defensive Player Award from QPU President Ian Leavers and QPSRL President Danny Hess.



Recipient of the Player of the Final Andrew Dunkley receives the perpetual trophy from QPU President Ian Leavers and QPSRL President Danny Hess.



FNQ Marlins player Nelson Gibuma was awarded Player of the Carnival.

The women's awards went to Jorja Gray from the City Cyclones for the second year in a row recognised as the Player of the Carnival. Jorja was presented with the Gnech and Associates sponsored Brett Forte Shield with Mekilah Ackworth also from City Cyclones who received the Teresa Anderson Trophy for the best Defensive Player of the Carnival.



QPU President Ian Leavers and QPSRL President Danny Hess present Jorja Gray with the Player of the Carnival Trophy.



Mekilah Ackworth is presented with the Best Defensive Player of the Carnival Trophy by QPU President Ian Leavers and QPSRL President Danny Hess.

Major Sponsor of the Affiliated States Competition and Australian Police Rugby League Team, former serving police officer Terry Hailey from TM Management Services attended the Queensland Carnival for the first time and liked what he saw across the week. Terry said "every team whether they are playing or not is at the venue all day, other states I get the impression the teams turn up play their own game and leave. There's little interaction or enjoying the event as a spectator. You Queenslanders really enjoy each other's company and swapping stories from the different parts of the State where you're working. That really impressed me as someone on the outside looking in. This is one week a year that appears to be really beneficial to an officers health, not just because they are playing sport but if it helps someone stay out of the darkness and negative thoughts it's all been worth it."

























Players named in the 2024 Queensland Police Maroons Team.



Players named in the 2024 Queensland Maroons Team.



QPSRL acknowledged sponsor Terry Hailey from TM Management Services during the presentation.



City Cyclones were presented with their 2024 Championship Medallions.



QPU President Ian Leavers congratulated each Region in fielding competitive teams and those nominated for the 2024 State Police Teams.



CQ Razorbacks Capt Andrew Dunkley spoke of the honour for his side being QPS State Champions for 2024.



Anthony Tidball was awarded a 10 Carnival Hall of Fame certificate.



Jeremy Smith was awarded a 10 Carnival Hall of Fame certificate.



Paul Jones was acknowledged with a 20 year mug.



The CQ Razorbacks presented with their 2024 Championship Medallions.



Justin Drier was awarded a 10 Carnival Hall of Fame certificate.



David Hudson was awarded a 10 Carnival Hall of Fame certificate.



QPSRL acknowledged sponsors FKG Group Mick and Bruce Gardner during the presentation.



QPSRL acknowledged sponsors Ian Leavers and Shane Prior from the QPU.



Andrew Fullagar was awarded a 10 Carnival Hall of Fame certificate.



Adrian Daniels was awarded a 10 Carnival Hall of Fame certificate.



QPSRL acknowledged all of their generous sponsors including Greg Ryan from Artistic Landscapes.

QPS Queensland Maroon Mens Team 2024

Daley Boney - FNQ Marlins
Logan Bower - SE Muddies
Jake Carl - SE Muddies
James Conroy - SE Muddies
Tom Cordwell - CQ Razorbacks
Dave Cutler - WB Whales
Angelo Cuevas - Nthn Stingers
Aengus Dickson - FNQ Marlins
Andrew Dunkley - CQ Razorbacks
Nelson Gibuma - FNQ Marlins
Ryan Graham - SE Muddies
Al Heldsinger - Mount Isa Mongrels
Issac Lehman - CQ Razorbacks
Kieren Melville - WB Whales
Mick O'Keefe - SE Muddies
Troy O'Sullivan - SE Muddies
Tom Patullo - CQ Razorbacks
Terry Philips - Townsville
Kane-Paul Smith - Southern Boars
Sam Pierce - SE Muddies
Will Scanlan - Brisbane Bulldogs
Alex Williams - WB Whales

QPS Queensland Maroon Womens Team 2024

Jorja Gray - City
Allanah Phineasa - Country
Victoria Merrick - City
Shannon Piccinelli - City
Belinda Patrick - City
Tara Murnane - Country
Kirra Zempech - Country
Alya Ovari - City
Teresa Anderson - City
Gabriel Carsten - Country
Ayden Bain - City
Kirsten Everett - City
Kaitlyn Catrell - City
Stephanie Hancock - City
Gracie Ryder - Country
Fran Wilson - City
Mik Ackworth - City
Syndee Storey - Country
April Albury - Country
Mallory Hofmeier - Country
Tahnee Guinea - City
Brianna Lockyear - Country



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PSYCHIATRIC INJURY CLAIMS

BY RYAN HEATH, SPECIAL COUNSEL SCIACCA'S LAWYERS

Sciaccas LAWYERS

SCIACCA'S LAWYERS CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ADVICE TO MEMBERS OF THE QUEENSLAND POLICE UNION REGARDING WORKPLACE PSYCHOLOGICAL INJURIES AND THE WORKCOVER PROCESS.

Psychological injuries can develop through a one off traumatic event, repeated exposure to trauma or workplace stressors including unreasonable management action.

Once a member has a WorkCover claim accepted for a psychological injury, we continue to provide advice regarding prospects of success in a civil or common law claim for damages. Generally if a member is to be successful in a claim for common law damages they need to establish that the QPS knew or should have known of their psychological vulnerability prior to the decompensation.

It is well established case law that an employer has a duty of care to ensure a safe system and a safe place of work. However, what constitutes a safe system of work and a safe place of work will depend on the circumstances of the particular case. It is fair to state that the Queensland Police Service (QPS) in recent years has recognised the importance of their staff's psychological health.

Reference is made to the *"Our People Matter"* strategy. The strategy arose as a result of a formal consultation process undertaken with various stakeholders during 2017. The process involved two surveys one for employees and the other for family members and more than thirty face to face workshops. The QPS recorded some 2300 responses to the surveys and over 850 participants in the workshops.

As a result of that consultation the *"Our People Matter"* strategy document was created referencing in part the following goals:-

- Develop a risk management framework which identifies those at risk of suffering a mental health condition and how the risk is being managed
- Review policies and procedures to ensure they support those with mental health conditions
- Improve data reporting systems to better enable the analysis of trends to ensure support services are appropriate
- Implement strategies that seek to reduce the stigma associated with mental health conditions
- Encourage help seeking behaviour
- Promote and encourage employee and family access to support options
- Promote wellbeing strategies to reduce mental health risk
- Extend current support services to families

• Develop and deliver training, tools and services to assist with the identification and management of mental health conditions.

It remains presently unclear to the extent which further policies and procedures have been implemented and adopted which address these strategy commitments.

Certainly the extent to which the QPS creates policies and procedures for ensuring the mental health of their staff will become directly relevant to establishing whether or not a member would have a successful common law claim.

The case law surrounding psychological injuries continues to develop, given the decision of the High Court last year in the matter of Kozarov v State of Victoria (2022) HCA12. Prior to the Kozarov decision a member's prospects of success were dictated to a large extent by the High Court's findings of Koehler v Cerebos (Australia) Limited (2005) HCA15. In Koehler, the injured worker was unsuccessful in establishing negligence against their employer because she had failed to bring to her employer's attention the fact that she was suffering from a mental illness and indeed continued performing her duties under her employment contract.

In this matter, although the injured worker had complained to her employer about her excessive workload, she did not expressly warn the employer that she was potentially suffering a psychiatric illness. The High Court noted:- *"The employer engaging an employee to perform stated duties is entitled to assume, in the absence of evident signs or warning of the possibility of psychiatric injury, that the employee considers that he or she is able to do the job"*.

Given the findings in Koehler, in advising members regarding potential claims against the QPS, it was important to establish that the QPS knew or should have known that the member was at risk of sustaining psychiatric injury due to the ordinary performance of their work.

It is now arguable however that the landscape with respect to being on notice has shifted given the Kozarov decision. Ms Kozarov was employed as a solicitor in the Specialised Sexual Offences Unit (SSOU) of the Office of Public Prosecutions in Victoria. As a result, Ms Kozarov routinely interacted with survivors of trauma, both adults and children and through the prosecution of these claims was exposed to their traumatic experiences.

The High Court, in ultimately finding for Ms Kozarov stated that there was no question as to whether the employer was duty bound to be alert to the risk of psychological injury given the nature of Ms Kozarov's work.

In this regard their Honours Keifel and Keen stated as follows:- *"In light of the undisputed facts, it is clear that officers of the respondent who were responsible for the management of the SSOU were duty bound to exercise reasonable care to protect Ms Kozarov against risk to her mental health that were actually known to the respondent. This is so readily apparent from the terms of the vicarious trauma policy (the VT Policy) adopted by the respondent for the protection of the psychiatric health of employees within the SSOU before Ms Kozarov's employment commenced. No further warning signs were necessary to establish that the content of the duty of care owed by the respondent to Ms Kozarov included active steps for the care of her psychiatric health"*.

"OUR PEOPLE MATTER"

- DEVELOP A RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK WHICH IDENTIFIES THOSE AT RISK OF SUFFERING A MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION AND HOW THE RISK IS BEING MANAGED
- REVIEW POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO ENSURE THEY SUPPORT THOSE WITH MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS
- IMPROVE DATA REPORTING SYSTEMS TO BETTER ENABLE THE ANALYSIS OF TRENDS TO ENSURE SUPPORT SERVICES ARE APPROPRIATE
- IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES THAT SEEK TO REDUCE THE STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS
- ENCOURAGE HELP SEEKING BEHAVIOUR
- PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE EMPLOYEE AND FAMILY ACCESS TO SUPPORT OPTIONS
- PROMOTE WELLBEING STRATEGIES TO REDUCE MENTAL HEALTH RISK
- EXTEND CURRENT SUPPORT SERVICES TO FAMILIES
- DEVELOP AND DELIVER TRAINING, TOOLS AND SERVICES TO ASSIST WITH THE IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS.

The Court went further commenting on particular types of employment which may put employees at risk. They stated as follows:- *"The circumstances of a particular type of employment may be such that the work to be performed by the employee is inherently and obviously dangerous to the psychiatric health of the employee (just as other kinds of work are inherently and obviously dangerous to the physical health of the employee).*

In any such case, the employer is duty bound to be proactive in the provision of measures to enable the work to be performed safely by the employee". The effect of the Kozarov decision is that arguably less importance is placed on whether a member has displayed signs or symptoms of psychological vulnerability and more emphasis is placed upon the nature of the work and what policies or procedures that the QPS have in place to mitigate the risk of psychiatric harm.

In this regard should the QPS have introduced policies pursuant to the *"Our People Matter"* strategy and failed to implement and/or adopt those policies, an injured member's claim would have greater prospects of success. In this regard the Kozarov decision confirms that employers are duty bound to be proactive in the provision of measures to control risk to the health and safety of employees.

In circumstances where the employer has introduced policies to mitigate the risk of injury, this will be extremely relevant in assessing whether an employer is on notice of the foreseeable risk of psychiatric injury.

There are some general observations that can be made regarding the attitude of the High Court in the Kozarov decision as follows:-

(a) The duty of care owed by an employer to an employee in certain workplaces can include active steps for the care of psychiatric health of the employee.

(b) There may be features of a particular employer which will mean that the work is inherently and obviously dangerous to the psychiatric health of an employee. In those circumstances the employer has a duty to be proactive and to provide measures which enable the work to be performed safely.

(c) An employer's internal policies or procedures may indicate that the employer has a lively appreciation of the serious risk to the mental health of employees posed by the work. In those circumstances the employer does not need any warning sign to take reasonable steps to safe guard an employees' mental health.

Prior to the Kozarov decision in advising members we would need to stress the importance of the member showing obvious signs of psychological distress or symptomology prior to their decompensation.

Generally speaking in the absence such notice of the officers' wellbeing, the QPS would argue that the provision of HSOs, PSOs and police chaplains was sufficient to discharge their duty of care.

However, given the nature of first response policing and the fact that members are regularly exposed to trauma, we believe it can now be argued that the QPS has a duty to be proactive and to provide measures which enable work to be performed safely. In particular in circumstances where the QPS have internal policies and procedures regarding psychological wellbeing, it can now be argued that the failure to comply with those policies and procedures may lead to a finding of fault or negligence on behalf of the QPS.

QPU members are strongly encouraged to contact Sciacca's Lawyers to obtain advice regarding any workplace injuries, in particular psychological injuries, at the earliest available opportunity.



Ryan Heath is special counsel at Sciaccas lawyers. He has over 25 years of legal experience in accident compensation law with a special interest in psychological injuries. Ryan is often called upon to advise police and other first responders on potential common law and total and permanent disability claims.


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BOWEL CANCER COPS

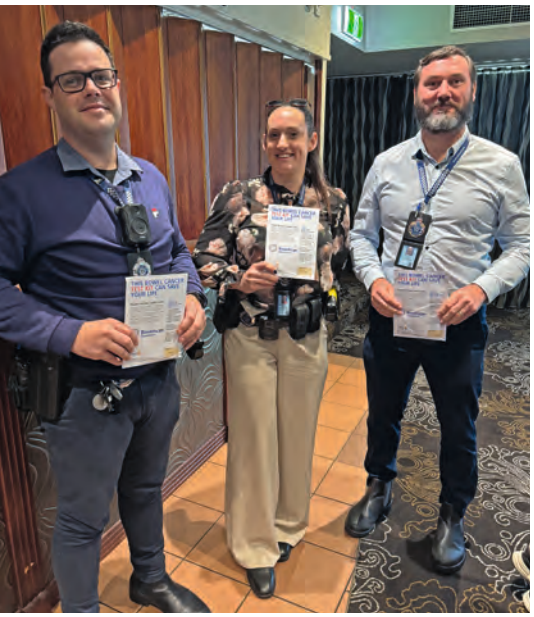
BY DARREN CURTIS

BOWEL CANCER IS THE SECOND BIGGEST CANCER KILLER IN AUSTRALIA AND UNFORTUNATELY QUEENSLAND HAS SOME OF THE HIGHEST RATES IN THE WORLD.

QPU Southern Region Rep Col Muller along with Acting Inspector Adam Cooper initiated an awareness project encouraging QPU members across the Region to undergo free screening. The undertaking centered on a breakfast meeting held on Monday April 29 at the Ipswich Brothers Leagues Club.

Acting Inspector Cooper said the driving force for him to be involved came from losing a family member and good friend to bowel cancer, “As police we are not immune to this cancer and we can suffer this at any age or time in our career. I’ve found people are reluctant to talk about bowel cancer, it’s as if the topic is taboo talking about poo but if we do keep discussing this issue we will raise awareness. People aged between 25 to 45 they are the ones at an increased rate of bowel cancer and it’s increasing every year. The good news however is it’s about 99% curable if detected early.”







One hundred and ten current serving police and police liaison officers attended the breakfast and each were provided a free test kit. QPU preferred lawyers Gilshenan & Luton covered the cost of the test kits with practice Director Craig Pratt taking a personal interest in supporting the project.

A number of guest speakers from Queensland Cancer Council, Queensland Rotary Bowelscan and bowel cancer survivors spoke of their experiences and the research being done to assist those that contract this cancer.

Acting Senior Sergeant Kim Clist from Goodna revealed she contracted bowel cancer in 2008 and had no symptoms before her diagnosis. Originally doctors thought she may have had appendicitis but during the scan and test phase specialists discovered a number of tumours. Kim said, "I was 37 and competing in some high level sports and thought I was pretty tough having endured a number of injuries through sport and on the job but the surgery, recovery and chemo knocked me for six.

"If the doctors had only gone ahead with key hole surgery for my appendix I would never have known I had bowel cancer until it was probably too late to treat. I'm now fully recovered but a strong advocate that if you have the opportunity to do this bowel scan test or a colonoscopy to do it, I cannot praise the process enough."



Assistant Commissioner Kath Innes revealed how cancer had impacted her family and the need for police of all ranks to take up the option of cancer testing.

Recently appointed Assistant Commissioner for Southern Region Kath Innes caught just about everybody in the audience by surprise with her family's story. In an emotional few minutes Kath detailed how her father was diagnosed with bowel cancer in 1999 but had felt unwell for two years before submitting to full medical tests. He was treated and initially recovered.

Kath said, "If dad had continued to ignore his symptoms he would never have met my daughter Sophie, however when my son was being born in 2004 dad was in palliative care from bowel cancer and he died not long after.

"Then in 2022 my brother Martin became ill without any previous symptoms and died five weeks after being diagnosed with cancer. I've got no one left so please take the test. Ipswich is over represented in the statistics for bowel cancer. 12% of new cases of bowel cancer are people under 50 years of age, so this can impact anybody."



Bowel cancer survivor Snr Sgt Kim Clist revealed the unusual way her cancer was diagnosed.

PEOPLE AGED BETWEEN 25 TO 45 THEY ARE THE ONES AT AN INCREASED RATE OF BOWEL CANCER AND IT'S INCREASING EVERY YEAR. THE GOOD NEWS HOWEVER IS IT'S ABOUT 99% CURABLE IF DETECTED EARLY.



QPU Southern Region Rep Col Muller and Gilshenan & Luton Director Craig Pratt who provided funding for the breakfast and test kits.


THIS BOWEL CANCER TEST KIT CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE
YEARLY TESTING SAVES LIVES
This iFOB screening test detects hidden blood in the bowel motion which may indicate a medical problem that requires further investigation.
You will receive free advice on outcome of test if the registration card is completed.
Please understand this program does not represent a test for bowel cancer, it merely detects hidden blood in the bowel motion.
THIS IS A QUEENSLAND ROTARY BOWELSCAN iFOB TEST KIT
A community health awareness program supported by Australian Rotary Health
UNUSED KIT MUST BE STORED IN A COOL PLACE AT ALL TIMES
TESTING IS AVAILABLE EACH BUSINESS DAY
UNUSED KITS CAN BE USED THE NEXT YEAR AS LONG AS THE USE BY DATE HAS NOT EXPIRED
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Rotary District 9620
USE BY DATE:
30 APR 2025
FURTHER INFORMATION: 1300 779 694
#BOWELSCANQLD A COMMUNITY HEALTH AWARENESS PROGRAM




POLICE





Each specialist organisation encouraged those who took a free kit home to utilise it and not place it in a drawer to be forgotten.

QPU Southern Region Rep Col Muller reinforced the value of the project across all work units in the QPS, "It is a very important issue, everyone here knows somebody who has been touched by some form of cancer and anyone who has been close to those who have had a terminal diagnosis will know it's not a nice end of life.

"Incredibly when I was encouraging colleagues to come to this event one member told me he had a bowel cancer screen and it came back positive and they didn't follow it up with a doctor. Please use some common sense. I'd particularly like to thank AC Innes for her insight about what happened to her family, that has really touched everyone in the room and hopefully opened a few eyes to just how bad this cancer can be."

The event would not have been possible without the support of the QPU and Gilshenan & Luton. Adam Cooper and Col Muller have encouraged other police Districts to engage with their local Rotary Clubs and Cancer Council Queensland to arrange similar information sessions for members.



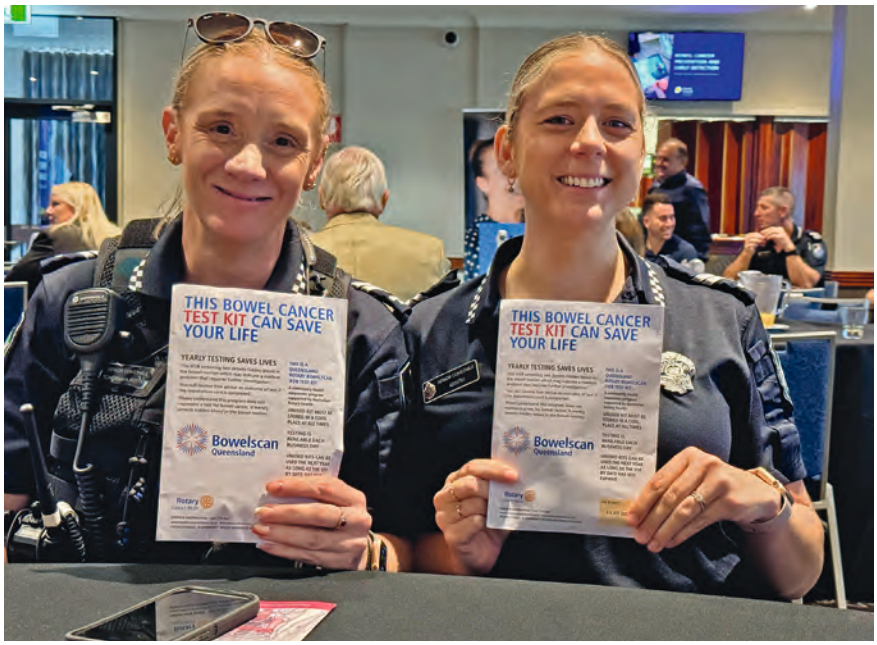


Event organisers Acting Insp Adam Cooper and QPU Southern Regional Rep Col Muller.

EACH SPECIALIST ORGANISATION ENCOURAGED THOSE WHO TOOK A FREE KIT HOME TO UTILISE IT AND NOT PLACE IT IN A DRAWER TO BE FORGOTTEN.


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QUEENSLAND RETIRED POLICE ASSOCIATION NEWS

MESSAGE FROM GREG EARLY, STATE PRESIDENT



Ashley Snook, Far North Queensland Branch, occasionally attends a general meeting of the Association held at Police Headquarters in Brisbane.

He had a special reason to attend the meeting on 4 March 2024 and that was to receive his Queensland Police Service Medal.



State President Greg Early presenting Ashley Snook with his Queensland Police Service Medal.



State President Greg Early presenting State Vice President Alex Granlund with his Veteran Member Certificate.

The luncheons/dinner for 2024 known at this stage are:

Van Diemen's Land, 22 June 2024, AGM and dinner at Tamar Valley Resort, Andy Beasant, 0409 030 142;

Gold Coast, 16 July 2024, Twin Towns Services Club, Tweed Heads, Denise Sullivan, 0407 341 596;

Gladstone, 20 July 2024, Chinatown Restaurant, Darryl Saw, 0447 417 746;

Rockhampton, (dinner), 18 November 2024 – details to be provided at a later date;

Bundaberg, 4 December 2024, Sandhills Function Room, Bargara, Rowan Bond 0408 286 483.

TRANSFERRING FROM ONE BRANCH TO ANOTHER

Usually a member joins the Association from one of the seventeen Branches or via the State Branch. However, they join the Association and not the Branch. It is a simple matter to transfer from one Branch to the other by completing a transfer form. Also, visitors from one Branch to another are always welcome.

NEW MEMBERS

Former Assistant Commissioner Colin Malcolm McCallum, Darling Downs, former Senior Sergeant Steven Peter Stewart, Darling Downs, former Sergeant in NSW Police Force Michael Leonard Enders, State, former Sergeant Anthony William Aquilina, State, former Sergeant Terence Michael Winters, Gold Coast and former Sergeant John Russell, Goobanko, Gold Coast.

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER

John Leslie Goggan, fit and proper person, Gold Coast.

QRPA CERTIFICATES

VETERAN MEMBER

(75 years & 10 years continuous financial membership):
Peter John Harrison-Kyte, Logan-Beenleigh, Raymond Leslie Laidlaw, Darling Downs, Phillip Mannion, Southern Downs and Granite Belt, Joseph Moskwa, Sunshine Coast and Desmond John Wolski, Near North Coast.

VETERAN ASSOCIATE MEMBER

(75 years & 10 years continuous financial membership):
Pauline Marion Anderson, Hervey Bay and Christine Merle Coleborn, Gladstone.

SENIOR MEMBER

(65yrs and 10 years continuous financial membership):
Timothy John Battle, Southern Downs and Granite Belt, Laurence Bell, Southern Downs and Granite Belt, Mark Bradley Clark, Ipswich, Michael Raymond Dunn, Logan-Beenleigh, John Carey MacDonald, Logan-Beenleigh, John Edward Warner, Near North Coast, Paul Anthony Wilson, State, Mervyn Victor Johnston, Townsville, Geoffrey James Palmer, Gold Coast, Christopher Michael Sang, State and Wayne Allan Woods, Sunshine Coast.

SENIOR ASSOCIATE MEMBER

(65 years & 10 years continuous financial membership): Judith Iris Dunn, Logan Beenleigh, Marion Leila Goddard, Townsville and Suzanne Fay Luskie, Redlands.

90 AND OVER

Vince Beutel, Ipswich, 100 on 5 April 2024, Dulcie Green, Townsville, 92 on 11 April 2024, Frederick George Maynard, Ipswich, 92 on 18 April 2024 and Norah Gwenllian Spreadborough, Mackay-Whitsunday, 92 on 3 April 2024.

OBITUARIES – MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

MEMBERS

Veteran member and former Inspector Cecil Arthur Horne, 13/03/2024, age 98 years, member and former Sergeant Norris Lindsay Francis Carney, 04/03/2024 age 86 years, member and former Sergeant First Class Graham Jonsen, 27/03/2024 age 79 years, Life Member and former Sergeant First Class Rex Albert Allison 13/04/2024 age 99 years, Life Member and former Chief Superintendent Granville Patrick Pearce aged 81 years 16/04/2024, Veteran Member and former Sergeant John Daniel Thomson 80 years 21/04/2024 and Veteran Member and former Detective Senior Sergeant Gerald Morgan aged 91 years 06042024.

FAMILY

Gwendoline Muriel Cislowski, 06/03/2024, age 96 years, widow of former Life Member Osmond Ertmann (Ossie) Cislowski and Beryl Bye, 22/03/2024, age 96 years, wife of Life Member Vincent Joseph Bye.

NON MEMBERS

Former Queensland Police Officer Colin Bruce Jackson, 04/03/2024, age 65 years, former Queensland Police Officer Norman Leslie Beitz, 07/032024, age 95 years, former Queensland Police Officer John Edward Newman 06/03/2024, age 74 years, former Sergeant Kenneth Brian Leitch, age 70 years, former Sergeant Keith Hutchinson, 31/03/2024 age 87 years and former Sergeant James Bindon aged 79 years 15/04/2024.

AROUND THE BRANCHES

BUNDABERG

Meeting held on 22 March 2024. Welfare: In the absence of Mary Waugh, an informal welfare report was made by several members. It noted that Grannie Pearce was still in good spirits. (Unfortunately Grannie passed away on 16 April 2024). Lou Pukallas advised that he is hopefully on the mend after a further protracted round of treatment. The Charity Bowls Day: Bob Materna, Alan Edgerton and Mary Waugh are going above and beyond in an endeavour to gain some major prizes from local businesses. Alan Edgerton advised that he had been to see the manager of the local Betta Electrical store and was hopeful for a positive outcome. Bob made the suggestion that members give thought to a 'barefoot bowls day' for a future date (possibly after the yearly charity bowls day) with it being suggested it be held on a weekday, such as a Monday or Friday, as opposed to a weekend when fixtures are held. This idea was warmly received and will be given further thought in the coming weeks. Next meeting: 26 April 2924. *(Secretary – Rowan Bond – 0408 286 483)*

GOLD COAST

Meeting held on 5 March 2024. President Russell Robertson has sincerely thanked the Ipswich Branch of the Retired Police Association (in particular President Ken Morris and members Bruce Raymond and Margie Poole aka Kussrow) for their very helpful and muchly appreciated assistance provided in the recent passing and funeral of Gold Coast RPA Veteran Member Patrick Clancy. Meeting held at the Currumbin RSL Club on 2 April 2024. Five members and associates attended the social meeting at the Currumbin RSL Club on 28 March 2024. The annual luncheon will be held at Twin Towns Services Club, Tweed Heads, on 16 July 2024. The application for membership by former QPS Sergeant Terrence Michael Winters was recommended for approval. Guest Speaker: Inspector Chris Critton of South Eastern Region who gave a very thorough and highly informative presentation on issues affecting policing in the Region in particular: Youth crime, curfews, staff retention and over capacity watchhouses where youths are now held for some 30 days on remand with the QPS having to fill the role of Queensland Corrective Services. Next meeting: 7 May 2024. *(Secretary – David Manfield – 0413 957 610)*

GYMPIE

Meeting held on 7 April 2024. Welfare Report: Glen Durre gave an update on his wife Margery's ongoing medical treatment. Norm Breen and Annabell Andrews mentioned that Garry Casey had been in hospital with Influenza and was now recovering. Discussion ensued about a request by Laurie Pointing for $500 to assist in printing another book. There was talk of arranging a bus outing in the near future for a get together and informal lunch. Next meeting: Tin Can Bay Sports Club on 5 June 2024. *(Secretary – Wayne McDonald – 0406 728 070)*

LOGAN-BEENLEIGH

Meeting held on 28 February 2024. President Col Thorne welcomed Lisa Jones, Curator of the Queensland Police Museum. Later in the meeting Lisa gave a presentation on the murder of Gwendoline Thorpe in 1956. Greg Spies, one of the founding members of the Branch, was presented with his Life Member Plaque. (Greg is a tireless organiser of prizes for the monthly raffles). Welfare by Eileen Riley. The Klupfels came back from a cruise with COVID and Graham spent some time in hospital. Three other members were also struck down Jim and Lola Wagner and Wayne Barnes. Mike Pearson is doing extremely well after his bypass surgery; Dale Ellsworth continues with her chemo regime which is tough going and Max Faulkner is back driving again after his knee

replacement last October. It was wonderful to see John and Dale and Jim at the meeting. Eileen tendered her resignation as Welfare Officer as she concentrates on her own health issues. A vote of appreciation was carried with acclamation for her tireless efforts as Welfare Officer and Guest Speaker Co-ordinator. Meeting held on 27 March 2024. The guest speaker, Ian Frame, CEO of Youth Enterprises Trust, was welcomed to the meeting by President Col Thorne. The vision of the Trust is to improve the lives of young people through engagement with the environment, education and entrepreneurship. He also spoke about the achievement and future plans of the Trust. A motion to include the words 'associate or honorary' under QRPA badges for new members was passed. Welfare officer position. The executive formally accepted Eileen Riley's resignation as Branch Welfare Officer from 27 March 2024. The branch formally acknowledged Eileen's excellent and compassionate work as the Welfare Officer. Members showed their appreciation in the usual manner. The executive is now looking to form a welfare committee. The Committee looked at the replacement of the current flag poles and decided on poles which are more suitable to be used for the flags. Meeting held on 24 April 2024. Guest speaker: Acting Inspector Chris Tritton on Facial Recognition. Chris has been identified as a Super Recogniser with ability to recognise people from a photograph and video. This is a natural talent which cannot be taught or developed. He won a Churchill Scholarship and travelled to the United Kingdom where he undertook training to enable him to identify other people with a similar talent within QPS. This is a new and developing process with QPS. President Col Thorne presented John MacDonald with his Senior Member Certificate. Les Melville was presented with his Veteran Member Certificate by President Col external to the meeting. Gerry Stevens has raised a further $300 through his can/bottle collections. The Management Committee is planning a trip to Summerland Camels at Harrisville in the August - September period. Eileen Riley was presented with a plaque in appreciation of her service to the Branch. President Colin Thorne provided an update on the health and wellbeing of a number of branch members. Next meeting: 22 May 2024. *(Secretary – Kevin Francis – 0401 668 760)*



Greg Spies being presented with his Life Member Plaque by President Col Thorne.



Les Melville being presented with his Veteran Member Certificate by President Col Thorne.



President Col Thorne presenting John MacDonald with his Senior Member Certificate.

SUNSHINE COAST

Meeting held on 26 March 2024. Welfare report by President and Welfare Officer Dick Turpin. A written message from Whisky Walker was received and circulated among members updating everyone on John's health. Members conveyed best wishes to Whiskey with his ongoing health issues. There are a number of members suffering health issues and several updates were conveyed to the meeting. Tough times for some. Guest Speaker: QRPA – SCO member Rick Pak spoke about his role as a forensic photographer involved with the human remains recovered following the Air NZ DC10 Mount Erebus Air crash in 1979. It was an interesting discussion to what has become a joint Australia – New Zealand Police process to Disaster Victim Identification. The annual luncheon was held on 23 April 2024 at the Headland Golf Club. Thirty nine members and guests attended. The following Branches were represented: Redlands (1) and Near North Coast (5). They had four lucky door prizes and thirty three other raffle prizes. Special guest was Tony Ross, Relationship Manager of QBank, the Association's major sponsor, who spoke of his role in QBank and his association in a large part of the state with police and other bodies serviced by QBank. State President Greg Early presented Joe Moskwa with his Veteran Member Certificate and updated those present on QRPA matters. Next meeting: 28 May 2024. *(Secretary – John Ballard – 0447 432 622)*



Joe Moskwa receiving his Veteran Member Certificate from State President Greg Early.

SOUTHERN DOWNS AND GRANITE BELT

Next meeting: 3 May at Stanthorpe. *(Secretary – Brian Cannon – 0476 156 968)* Brian is on holidays and will catch up with comment on his return.

ROCKHAMPTON

Meeting held on 6 March 2024. The renovations at the Frenchville Club continue. Some recognition will be given to former Detective Superintendent Bob Drew, New South Police. He contributed to national training courses for Stock Squad Officers run by member and former Detective Sergeant Terry Hanly. Unfortunately, Bob is now a quadriplegic after a fall and requires ongoing care. Andrea, Rose and Carolyn attended a morning tea with June Young during the month. Unfortunately, Tom Young, now 95 years, is becoming too frail to travel. Meeting held on 3 April 2024. President Barry Self gave feedback on the outing at Cockscomb on 17 March 2024. Meeting held on 1 May 2024. Social event: There was a wearing of the green at the Cockscomb BBQ. After Secretary Dennis Smith's cleanup, back issues of the Union Journal will be taken to the paper/cardboard recycling facility at the city dump. Next meeting: 5 June 2024. *(Secretary/Treasurer – Dennis Smith – 0408 321 416)*

MACKAY-WHITSUNDAY

Meeting held on 16 March 2024. A letter was sent to QPU President, Ian Leavers, conveying the Branch's support to him for his media comments and efforts to hold the current Government accountable concerning the current disgraceful youth crime situation faced by the Queensland community. Senior Sergeant Simon Wylie, OIC of Whitsunday Police Station, has pencilled in 17 August 2024 for the annual meeting at his station. Dennis Hansen addressed the meeting outlining the current status of his work concerning the restoration of Constable Doyle's grave. Dennis has been in contact with Bob Burns, President of Friends of the QPS Museum, about funding for the work. Welfare: Graham Drury was attending Townsville on the day of the meeting to have stitches removed after recent surgery. Nora Spreadborough was contacted by phone. She was in good spirits but is unable to venture out much. She misses being able to attend meetings. Barry Downs was not able to attend the meeting as he was having an off day. After discussion, all agreed to amend the 2014 motion – so that those birthday members would be shouted lunch after the relevant meeting by MWS QRPA. Presentation of Veteran Associate Member Certificate to Michelle Sheehan. Michelle and Sam Sheehan, accompanied by their wonderful family, attended the meeting to celebrate with Michelle who remembered back in 2009 when the Branch was formed. Guest Speaker: Retired Dr Bert Sadlier (Board member of CQ-RACQ Helicopter Rescue Service). Bert gave a wonderful and very detailed outline of the current and past status of and operational side of the Service, including hourly costs of operating the helicopter during rescues and other missions, the cost of replacing the helicopters, the staffing arrangements, how the service had evolved, regulations and accountability and also the funding required to maintain the service. Bert also spoke of many other matters relating to the Service. Further brief discussion was had regarding a Certificate of Appreciation for recently promoted and previous Whitsunday OIC, Nathan Blain, for his continued support over the years of MWS QRPA. Meeting held on 20 April 2024 at Sarina Sporting and Services Club. Mackay police will not be marching in the Anzac Day parade this year and members decided not to march either. Dennis Doring, returned Vietnam Veteran, will place a wreath on behalf of the Branch at the Mackay Anzac service. Welfare: Kev Wall is managing with difficulty following the passing of his sister. Graham Drury, who attended the meeting, was having a tough time with chemo treatment. Barry Downs had been ill of late and was advised by his doctor to lay up and rest. It was resolved to make a yearly donation to the CQ-RACQ Helicopter Rescue Service. A Hikoki 18v cordless drill, impact drill and blower and battery combination pack was donated by Core Gas and will be used as a raffle prize. Guest speaker: Detective Sergeant Joe Murray, Sarina Criminal Investigation Branch, who gave an outline of his service history and then covered staffing, crime trends, juvenile and sexual offenders, vehicles/water policing vessel, uniform and CIB policing areas, difficulties in filling numerous vacancies, growth of the Sarina population and planned growth in police numbers in due course. Joe later made a donation of $50 on behalf of the Sarina CIB Social Club towards the restoration costs of Constable Doyle's grave. Next meeting: 18 May 2024. *(Secretary – Andre Wijtenburg – 0437 230 840)*



President Bob Maher presenting Michelle Sheehan with her Veteran Associate Member Certificate in the presence of her husband Sam and their family.

IPSWICH

Meeting held on 14 March 2024. Welfare Reports from Bruce Raymond and Margie Kussrow: Alison Yarrow underwent surgery for a broken hip after being knocked over by a dog. John Hawkins is looking for a new wardrobe after losing so much weight. Wendy O'Neill was contacted and is going OK. Matt and Elaine Dale were contacted and Matt is still suffering from vertigo. John and Joy Raatz are recovering after some setbacks. Mark Clark was contacted and is recovering slowly from an infection. Doug and Dawn Trace were contacted and Dawn was suffering from an ulcer in the back of her leg. Di Topping would

love to attend meetings but has a low immune system. Cliff Dieckmann was presented with his Senior Member Certificate by Chairman Ken Morris. Guest Speaker: Senior Sergeant Chris Tritton who has over 30 years of policing experience in the New South Wales and the QPS. It was in the Gold Coast CIB that investigations were restricted by the absence of the capacity of facial recognition and the ability to share CCTV and suspect images. He was awarded a Courier Mail Scholarship to research the use of Super-Recognisers in law enforcement and was the first identified Super-Recogniser in Australia. Since testing in the Southern Region and identifying twenty Super-Recognisers, the unit has identified over 1200 suspects facially around the state. The remarkable ability of individuals to recognise and identify people from photographs to that of the real person is absolutely amazing. Some of the examples provided by Chris and the effect Super-Recognisers are having in solving crime are indeed game changers. The ability of some gifted individuals has solved and prevented serious crime globally. On 21 March 2024 the annual Noleyne Milne award was presented to Detective Senior Constable Katelin Cooper, Ipswich District Criminal Investigation Branch, in the presence of her parents, Robyn and Ian Cooper, Noleyne Milne and Detective Acting Inspector Wayne Francis. Meeting held on 11 April 2024. Welfare Reports from Bruce Raymond and Margie Kussrow: Greg Early, Ken Martin and John Hawkins attended a morning tea at Villa Maria Nursing Home when Vince Buetel's 100 th birthday was celebrated on 5 April 2024 (the actual day). Geoff Bodley is travelling overseas on an extended and well deserved holiday. Len Yarrow was an apology as he was picking up Alison from hospital after recovering from a broken hip. John Raatz is recovering slowly as is Barry Cannon. Ted and Catherine Roberts were welcomed to the meeting as they have transferred from Hervey Bay Branch. Bruce Raymond filled in as guest speaker at the last moment. Bruce presented on the recovery of the ship's bell of the SS Edmund Fitzgerald which sank in a severe storm in the great lakes separating the USA and Canada. The ship sank in 6 fathoms of water with the loss of all 29 persons on board. It was two decades later that the bell was brought to the surface. The ship had been carrying a full load of iron ore when it broke in half. It was a story of courage and endurance by those that ventured out into the storm to search for the then lost vessel. Once recovered the bell was mounted in a maritime museum and a replacement bell, with the names of all lost crew members engraved on it, was lowered onto the wreck. Next Meeting: 9 May 2024.



Guest speaker Senior Sergeant Chris Tritton.



President Ken Morris presenting Cliff Dieckmann with his Senior Member Certificate.



Presentation of the annual Noleyne Milne award: Detective Acting Inspector Wayne Francis, awardee - Detective Senior Constable Katelin Cooper, Noleyne Milne and Katelin's parents Robyn and Ian Cooper.

GLADSTONE

Meeting held on 6 March 2024 at Flavours Marina. Welfare: Wayne Lamb came down with COVID. Frank Winn is recuperating from his knee replacement operation. Liz Cunningham suffered a broken right wrist following a fall. Neil Coleborn has had some more skin cancer surgery on his head. John and Val Caterson are still as well as can be expected. Meeting held at Harvey Road Tavern on 3 April 2024. Darryl Saw advised that Mike and Irene Ball are satisfied with Mike's progress since he had a pacemaker fitted. The annual luncheon will be held on 20 July 2024 at the Chinatown Restaurant. Meeting held at the Queens Hotel on 1 May 2024. Darryl Saw advised that Denis Connolly's replacement knee operation is progressing well. Glen Josefski is still doing well. Diane Janas was in hospital sick from chemotherapy. Frank Winn's knee has done really well but he has to have the other one done later in the year. Karen has to have one after that. Darryl Saw, Keith McCann and Graham Cousins attended Grannie Pearce's funeral in Bundaberg while President Glenn Churchill livestreamed. Darryl reported that his health is good except for age related leg pain; also, while marching in the Gladstone Anzac day dawn service parade, he pulled or tore his left calf muscle. Mike and Irene Ball are feeling much better since recent treatment for ongoing conditions. Next meeting will be at the Gladstone PCYC on 5.6.2024, with a barbecue lunch sponsored by Glenn and Sue Churchill. *(Secretary – Darryl Saw – 0447 417 746)*

TOWNSVILLE

Meeting held on 6 March 2024. Welfare: The Welfare officers had visited Trevor Errington when he was in the Townsville Hospital and were pleased to see Trevor at the meeting. The Acting Secretary, John Cran, had spoken to Stan and Rose Goffin and Brian and Carol Bensley and all were well. A Good Onya (over ninety year award) card was made for Margaret Hooper and signed by all members in attendance. It will be presented to her as soon as possible. The Queensland Police Legacy Scheme gratefully acknowledged the $500 forwarded to it.

One of Townsville's 50 most influential and inspiring women



MEMBER – LINDA JANETZKI - Elder and long-serving Police Liaison Officer

Standing at just 4'11", cast a towering influence on indigenous relations within the Queensland Police Service. Her appointment as the Police Liaison Officer (PLO) Co-Ordinator on April 27, 1993, marked a pivotal moment in history. Linda's iron-clad determination and unwavering presence quickly earned her respect, becoming a formidable advocate for her community. Under her leadership, PLOs operated with dignity and integrity, navigating significant changes from foot patrols to innovative programs like Joyful Noise, which remains a pillar of support in the northern region. Linda's nurturing spirit extended beyond professional duties, as she became a maternal figure to many, inspiring them to pursue higher aspirations. Her legacy transcends her retirement in 2016, as Linda continues to serve through the Townsville Justice Group, epitomizing a lifelong commitment to indigenous empowerment and community upliftment. *(Townsville Bulletin)*

John and Jenny Urquhart travelled to Brisbane to visit their son and his family and to check out his new house in Laidley. They also travelled to the Gold Coast to see one of their favourite Irish singers Danniel O'Donnell. Several Townsville and Ingham members met with Barbara Zupp at the Hinchinbrook Hotel in Ingham to help her celebrate her 90th Birthday. A great day was had by all especially Barbara. Meeting held on 3 April 2024. Recent local passings: Gwendoline Muriel (Gwen) Cislowski, aged 95 years, the widow of former QRPA Life Member Osmond (Ossie) Ertmann Cislowski and Beryl Bye aged 96 years, the wife of QRPA Life Member Vincent Joseph (Vince) Bye. (Several members attended Beryl's funeral). Welfare: Trevor Errington was in the Mater Hospital and had a hip replacement. Fred Angus could not attend the meeting due to a Doctor's appointment and Pat Kelly had a skin procedure on his back. Dave Finlay then gave a very interesting talk on the Queensland Coast Guard, in particular the Townsville Branch. In the very near future the Coast Guard will come under the umbrella of the Queensland Police Service who will then be responsible for all costs incurred by this organisation which will work under the name of Marine Rescue Queensland. Jenny Urquhart was presented with her Veteran Member Certificate by President Merv Johnston. Meeting held on 1 May 2024. A special welcome was given by President Merv to Stan and Rose Goffin and Margaret Hooper who had been unable to attend for some time. Welfare: Jill Hardy had a fall at home and damaged her right shoulder. After many x-rays, scans and ultra-sounds they still have not worked out how much damage was done or how to fix it. They did, however, discover that she has some problem with her heart and she is now undergoing tests. Peter Hardy had a needle in his back a couple of weeks ago and unfortunately it has not improved his problem. Trevor Errington is at home recuperating after his hip replacement. Barry Lewthwaite has had a sleep-apnea test. Stan and Rose Goffin had a fall and Stan ended up on top of Rose's legs. Both have a few scratches and bruises. As usual a 'Good-onya' (over 90 year award) card was made for Joan Maynard. It was signed by all in attendance and will be forwarded to her as soon as possible. On Anzac Day Brian Weston placed a wreath on behalf of the Branch at Ravenswood. A surprised Merv Johnston was presented with his Senior Member Certificate by Treasurer John Cran. As Marion Goddard was unable to attend and receive her Senior Associate Member Certificate, it was given to Tony to give to her when he gets back to Ayr. Margaret Hooper was presented with her 90-year birthday card by President Merv. The Branch's annual trip to Ingham will occur on 5 June 2024. President Merv is organising a bus, morning tea will again be supplied by Barbara Zupp and Fred Angus has organised the Royal Hotel for the meeting and lunch. *(Secretary – John Urquhart – 0407 734 497)*



Barbara Zupp celebrating her 90th birthday.



Constable Declan Johnston at his induction in Brisbane on 14 December 2023. His father Marc on his right and grandparents Merv and Anne Johnston on his left. Merv is President of the Townsville Branch.



Jenny Urquhart receiving her Veteran Associate Member Certificate from President Merv Johnston.



Treasurer John Cran presenting President Merv Johnston with his Senior Member Certificate.



Tony Goddard receiving his wife Marion's Senior Member Certificate from President Merv Johnston.



Margaret Hooper being presented with her 90 year birthday card by President Merv Johnston.

DARLING DOWNS

Meeting held on 14 March 2024. The applications by Jeff Dooley and Darryl Wensley to join the Association were recommended for approval. Welfare: Roger Deshon reported that Rick Niland was on the mend. John Mackay stated that Richard Creagh was out of hospital and recovering at home. He further stated that Alan Lane was recovering from his heart operation and Boyd Wilson was still having issues. Judy Lehfeldt reported that John Cooper was still not well. Wayne Browning stated he had suffered a seizure, had spent three weeks in hospital and was back to normal. Appreciation was shown to President John MacKay for making the necessary arrangements for the meeting and lunch as well as for his role in the funeral service for Kev Weise. Meeting held on 11 April 2024. Welfare: Boyd Wilson had planned to attend the meeting but had to attend a doctor's appointment instead. President John MacKay advised that the plaque for Bob Scarff had been mounted on the Memorial Wall but plaques for Neil Hooper, Gordon Zeidler and Kevin Weise were outstanding. President John also mentioned the need for members to complete a Funeral Planning Request Form. Applications to join the Association from Steve Stewart, Col McCallum and Mick Youngberry were recommended for approval. Guest speaker: Councillor James O'Shea from the Toowoomba Regional Council, on which he holds the Portfolio Chair for Environment and Community. James gave a very interesting and diversified presentation. Next meeting: 9 May 2024. *(Secretary – Mike Jordan – 0438 111 423)*

NEAR NORTH COAST

Meeting held at the Bribie Island RSL Club on 18 March 2024. Welfare: Mention was made of the following members not being well at present: Paul Doyle and Dennis Rayner. Four members recently visited John (Whiskey) Walker at his residence. John enjoyed the visit immensely. Member Vicki Lee was partaking in a 250km bike ride in Victoria to raise money to fight ovarian cancer. Ken Fitzjohn is in the process of transferring from Logan-Beenleigh Branch to Near North Coast Branch. State President Greg Early presented Mike Huddlestone with his Veteran Member Certificate; also President John Warner with his Senior Member Certificate. Meeting held on 15 April 2024 at the D'Aguilar Hotel. Guests: David Crawford-Raby; Imelda Feldman and Peter Schagen. Welfare: Allan Hawkins and Ray Holscher reported on members with whom they had made contact. Special mention was made of Gerry Morgan who unfortunately passed away on 6 April 2024. Next meeting: 20 May 2024 at Sports Central, Caboolture. *(Secretary – Merv Melling – 0408 587 624)*



State President Greg Early presenting Mike Huddlestone with his Veteran Member Certificate.



President John Warner receiving his Senior Member Certificate from State President Greg Early.

REDLANDS

They did not meet in March but held a morning tea at the Bush Pantry at Capalaba. Twenty members attended plus two members who possibly will be transfer-ring to join the Branch. Considering the inclement weather, it was a great turnout and the food added to the relaxed social atmosphere. Pat Priddle donated an Easter basket which was won by Don which was a great way to meet the group. Meeting held on 23 April 2024. Secretary Mark Stiles had a meeting with Sergeant Chris Hebblethwaite in regard to this year's National Police Remembrance Day Service. Mark and Peter Flexman will continue to liaise with Chris concerning the planning of this service. Applications to join the Association by former Senior Constable Beth Chambers and Scott Chambers were recommended for approval. Next gathering: Social outing at Fielders Club on 28 May 2024. *(Secretary – Mark Stiles – 0414 326 992)*





Members attending the morning tea at the Bush Pantry.

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

On Friday 19 April 2024 the Branch held its first lunch/meeting in Innisfail at the Crown Hotel. Fifty members attended. Guests were Assistant Commissioner Brett Schafferius and Inspector Nathan Blain, Cassowary Patrol Group and his wife Traci, and John and Fay Lone from Townsville Branch also attended. Welfare report by Brigitte McKaskill: A call had come in just before the meeting to say that doctors had turned off all medications for John Thomson and he was being placed in palliative care. (Sadly Thommo passed away on Sunday 21 April). Bob Adamson broke his leg in two places and would love some visitors. He is currently in the orthopedic ward at Cairns Hospital. Sadly we farewelled Graham Jonsen just after Easter. He was unwell for some time but hadn't shared this with our group. His service was a beautiful family affair with a number of his grandchildren reciting poetry and singing special songs for him. *(Secretary – Brigitte McKaskill – 0408 281 979)*



Trevor Adcock receiving his Veteran Member Certificate from Assistant Commissioner Brett Schafferius.



Joe Moran receiving his Veteran Member Certificate from Assistant Commissioner Brett Schafferius.

HERVEY BAY

Meeting held on 16 January 2024. Travellers: Dave and Chris Barrowcliffe were in South Australia. Guest speaker: Senior Constable Matthew Bedding, Maryborough District Crime Prevention Officer, attended in company of Acting Sen Sgt Andrew Irvine. Matthew gave the group an insight into the present activities of the local police units as well as trends re crime and crime reporting. Welfare: Advice from Bundaberg Branch that Bob O'Keefe, ex NT Police, was in hospital in Hervey Bay suffering with Covid and other issues. Norm Sprenger, at the time of the meeting, was in hospital at Hervey Bay with Covid. Bill Johnson was having his regular tests on the day of the meeting and was feeling optimistic about his health. Meeting held at the Maryborough Military Museum on 19 March 2024. Travellers: Ian and Sandra West McInnes are back from their New Zealand cruise. Member Garry Jamieson, who is a Director at the Museum, was on hand to explain the many and varied items on display. Garry mentioned the Museum is the number two such Museum in Australia after the War Memorial in Canberra. Welfare: Nick Paton was in attendance at the gathering and he spoke of his partner Brosey who is still suffering the after

effects of radiation treatment. On the day of the meeting Bill Johnson was having his regular tests. The Waterfront Restaurant will be booked again for the annual luncheon. A BBQ is planned for 16 April 2024 at Dayman Park, Hervey Bay. Next meeting: 21 May 2024. *(President – Ian Anderson – 0457 686 108)*

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

Firstly, Happy New Year to all. Hope this finds you all well and recovered from the holiday period and visitors if you had them. Congratulations to Craig Robertson for receiving his Senior Member Certificate. He now lives in the big island to the north of us. Meeting held on 10 March 2024 at Bracknell Reserve. Visitor: Goldie Byrne. The annual general meeting will be held at Tamar Valley Resort on 22 June 2024. Possible new members: Andy advised that he had been in touch with Craig Cutts and Jim Byrne with Tony Grundgeiger, who are now in Tassie, about becoming members of VDLB. *(President/Secretary – Andy Beasant)*

Courtesy of QPS, confidential psychological support service available to retired Queensland Police Officers – 24/7 – 1800 277 478. IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE DOING IT TOUGH, PLEASE URGE THEM TO USE THIS FREE SERVICE OR TALK TO YOU OR SOMEONE.

STATE PRESIDENT:
Greg Early – early.gregory1@gmail.com – 3863 1180 / 0407 960 588

STATE SECRETARY:
Chris Sang – admin@qrpa.asn.au – 0497 104 061

QRPA WEBSITE: www.qrpa.asn.au

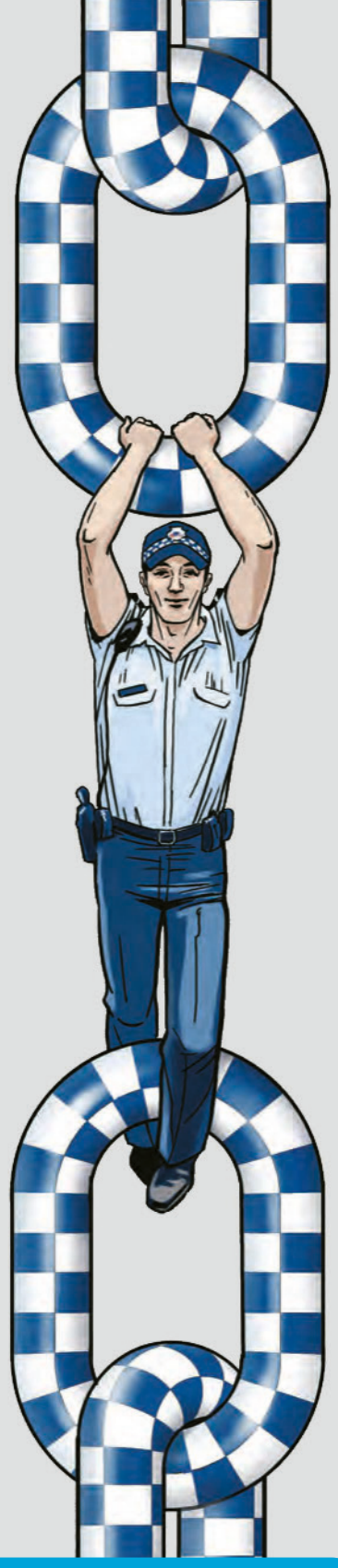
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BOOK REVIEW

BLAST FROM THE PAST

BY DARREN CURTIS

QUEENSLAND HAS HAD A FAR MORE SINISTER PAST THAN IS OFTEN ACKNOWLEDGED WHEN IT COMES TO DOMESTIC TERRORISM AND PEOPLE ATTEMPTING TO BLOW UP BUILDINGS, SET 'BOOBY' TRAPS, HARM OTHERS OR EXPERIMENT WITH HOMEMADE EXPLOSIVES.

Queensland Police have had a stand alone dedicated bomb squad since 1983 and they provide a twenty four hour, seven day week capability. They've attended some of the most terrible crimes that attracted enormous media attention to quiet targeted raids that yielded hundreds of kilograms of unstable and lethal explosives.

'Blast from the past' provides an insight from the officers who took part in these events and provides details never revealed to the media.

After twenty five years in the Queensland Explosive Ordnance Response Team (EORT) Sergeant Mick Gardiner felt the traditions, experiences and achievements of the State's Bomb Squad were vanishing without an accurate historical record or chronicle of the unit's traditions and successes.

Sergeant Gardiner said "the book is giving people a glimpse into a world a lot of them didn't realise exists, some people still think the Australian Army are the only ones who do bomb response in Queensland. I was recently talking to someone about the Iwasaki Resort bombing at Yeppoon in 1980 and they looked at me blankly and had never heard of it. It dawned on me then, that if I didn't get all of these stories in the one place together it would be lost to time. All of us with this vast array of first-hand knowledge will eventually pass away and no-one will know."

**The Iwasaki Resort bombing occurred in the early hours of November 29, 1980 State Election Day and it was labelled as a terrorist attack on the Japanese backed resort being constructed on a 9,000 hectare property. It's believed the offenders detonated more than six boxes of gelignite causing significant structural damage.*



EORT Sgt Mick Gardiner has contributed more than 25 years in bomb detection and investigation for Queensland.



An improvised flame thrower found after a siege on the Gold Coast.

THE IWASAKI RESORT BOMBING OCCURRED IN THE EARLY HOURS OF NOVEMBER 29, 1980 STATE ELECTION DAY AND IT WAS LABELLED AS A TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE JAPANESE BACKED RESORT BEING CONSTRUCTED ON A 9,000 HECTARE PROPERTY. IT'S BELIEVED THE OFFENDERS DETONATED MORE THAN SIX BOXES OF GELIGNITE CAUSING SIGNIFICANT STRUCTURAL DAMAGE.

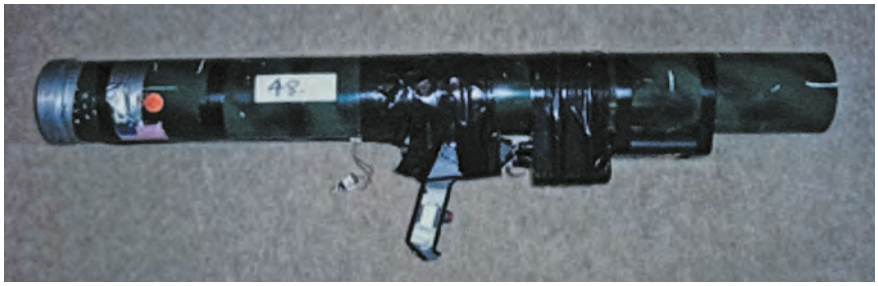
Sgt Gardiner has heard all the EORT puns but wanted some residue of this valuable section's life story to remain for generations, detailing attacks against police, politicians and those caught up in innocent explosions.

From schoolboys manufacturing explosives and selling it for spending money to classmates at Deception Bay, and a self taught chemist who was discovered with hundreds of kilograms of explosive material at a Rochedale house just days before the G20 Summit in 2014. *'Blast from the past'* gives an insiders view of how the offenders were detected and what EORT discovered during their 'render safe' process.

There's details around an incident at Logan Police Station in 1998 when a man walked in with a device but was intercepted by officers before he could activate the material.

Interesting photos and facts surrounding the Grand Apartments siege at Labrador on the Gold Coast in December 2004. Police technicians discovered an elaborate array of homemade firearms including a rocket launcher, improvised flame thrower and electric stun weapons.

'Blast from the past' also gives an insight into some of the investigative



An improvised rocket launcher using PVC pipe and a glue gun rendered inert after EORT officers searched the property following a tense stand off with police.



Homemade firearms designed with laser pointers seized after a Gold Coast siege.



'BLAST FROM THE PAST' IS ON SALE FOR $26 PER COPY AND SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN COMING MONTHS THROUGH THE OXLEY ACADEMY SHOP OR BY CONTACTING SERGEANT GARDINER ON MICKJG@BIGPOND.NET.AU.



and forensic work that was used in major cases including the West Ipswich blasts in 2013 and the people caught swapping explosives for drugs.

The material they created was TATP (triacetone triperoxide) known in the terrorist community as 'mother of satan' and at one stage it was discarded on the street and a young boy crippled for life after a golf ball full of the explosives detonated without warning.

For Sergeant Gardiner the sideline gig becoming an author has been intensely satisfying "I've been involved in just about every major bomb related incident in Queensland for the best part of a quarter of a century and when you gather all this material together it paints a rotten picture of what some people have been up to in this state."

It's hoped *'Blast from the past'* will become a virtual catalogue, a complete historical reference guide that should be on the reading list for recruits and all frontline first responders.

'Blast from the past' is on sale for $26 per copy and should be available in coming months through the Oxley Academy shop or by contacting Sergeant Gardiner on mickjg@bigpond.net.au. All profits from the sale of the book will be donated to Queensland Police Legacy.

Queensland Police Legacy President Shane Prior said "Mick has produced a book to be treasured not only as an historical record but it's a great read including each officer's insights. I hope all future bomb techs get a copy of this as a mandatory part of their application process.

"Mick has included details around the transition from Forensics, CIB and Tactical Units for EORT but also the story of the patches they wear, the significance of their badges and some initiation traditions including drinking fresh cobra blood.

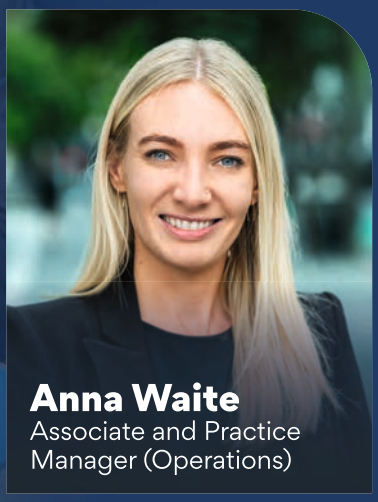
"Queensland Police Legacy is very appreciative of the generosity of Mick and his print partner in offering the profits for police families in need."

GNECH AND ASSOCIATES
LAWYERS

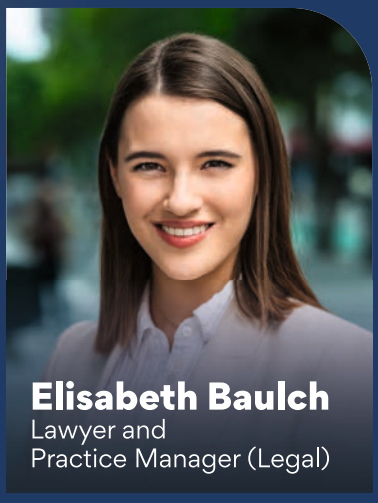




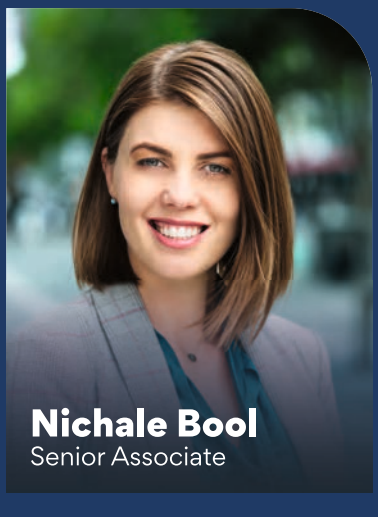
Calivn Gnech
Managing Director
and Principal Lawyer



Anna Waite
Associate and Practice
Manager (Operations)



Elisabeth Baulch
Lawyer and
Practice Manager (Legal)



Nichale Bool
Senior Associate

LEGAL EXPERTISE
WITH UNDERSTANDING

Lawyers for the Queensland Police Union of Employees, family and friends.

- Criminal
- Domestic violence
- Professional misconduct
- Defamation

Level 9, 193 North Quay
Brisbane 4000

gnechlawyers.com

07 3558 1040

admin@gnechlawyers.com



Senior Constable John Kenworthy.

BLUE STEWARD

BY DARREN CURTIS

INJURED POLICE OFFICER SENIOR CONSTABLE JOHN KENWORTHY HAS BEEN BUSY NOT ONLY WITH HIS OWN REHABILITATION BUT ALSO SUPPORTING THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE THAT CAME TO HIS AID ON THE MOST TRAUMATIC DAY IN HIS LIFE.

John Kenworthy was on his police motorcycle at Calen, North of Mackay on the 9th of August 2020 responding to an urgent call to assist with a car that had left the road and gone into the water with people trapped inside when his bike went over an embankment. The impact threw him through a barbed wire fence and the strands penetrated his helmet visor causing horrific eye injuries.

He required urgent specialist care in Brisbane. Queensland Health tasked an aircraft from the Royal Flying Doctor Service and crew to get him from Mackay to Brisbane within a few hours of the incident. John said “if it wasn’t for the RFDS bringing me back on the night, I don’t believe I’d be anywhere near the level of capacity I have now.”



S/C Kenworthy continues to share his experience with other Highway Patrol Officers and Community Service Programs on Rider Safety.

Ten surgeries later John has very limited vision in his right eye and unfortunately he lost the use of his left eye all together. With the help of the Queensland Police Union, John and his wife Sarah have relocated to Brisbane so he could easily attend medical appointments and John has returned to an administration role with the QPS.

John said “it’s been one of my favourite tricks to turn up at work and prank a few of the new staff by sitting in the drivers seat of a marked vehicle with my cane out the window touching the ground and urging them to hurry up to get in the passenger seat to start a shift.”



Flight Night at the Kedron Wavell Services Club.

ONLINE DONATIONS HIT $3,000 FROM POLICE UNABLE TO ATTEND ON THE NIGHT, MORE THAN $3,500 WAS RAISED FROM THE CHARITY AUCTION AT THE EVENT.

Determined to show his thanks to the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Senior Constable Kenworthy created a fundraising event at Kedron Wavell Services Club on Saturday February 10, 2024 inviting his police colleagues, other first responders, friends and sponsors to enjoy 'Flight Night- The Red Eye' event.

During the night John and his doctors discussed the impacts of his accident and the extreme positivity he has radiated since the event, even though he's had a couple of medical setbacks.

John also revealed how music has become a profound element in his life as part of his rehabilitation. He's become so confident with the guitar he dropped the cane, and headed on stage to perform a number of sets and solos with the band during the function.

John said "the feedback was, it was like a big family event, there was so much love in the room. I cannot thank enough those who paid the $120 for a ticket, bought auction items and provided sponsorships, it truly was brilliant."

Online donations hit $3,000 from police unable to attend on the night, more than $3,500 was raised from the charity auction at the event.

John said "people obviously came with an intention to give. One person paid $60 for an inflatable RFDS plane, a $59 bucket of car cleaning products sold for $200, some all inclusive gym memberships went for $1,800 and then it was donated back and sold again. Every single sponsor should feel great pride in their contribution and what it will do for the RFDS."



S/C Kenworthy has maintained a healthy sense of humour at his new posting at North Lakes Station.



Guitar solo for the self taught musician using music as therapy.



Eye Surgeon Dr Sean Cheng attended the fundraiser and purchased a number of items and donated them back to John to be re auctioned.



Police Piper Charlie Mackenzie volunteered to assist with enhancing the entertainment lineup for the evening.



John couldn't resist joining the band for a number of rock classics.

John later visited the RFDS base at Brisbane Airport to present the cheque to staff. While he was there John was given a guided tour of the hangar, training rooms, communications and logistics areas. The experience was clearly emotional for the veteran police officer when he realised the various elements that all came together to make his urgent transport possible.

Senior Constable Kenworthy said "it doesn't need to be a traumatic crash, heart attack or sports injury in a very remote part of Queensland for you to need the Flying Doctor Service. It could be something as simple as a terrible infection while you are at a regional city and they need the RFDS to get you to Brisbane for specialist help. That's why I'm so driven to help this organisation. I would always have preferred to have raised more money but I thought $2,000 would have been reasonable however we exceeded our goal and hit $8186.18 and that's a start."



John ensured every sponsor was presented with a special acknowledgment of their support for Police and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

JOHN LATER VISITED THE RFDS BASE AT BRISBANE AIRPORT TO PRESENT THE CHEQUE TO STAFF. WHILE HE WAS THERE JOHN WAS GIVEN A GUIDED TOUR OF THE HANGAR, TRAINING ROOMS, COMMUNICATIONS AND LOGISTICS AREAS.

The Kenworthy family are already planning another fundraiser to benefit the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Queensland and there's no lack of confidence from Senior Constable Kenworthy to create an event that inspires and generates a healthy donation to those who helped him when he really needed it.



S/C John Kenworthy with Sgt Ty Connell from PCYC present the fundraising money to Cortney Ginivan from the Royal Flying Doctor Service Queensland.

COURT ORDERS AND CONTEMPT

BY CLAIRE MCGEE, SENIOR ASSOCIATE GILSHENAN & LUTON LAWYERS

THE BASIC PRINCIPLE TO CONSIDER WHAT IS CONTEMPT IS THAT *"CONDUCT WHICH TENDS TO PREJUDICE A FAIR TRIAL OR UNDERMINE PUBLIC FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE MAY BE PUNISHABLE AS CONTEMPT OF COURT".*[1]

The power to punish for contempt of court exists to prevent interferences with the course of justice; to vindicate the integrity of the court and its proceedings and maintain the authority of the law.

It is an important power, to enable a judicial officer to exercise control over the proceedings in a court room.

THE LEGISLATION

The power of a Magistrate in relation to findings of contempt is found in two places.

First, s 40 of the *Justices Act 1886* (Qld), which provides:

"40 Penalty for insulting or interrupting justices

(1) A person who –

(a) wilfully insults a justice or a witness or an officer of the court during his or her sitting as, or, as the case may be, attendance in a Magistrates Court or during his or her sitting or, as the case may be, attendance in any examination of witnesses in relation to an indictable offence or who is on his or her way to or from any such court or examination; or

(b) wilfully misbehaves himself or herself in such a court or in the place where such an examination is being held; or

(c) wilfully interrupts the proceedings of such a court or examination; or

(d) unlawfully assaults, or wilfully obstructs a person in attendance at such a court or examination; or

(e) without lawful excuse, disobeys a lawful order or direction of such court or justice;

may by oral order of such court or justice, be excluded from such court or examination and, whether the person is so excluded or not, may be summarily convicted by such court or justice of contempt."

This provision only applies where the court is dealing with a criminal proceeding to which the *Justices Act 1886* (Qld) applies.

Second, s 50 of the *Magistrates Courts Act 1921* (Qld), applies more generally and for example, would apply to coronial proceedings or domestic violence proceedings.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH COURT ORDERS

Most relevantly for QPS officers, is the failure to comply with a court order. Officers are regularly the subject of directions or orders from the court to produce evidence.

On some occasions the court may even order the personal appearance of an officer to answer questions about the failure to provide certain evidence.

To prove contempt on the basis of breach of a court order or undertaking, when the Court is

exercising the statutory power, it is not necessary to prove that the person wilfully did so. As soon as orders are issued, the person bound by those orders becomes responsible for taking adequate and continuing steps[2] or all possible steps[3] to comply with the order. One reasonable excuse might be ignorance of the existence of the order. This means that being on leave, or being too busy to comply with the order are not reasonable excuses for failing to comply.

Where the failure to comply with a court order is *not* deliberate, it may otherwise be taken into consideration as a factor in mitigation in relation to any penalty that might be imposed.

WITNESSES

As a QPS officer, in addition to being the subject of a court order, you may also be required to attend court as a witness on occasion.[4]

A person who deliberately fails to comply with a subpoena, by refusing to attend court and give evidence, commits contempt.

More generally, a person who is properly before a court to give evidence and refuses to be sworn or to give evidence when they should, is guilty of contempt.

The seriousness of this conduct is reflected in the penalties that are imposed. For example, a sentence of eight months imprisonment imposed by a judge of the County Court of Victoria, was upheld on appeal, in circumstances where the witness refused to give evidence in a criminal proceeding (in which he was one of the complainants).[5]

PUNISHMENT

A person convicted for contempt under the *Justices Act 1886* (Qld) is liable to one year imprisonment, or a fine of up to 84 penalty units ($13,003.02 as at April 2024).

A person convicted for contempt under the *Magistrates Courts Act 1921* (Qld) for failing to comply with an order of the court is liable to three years imprisonment or 200 penalty units ($30,960.00 as at April 2024).

Where there has been a failure, there are alternatives to proceeding to conviction for contempt, which could include:

(a) giving a warning about the conduct; or

(b) referring the matter to the Commissioner for disciplinary proceedings.

TIPS FOR AVOIDING CONTEMPT

(1) If you are informed by the prosecution that the court has issued a direction that you must comply with, confirm with the prosecutor/legal officer exactly what the order was to ensure that there is no ambiguity.

(2) If you are going to be unable to comply with a court order, contact the prosecution and advise them with as much notice as possible, so that they may request that the date for compliance with the order be amended.

(3) If you are ordered to personally appear in court for a failure to comply with a court order, please contact your Union representative immediately, so that appropriate advice, and potential representation can be provided.

1 *Attorney-General for State of Queensland v Colin Lovitt QC* [2003] QSC 279 at [52] per Chesterman J.

2 *Lade & Co Pty Ltd v Black* [2006] 2 Qd R 531 at [106].

3 *Heatons Transport (St Helens) Ltd v Transport and General Workers' Union* [1973] AC 15 at 113.

4 See s 644D of the *Criminal Code* (failure to comply with a subpoena without lawful excuse is contempt of court); and UCPR r 458 (a person who contravenes a subpoena issued by a registrar is guilty of contempt of court, unless the person has a reasonable excuse).

5 *Allen v The Queen* (2013) 36 VR 565; [2013] VSCA at [55] – [61].

THE POWER TO PUNISH FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT EXISTS TO PREVENT INTERFERENCES WITH THE COURSE OF JUSTICE; TO VINDICATE THE INTEGRITY OF THE COURT AND ITS PROCEEDINGS AND MAINTAIN THE AUTHORITY OF THE LAW.



Claire McGee joined Gilshenan & Luton in 2015 and is part of the company's law team offering advice in all areas of employment law including occupation discipline. Claire is a member of the Industrial Relations Society of Queensland and the Women Lawyers Association.



RAZORBACK GLORY

BY DARREN CURTIS

THE 2024 QPS RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP CARNIVAL WAS HELD IN MACKAY DURING APRIL AND THE HOME TEAM RAZORBACKS CLAIMED THE MEN'S TITLE AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FOUR YEARS, CITY THUNDER WON THE WOMEN'S DIVISION.

All the promotional material for the carnival was branded 'See You in CQ" and it made an impact with local community members, fellow league enthusiasts and sponsors attending every game of the carnival in significant numbers. Organisers believe it was the largest playing group assembled in the history of the Championship.

Every game was played at the Mackay Magpies home ground Sologinkin Oval at Glenella and the playing surface was genuine NRL standard. The Magpies Sporting Club became the hub for all game days, pre event and post game functions.



QRL Boss Ben Ikin told players at the opening ceremony of the strong appreciation the QRL has for police and the work they do in the community.



S/C Stacey Penola from Sarina Station offered a 'welcome to country' as a descendant of the traditional custodians the Yuwiburra people.



QPSRL President Danny Hess and Bill Dowden conducted the first round random playing draw from the Champions trophy.



Mackay Mayor Greg Williamson welcomed all the teams to the city and encouraged them to play hard on field and enjoy the regions hospitality.



QRL Boss Ben Ikin, QPSRL Committee Member Sam Bliss, Organiser Bill Dowden, Mackay Mayor Greg Williamson and Act Supt Emma Novosel at the opening ceremony.



The inaugural 'rookie sprint' was contested over 50m with footwear optional.



Winner of the 2024 'rookie sprint' Const Hayden Barrett from Rockhamption Station.

The CQ Razorbacks built momentum through the round games and were devastating in the grand final, racking up thirty eight points and keeping last years champions the Wide Bay Whales scoreless. Led by Captain Andrew Dunkley the razorbacks were punishing in attack. Andrew said "this is what we set out to do from the start. We knew if we kept our focus and our faith in each other's talent we would be unstoppable. The game plan wasn't fancy in fact it was pretty basic, we just had to stay consistent."

The celebrations at the end of the game honoured sponsor TJF Milk, and it's probably the first ever time the prized trophy has been filled with flavoured milk.











Carnival Organiser Bill Dowden said “the community have been very supportive of holding the QPS carnival here, we had the Mayor Greg Williamson here on opening night along with QRL boss Ben Ikin and most of our sponsors. Many of our corporate partners who came to the games spoke highly of the police standard of football, believing it was tough old school footy and said they’d rather watch the cops play every week than go to Cutters games.”



“I BROUGHT MY TWO SONS AND DAUGHTER DOWN HERE BECAUSE THE DAD’S WERE SAYING HOW HARD THE POLICE WERE TACKLING AND I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR THE BOYS TO LEARN SOME TECHNIQUE."

Mackay local Sherie Pattison attended on finals day after hearing a group of parents talking about the carnival at her sons' football training session on Tuesday night “I brought my two sons and daughter down here because the dad’s were saying how hard the police were tackling and I thought it might be a good example for the boys to learn some technique. We were able to get close as they warmed up and studied their drills, we managed front row for the games and in the game breaks some of the players who had already finished their games were playing with my kids out on the field. My daughter is ten and she was in awe of the ladies and couldn’t believe they were cops, she had photos with some of them and now says she wants to play and be a police officer.”

Mackay was the first time the carnival incorporated a best of three game format for the QPS female teams. City Cyclones claimed game one and game two achieving an unbeatable dominance for the title but they were aiming for a clean sweep, however Country Thunder prevented a whitewash turning the tables with a 20 to 8 win in the final game.



2024 QPSWRL Champions City Cyclones.

The carnival was also the playing career finale for Sam Bliss. A long time Country Thunder Captain 'Blissy' switched to City this year due to her work relocation to Brisbane. It was also the final chance to play alongside good friends Teresa Anderson and Steph Hancock , all three played representative rugby league for Queensland and Australia. Sam said "I wouldn't want a better way to go out than playing in my home town with some of my best ever team mates. This is definitely it for me playing, I'm happy with my playing career but it's time. Age is a big factor, I'm nearly 50 and while my head is still in the game and tactics my body isn't. It's time for me to enjoy the game, watch and admire the women's game."



Sam Bliss in her role as 'the general' playing for City Cyclones.



Sam never let a referee have any doubt about her view on a penalty.



Playing alongside fellow Australian Rep and great friend Steph Hancock.

Sam wont be lost to the sport, her focus will switch to coaching, recruiting and selection panels. Sam said "I'm a selector for the current NRL Jillaroos and I really enjoy the talent ID work. Women's Rugby League is evolving quicker than I thought it would. The three game series was brilliant and I don't think it will be long until we are adding extra women's teams to the QPS carnival."

The country thunder also farewelled stalwart Ange Murnane at the completion of the carnival. Ange and her wife Tara agreed to play one last carnival together as the timing was perfect, Tara a General Duties Officer in Mackay returned to sport sixteen months after the birth of their daughter and Ange who works in TCS in Mackay believes it's time to focus on family and work after a long and successful playing career. Ange said "we met working in Brisbane together and moved to Mackay to be closer to Tara's family so it's great to play in a tri series in front of our families. To win our games here will be very satisfying. It's time to move on now as well because there's a lot of new police joining the job who want to play league and there's some really good young police moving to the north who want to be part of the Thunder."



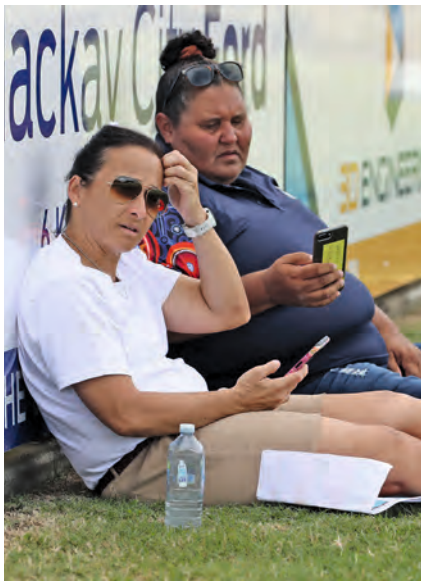
'Blissy's half time talks became legendary amongst the playing group.



In her element with ball in hand and running.



Sam had pride in knowing what to say to get the best out of her colleagues on the field.



Sam is still contributing to the sport in her role as a selector.



Ange Murnane always contributed valuable metres for her team in attack.



Ange and Tara played alongside each other for Country Thunder in front of a home crowd.

Tara has opted to keep playing and it's probably linked to her determination as an athlete. Tara made the qualifying standards to compete for Australia at the 2016 Rio Olympics in the high jump and triple jump disciplines but a significant foot injury derailed her opportunity. QPSWRL has since become a perfect sporting outlet for the Country Thunder winger. Tara said "I initially played for City because we were in Brisbane but now I'm home in Mackay it's a very natural transition to be part of Country and feels right. I haven't played for a few years due to pregnancy but to make a return in a tri series, in Mackay alongside my wife is wonderful."

"I INITIALLY PLAYED FOR CITY BECAUSE WE WERE IN BRISBANE BUT NOW I'M HOME IN MACKAY IT'S A VERY NATURAL TRANSITION TO BE PART OF COUNTRY AND FEELS RIGHT."



Tara Murnane proved difficult to handle in her return to QPS football.



The Murnane family celebrated the Country Thunder win in game three and Tara's selection in the QLD Maroons.

The carnival is also an opportunity for local teenage referees to gain some experience but one referee in particular was enjoying being at the centre of the decision making. Constable Dan Larose graduated from the Oxley Academy in December, before joining the police he was one of Queensland and Australia's elite touch football referees and had seniority with rugby league competitions as well.



Const Larose (centre) assisted with the development of local junior referees during the carnival.



Dan Larose held control of some of the carnivals most crucial games.



Dan said there was no hesitation making the tough but necessary calls.



Without the aid of video replay or the bunker Dan had to trust his judgement on the tryline.

He may have been one of the most junior on the field in terms of QPS service but he commanded the field, didn't hesitate to send a few players to the sin bin and withstood some fairly intense 'discussion' from opposing captains. Dan said "during the Gold Coast and Brisbane game the first half they weren't really interested in playing and too busy arguing. A bit of discipline and by the second they were really playing great football and it was really tight until the last few minutes. I may be the junior conny at work but when we step over the white line, rank means nothing, it's all about the game. When it's done we have a handshake and cold drink and it's all left on the field."



Const Larose believes potential police recruits should be made away of the sporting opportunities connected with the QPS.

Stationed at Bowen, Dan is living in the barracks and enjoying the demands of the job and the opportunity for overtime plus being involved in QPS sport. Dan said "they really should be letting recruits know about this side of the job, its great for us socially but with all the different cops you meet through football you find out about all different career opportunities."

Dan jokes that being a ref has also helped with his de-escalation skills dealing with players and passionate spectators.

Part of the atmosphere was generated by QPSRL Hall of Famers Coral and Tudor Young. Never one to let her opinion on a refs decision go unheard Coral is regarded as 'mother boar' due to her foundation association with the Southern Boars.



Dan says encouraging players to concentrate on the game enhanced the flow of play.

"WHEN WE STEP OVER THE WHITE LINE, RANK MEANS NOTHING, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE GAME. WHEN IT'S DONE WE HAVE A HANDSHAKE AND COLD DRINK AND IT'S ALL LEFT ON THE FIELD."



Coral & Tudor Young have attended 30 QPSRL carnivals in a variety of capacities and still are regulars in the grandstands.

"WITH THIS HONOUR AND ALONG WITH TUDOR WE WILL BE THE ONLY HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM TO ACHIEVE THIS I THINK SO IT'S EXTRA SPECIAL."

A former General Duties Senior Constable at Ipswich, Coral has held just about every management position within the Boars and has attended more than thirty QPS carnivals. Coral said "it's amazing I don't think anyone has been acknowledged for more than 30 carnivals, and for me to be the only woman with this honour and along with Tudor we will be the only husband and wife team to achieve this I think so it's extra special."



Generally the Youngs are behind the grandstand commentary and hijinks for the Southern Boars.

Tudor is a former teacher at Ipswich Grammar but has extensive skills as a sports strapper so it wasn't long before Coral roped him in to help out while she was managing teams. Tudor laughs and says "initially the cops looked at me differently because I wasn't one of them, but they could see I had something to offer and I was accepted. I've been with police teams since the early nineties. From 1998 to 2014 I was with the Queensland police team, the Australian police side between 2004 to 2013 and attended two world cups. I was made a QPSRL Life Member in 2009 and I'm pretty proud that I'm the only non cop to ever achieve that."

Coral and Tudor are both retired and enjoy ocean cruising but ensure their travel plans accommodate the QPS Carnival every year. Coral said "we plan our year around this because its great catching up with so many ex players, cops from all over the state and besides 'once a boar always a boar.' It's the next phase of police camaraderie, doesn't matter if you're in the team or left the job your still part of this sport. Me and Tudor will keep doing this for as long as we can."



Each year the Youngs re-unite with police they've met through football all over the state.



Mother Boar always a Southern Region team favourite.
























Queensland Country Bank































TOILETS
19
38




38
































QMH
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AVIS






SDW
SECURITY
SERVICES


STEEDEN






LIVIN
ATAC




MAGPIES






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SERVICES










A BOY
WHO LOVES




platinum
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QPS RL




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GILSHENAN & LUTON








FIRST AID




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26




Police Health
































SULLIVAN
ESTATE AGENTS






XXXX
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Sciaccas
LAWYERS


Melissa
19






Sciaccas














33




11
19












JF Milk
HORNERY
MORANBAH
Resthaven Quarry


Q.P.S.R.L.A
QPS RL
ARTISTIC LANDSCAPES








JF Milk
HORNERY
MORANBAH
Resthaven Quarry


















HAINES
WILSON


Rapid












STRUDDY
MACKAY 2024













The finals day play determined the 2024 complete positions, with South East Muddies in third with a 12-6 win over the Far North Queensland Marlins. The Plate final to determine fifth and sixth was won by the Northern Stingers 18-0 over the Brisbane Bulldogs.



Northern Stingers won the plate final and were presented with the perpetual trophy by QPU Vice President Shane Prior, QPSRL President Danny Hess and QPU President Ian Leavers.

"THE FRIENDSHIP AND MATESHIP WE HAVE SEEN DURING THIS CARNIVAL IS SOME OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE I'VE WITNESSED AT A QPS SPORTS EVENT."

QPU President Ian Leavers presented the winners medallions but also a number of carnival awards during the official presentation event at the Mackay Turf Club.

Mr Leavers said "the friendship and mateship we have seen during this carnival is some of the most impressive I've witnessed at a QPS sports event. The week starts with some gentle ribbing with colleagues you probably haven't seen for a long time, it morphs into full competitive force as the results start to evolve and then when the finals are over there's this steel like bond. We all wear the uniform and handle a variety of stresses through the day to day but this carnival is a little relief valve, a chance to not think about the demands of work and relax amongst mates.

"The QPU has remained a significant sponsor for both men and women's rugby league and I look forward to the success of our Maroon Teams at the Australian Championships." Mr Leavers said.

Recipients of the Player Awards received a cash prize from the QPU along with a gift and their name on the perpetual trophy. Andrew Dunkley from the CQ Razorbacks was announced as the player of the men's final. Defensive player of the carnival was Kieran Melville from the Wide Bay Whales and Player of the carnival was Nelson Gibuma from the Far North Queensland Marlins.



Kieran Melville receives the Best Defensive Player Award from QPU President Ian Leavers and QPSRL President Danny Hess.



Recipient of the Player of the Final Andrew Dunkley receives the perpetual trophy from QPU President Ian Leavers and QPSRL President Danny Hess.



FNQ Marlins player Nelson Gibuma was awarded Player of the Carnival.

The women's awards went to Jorja Gray from the City Cyclones for the second year in a row recognised as the Player of the Carnival. Jorja was presented with the Gnech and Associates sponsored Brett Forte Shield with Mekilah Ackworth also from City Cyclones who received the Teresa Anderson Trophy for the best Defensive Player of the Carnival.



QPU President Ian Leavers and QPSRL President Danny Hess present Jorja Gray with the Player of the Carnival Trophy.



Mekilah Ackworth is presented with the Best Defensive Player of the Carnival Trophy by QPU President Ian Leavers and QPSRL President Danny Hess.

Major Sponsor of the Affiliated States Competition and Australian Police Rugby League Team, former serving police officer Terry Hailey from TM Management Services attended the Queensland Carnival for the first time and liked what he saw across the week. Terry said "every team whether they are playing or not is at the venue all day, other states I get the impression the teams turn up play their own game and leave. There's little interaction or enjoying the event as a spectator. You Queenslanders really enjoy each other's company and swapping stories from the different parts of the State where you're working. That really impressed me as someone on the outside looking in. This is one week a year that appears to be really beneficial to an officers health, not just because they are playing sport but if it helps someone stay out of the darkness and negative thoughts it's all been worth it."

























Players named in the 2024 Queensland Police Maroons Team.



Players named in the 2024 Queensland Maroons Team.



QPSRL acknowledged sponsor Terry Hailey from TM Management Services during the presentation.



City Cyclones were presented with their 2024 Championship Medallions.



QPU President Ian Leavers congratulated each Region in fielding competitive teams and those nominated for the 2024 State Police Teams.



CQ Razorbacks Capt Andrew Dunkley spoke of the honour for his side being QPS State Champions for 2024.



Anthony Tidball was awarded a 10 Carnival Hall of Fame certificate.



Jeremy Smith was awarded a 10 Carnival Hall of Fame certificate.



Paul Jones was acknowledged with a 20 year mug.



The CQ Razorbacks presented with their 2024 Championship Medallions.



Justin Drier was awarded a 10 Carnival Hall of Fame certificate.



David Hudson was awarded a 10 Carnival Hall of Fame certificate.



QPSRL acknowledged sponsors FKG Group Mick and Bruce Gardner during the presentation.



QPSRL acknowledged sponsors Ian Leavers and Shane Prior from the QPU.



Andrew Fullagar was awarded a 10 Carnival Hall of Fame certificate.



Adrian Daniels was awarded a 10 Carnival Hall of Fame certificate.



QPSRL acknowledged all of their generous sponsors including Greg Ryan from Artistic Landscapes.

QPS Queensland Maroon Mens Team 2024

Daley Boney - FNQ Marlins
Logan Bower - SE Muddies
Jake Carl - SE Muddies
James Conroy - SE Muddies
Tom Cordwell - CQ Razorbacks
Dave Cutler - WB Whales
Angelo Cuevas - Nthn Stingers
Aengus Dickson - FNQ Marlins
Andrew Dunkley - CQ Razorbacks
Nelson Gibuma - FNQ Marlins
Ryan Graham - SE Muddies
Al Heldsinger - Mount Isa Mongrels
Issac Lehman - CQ Razorbacks
Kieren Melville - WB Whales
Mick O'Keefe - SE Muddies
Troy O'Sullivan - SE Muddies
Tom Patullo - CQ Razorbacks
Terry Philips - Townsville
Kane-Paul Smith - Southern Boars
Sam Pierce - SE Muddies
Will Scanlan - Brisbane Bulldogs
Alex Williams - WB Whales

QPS Queensland Maroon Womens Team 2024

Jorja Gray - City
Allanah Phineasa - Country
Victoria Merrick - City
Shannon Piccinelli - City
Belinda Patrick - City
Tara Murnane - Country
Kirra Zempech - Country
Alya Ovari - City
Teresa Anderson - City
Gabriel Carsten - Country
Ayden Bain - City
Kirsten Everett - City
Kaitlyn Catrell - City
Stephanie Hancock - City
Gracie Ryder - Country
Fran Wilson - City
Mik Ackworth - City
Syndee Storey - Country
April Albury - Country
Mallory Hofmeier - Country
Tahnee Guinea - City
Brianna Lockyear - Country



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PSYCHIATRIC INJURY CLAIMS

BY RYAN HEATH, SPECIAL COUNSEL SCIACCA'S LAWYERS

Sciaccas LAWYERS

SCIACCA'S LAWYERS CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ADVICE TO MEMBERS OF THE QUEENSLAND POLICE UNION REGARDING WORKPLACE PSYCHOLOGICAL INJURIES AND THE WORKCOVER PROCESS.

Psychological injuries can develop through a one off traumatic event, repeated exposure to trauma or workplace stressors including unreasonable management action.

Once a member has a WorkCover claim accepted for a psychological injury, we continue to provide advice regarding prospects of success in a civil or common law claim for damages. Generally if a member is to be successful in a claim for common law damages they need to establish that the QPS knew or should have known of their psychological vulnerability prior to the decompensation.

It is well established case law that an employer has a duty of care to ensure a safe system and a safe place of work. However, what constitutes a safe system of work and a safe place of work will depend on the circumstances of the particular case. It is fair to state that the Queensland Police Service (QPS) in recent years has recognised the importance of their staff's psychological health.

Reference is made to the *"Our People Matter"* strategy. The strategy arose as a result of a formal consultation process undertaken with various stakeholders during 2017. The process involved two surveys one for employees and the other for family members and more than thirty face to face workshops. The QPS recorded some 2300 responses to the surveys and over 850 participants in the workshops.

As a result of that consultation the *"Our People Matter"* strategy document was created referencing in part the following goals:-

- Develop a risk management framework which identifies those at risk of suffering a mental health condition and how the risk is being managed
- Review policies and procedures to ensure they support those with mental health conditions
- Improve data reporting systems to better enable the analysis of trends to ensure support services are appropriate
- Implement strategies that seek to reduce the stigma associated with mental health conditions
- Encourage help seeking behaviour
- Promote and encourage employee and family access to support options
- Promote wellbeing strategies to reduce mental health risk
- Extend current support services to families

• Develop and deliver training, tools and services to assist with the identification and management of mental health conditions.

It remains presently unclear to the extent which further policies and procedures have been implemented and adopted which address these strategy commitments.

Certainly the extent to which the QPS creates policies and procedures for ensuring the mental health of their staff will become directly relevant to establishing whether or not a member would have a successful common law claim.

The case law surrounding psychological injuries continues to develop, given the decision of the High Court last year in the matter of Kozarov v State of Victoria (2022) HCA12. Prior to the Kozarov decision a member's prospects of success were dictated to a large extent by the High Court's findings of Koehler v Cerebos (Australia) Limited (2005) HCA15. In Koehler, the injured worker was unsuccessful in establishing negligence against their employer because she had failed to bring to her employer's attention the fact that she was suffering from a mental illness and indeed continued performing her duties under her employment contract.

In this matter, although the injured worker had complained to her employer about her excessive workload, she did not expressly warn the employer that she was potentially suffering a psychiatric illness. The High Court noted:- *"The employer engaging an employee to perform stated duties is entitled to assume, in the absence of evident signs or warning of the possibility of psychiatric injury, that the employee considers that he or she is able to do the job"*.

Given the findings in Koehler, in advising members regarding potential claims against the QPS, it was important to establish that the QPS knew or should have known that the member was at risk of sustaining psychiatric injury due to the ordinary performance of their work.

It is now arguable however that the landscape with respect to being on notice has shifted given the Kozarov decision. Ms Kozarov was employed as a solicitor in the Specialised Sexual Offences Unit (SSOU) of the Office of Public Prosecutions in Victoria. As a result, Ms Kozarov routinely interacted with survivors of trauma, both adults and children and through the prosecution of these claims was exposed to their traumatic experiences.

The High Court, in ultimately finding for Ms Kozarov stated that there was no question as to whether the employer was duty bound to be alert to the risk of psychological injury given the nature of Ms Kozarov's work.

In this regard their Honours Keifel and Keen stated as follows:- *"In light of the undisputed facts, it is clear that officers of the respondent who were responsible for the management of the SSOU were duty bound to exercise reasonable care to protect Ms Kozarov against risk to her mental health that were actually known to the respondent. This is so readily apparent from the terms of the vicarious trauma policy (the VT Policy) adopted by the respondent for the protection of the psychiatric health of employees within the SSOU before Ms Kozarov's employment commenced. No further warning signs were necessary to establish that the content of the duty of care owed by the respondent to Ms Kozarov included active steps for the care of her psychiatric health"*.

"OUR PEOPLE MATTER"

- DEVELOP A RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK WHICH IDENTIFIES THOSE AT RISK OF SUFFERING A MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION AND HOW THE RISK IS BEING MANAGED
- REVIEW POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO ENSURE THEY SUPPORT THOSE WITH MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS
- IMPROVE DATA REPORTING SYSTEMS TO BETTER ENABLE THE ANALYSIS OF TRENDS TO ENSURE SUPPORT SERVICES ARE APPROPRIATE
- IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES THAT SEEK TO REDUCE THE STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS
- ENCOURAGE HELP SEEKING BEHAVIOUR
- PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE EMPLOYEE AND FAMILY ACCESS TO SUPPORT OPTIONS
- PROMOTE WELLBEING STRATEGIES TO REDUCE MENTAL HEALTH RISK
- EXTEND CURRENT SUPPORT SERVICES TO FAMILIES
- DEVELOP AND DELIVER TRAINING, TOOLS AND SERVICES TO ASSIST WITH THE IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS.

The Court went further commenting on particular types of employment which may put employees at risk. They stated as follows:- *"The circumstances of a particular type of employment may be such that the work to be performed by the employee is inherently and obviously dangerous to the psychiatric health of the employee (just as other kinds of work are inherently and obviously dangerous to the physical health of the employee).*

In any such case, the employer is duty bound to be proactive in the provision of measures to enable the work to be performed safely by the employee". The effect of the Kozarov decision is that arguably less importance is placed on whether a member has displayed signs or symptoms of psychological vulnerability and more emphasis is placed upon the nature of the work and what policies or procedures that the QPS have in place to mitigate the risk of psychiatric harm.

In this regard should the QPS have introduced policies pursuant to the *"Our People Matter"* strategy and failed to implement and/or adopt those policies, an injured member's claim would have greater prospects of success. In this regard the Kozarov decision confirms that employers are duty bound to be proactive in the provision of measures to control risk to the health and safety of employees.

In circumstances where the employer has introduced policies to mitigate the risk of injury, this will be extremely relevant in assessing whether an employer is on notice of the foreseeable risk of psychiatric injury.

There are some general observations that can be made regarding the attitude of the High Court in the Kozarov decision as follows:-

(a) The duty of care owed by an employer to an employee in certain workplaces can include active steps for the care of psychiatric health of the employee.

(b) There may be features of a particular employer which will mean that the work is inherently and obviously dangerous to the psychiatric health of an employee. In those circumstances the employer has a duty to be proactive and to provide measures which enable the work to be performed safely.

(c) An employer's internal policies or procedures may indicate that the employer has a lively appreciation of the serious risk to the mental health of employees posed by the work. In those circumstances the employer does not need any warning sign to take reasonable steps to safe guard an employees' mental health.

Prior to the Kozarov decision in advising members we would need to stress the importance of the member showing obvious signs of psychological distress or symptomology prior to their decompensation.

Generally speaking in the absence such notice of the officers' wellbeing, the QPS would argue that the provision of HSOs, PSOs and police chaplains was sufficient to discharge their duty of care.

However, given the nature of first response policing and the fact that members are regularly exposed to trauma, we believe it can now be argued that the QPS has a duty to be proactive and to provide measures which enable work to be performed safely. In particular in circumstances where the QPS have internal policies and procedures regarding psychological wellbeing, it can now be argued that the failure to comply with those policies and procedures may lead to a finding of fault or negligence on behalf of the QPS.

QPU members are strongly encouraged to contact Sciacca's Lawyers to obtain advice regarding any workplace injuries, in particular psychological injuries, at the earliest available opportunity.



Ryan Heath is special counsel at Sciaccas lawyers. He has over 25 years of legal experience in accident compensation law with a special interest in psychological injuries. Ryan is often called upon to advise police and other first responders on potential common law and total and permanent disability claims.


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BOWEL CANCER COPS

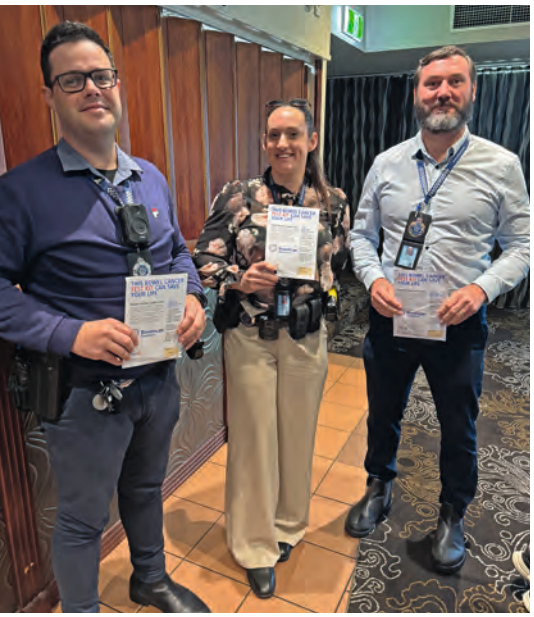
BY DARREN CURTIS

BOWEL CANCER IS THE SECOND BIGGEST CANCER KILLER IN AUSTRALIA AND UNFORTUNATELY QUEENSLAND HAS SOME OF THE HIGHEST RATES IN THE WORLD.

QPU Southern Region Rep Col Muller along with Acting Inspector Adam Cooper initiated an awareness project encouraging QPU members across the Region to undergo free screening. The undertaking centered on a breakfast meeting held on Monday April 29 at the Ipswich Brothers Leagues Club.

Acting Inspector Cooper said the driving force for him to be involved came from losing a family member and good friend to bowel cancer, “As police we are not immune to this cancer and we can suffer this at any age or time in our career. I’ve found people are reluctant to talk about bowel cancer, it’s as if the topic is taboo talking about poo but if we do keep discussing this issue we will raise awareness. People aged between 25 to 45 they are the ones at an increased rate of bowel cancer and it’s increasing every year. The good news however is it’s about 99% curable if detected early.”







One hundred and ten current serving police and police liaison officers attended the breakfast and each were provided a free test kit. QPU preferred lawyers Gilshenan & Luton covered the cost of the test kits with practice Director Craig Pratt taking a personal interest in supporting the project.

A number of guest speakers from Queensland Cancer Council, Queensland Rotary Bowelscan and bowel cancer survivors spoke of their experiences and the research being done to assist those that contract this cancer.

Acting Senior Sergeant Kim Clist from Goodna revealed she contracted bowel cancer in 2008 and had no symptoms before her diagnosis. Originally doctors thought she may have had appendicitis but during the scan and test phase specialists discovered a number of tumours. Kim said, "I was 37 and competing in some high level sports and thought I was pretty tough having endured a number of injuries through sport and on the job but the surgery, recovery and chemo knocked me for six.

"If the doctors had only gone ahead with key hole surgery for my appendix I would never have known I had bowel cancer until it was probably too late to treat. I'm now fully recovered but a strong advocate that if you have the opportunity to do this bowel scan test or a colonoscopy to do it, I cannot praise the process enough."



Assistant Commissioner Kath Innes revealed how cancer had impacted her family and the need for police of all ranks to take up the option of cancer testing.

Recently appointed Assistant Commissioner for Southern Region Kath Innes caught just about everybody in the audience by surprise with her family's story. In an emotional few minutes Kath detailed how her father was diagnosed with bowel cancer in 1999 but had felt unwell for two years before submitting to full medical tests. He was treated and initially recovered.

Kath said, "If dad had continued to ignore his symptoms he would never have met my daughter Sophie, however when my son was being born in 2004 dad was in palliative care from bowel cancer and he died not long after.

"Then in 2022 my brother Martin became ill without any previous symptoms and died five weeks after being diagnosed with cancer. I've got no one left so please take the test. Ipswich is over represented in the statistics for bowel cancer. 12% of new cases of bowel cancer are people under 50 years of age, so this can impact anybody."



Bowel cancer survivor Snr Sgt Kim Clist revealed the unusual way her cancer was diagnosed.

PEOPLE AGED BETWEEN 25 TO 45 THEY ARE THE ONES AT AN INCREASED RATE OF BOWEL CANCER AND IT'S INCREASING EVERY YEAR. THE GOOD NEWS HOWEVER IS IT'S ABOUT 99% CURABLE IF DETECTED EARLY.



QPU Southern Region Rep Col Muller and Gilshenan & Luton Director Craig Pratt who provided funding for the breakfast and test kits.


THIS BOWEL CANCER TEST KIT CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE
YEARLY TESTING SAVES LIVES
This iFOB screening test detects hidden blood in the bowel motion which may indicate a medical problem that requires further investigation.
You will receive free advice on outcome of test if the registration card is completed.
Please understand this program does not represent a test for bowel cancer, it merely detects hidden blood in the bowel motion.
THIS IS A QUEENSLAND ROTARY BOWELSCAN iFOB TEST KIT
A community health awareness program supported by Australian Rotary Health
UNUSED KIT MUST BE STORED IN A COOL PLACE AT ALL TIMES
TESTING IS AVAILABLE EACH BUSINESS DAY
UNUSED KITS CAN BE USED THE NEXT YEAR AS LONG AS THE USE BY DATE HAS NOT EXPIRED
Bowelscan Queensland
Rotary District 9620
USE BY DATE:
30 APR 2025
FURTHER INFORMATION: 1300 779 694
#BOWELSCANQLD A COMMUNITY HEALTH AWARENESS PROGRAM




POLICE





Each specialist organisation encouraged those who took a free kit home to utilise it and not place it in a drawer to be forgotten.

QPU Southern Region Rep Col Muller reinforced the value of the project across all work units in the QPS, "It is a very important issue, everyone here knows somebody who has been touched by some form of cancer and anyone who has been close to those who have had a terminal diagnosis will know it's not a nice end of life.

"Incredibly when I was encouraging colleagues to come to this event one member told me he had a bowel cancer screen and it came back positive and they didn't follow it up with a doctor. Please use some common sense. I'd particularly like to thank AC Innes for her insight about what happened to her family, that has really touched everyone in the room and hopefully opened a few eyes to just how bad this cancer can be."

The event would not have been possible without the support of the QPU and Gilshenan & Luton. Adam Cooper and Col Muller have encouraged other police Districts to engage with their local Rotary Clubs and Cancer Council Queensland to arrange similar information sessions for members.



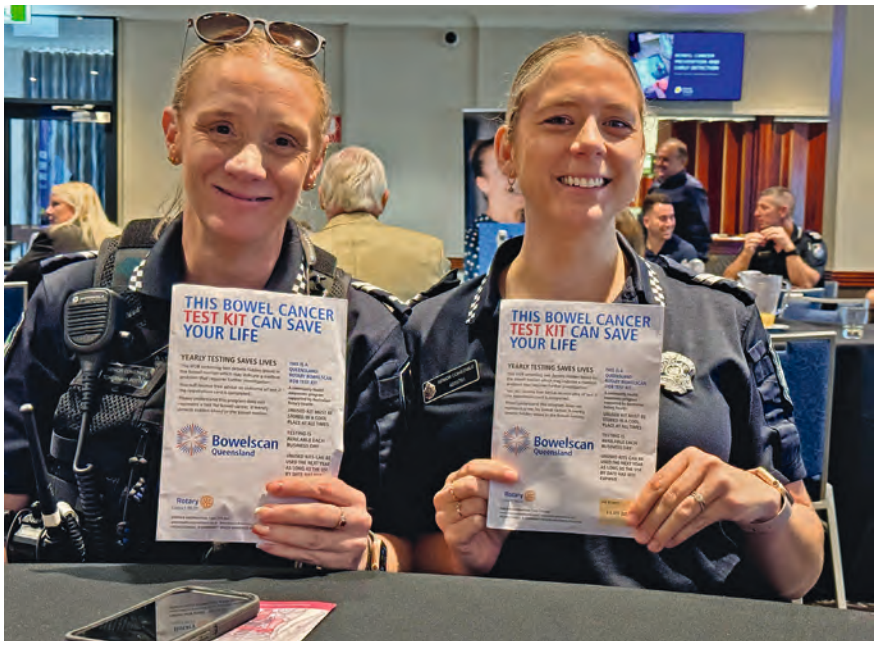


Event organisers Acting Insp Adam Cooper and QPU Southern Regional Rep Col Muller.

EACH SPECIALIST ORGANISATION ENCOURAGED THOSE WHO TOOK A FREE KIT HOME TO UTILISE IT AND NOT PLACE IT IN A DRAWER TO BE FORGOTTEN.


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QUEENSLAND RETIRED POLICE ASSOCIATION NEWS

MESSAGE FROM GREG EARLY, STATE PRESIDENT



Ashley Snook, Far North Queensland Branch, occasionally attends a general meeting of the Association held at Police Headquarters in Brisbane.

He had a special reason to attend the meeting on 4 March 2024 and that was to receive his Queensland Police Service Medal.



State President Greg Early presenting Ashley Snook with his Queensland Police Service Medal.



State President Greg Early presenting State Vice President Alex Granlund with his Veteran Member Certificate.

The luncheons/dinner for 2024 known at this stage are:

Van Diemen's Land, 22 June 2024, AGM and dinner at Tamar Valley Resort, Andy Beasant, 0409 030 142;

Gold Coast, 16 July 2024, Twin Towns Services Club, Tweed Heads, Denise Sullivan, 0407 341 596;

Gladstone, 20 July 2024, Chinatown Restaurant, Darryl Saw, 0447 417 746;

Rockhampton, (dinner), 18 November 2024 – details to be provided at a later date;

Bundaberg, 4 December 2024, Sandhills Function Room, Bargara, Rowan Bond 0408 286 483.

TRANSFERRING FROM ONE BRANCH TO ANOTHER

Usually a member joins the Association from one of the seventeen Branches or via the State Branch. However, they join the Association and not the Branch. It is a simple matter to transfer from one Branch to the other by completing a transfer form. Also, visitors from one Branch to another are always welcome.

NEW MEMBERS

Former Assistant Commissioner Colin Malcolm McCallum, Darling Downs, former Senior Sergeant Steven Peter Stewart, Darling Downs, former Sergeant in NSW Police Force Michael Leonard Enders, State, former Sergeant Anthony William Aquilina, State, former Sergeant Terence Michael Winters, Gold Coast and former Sergeant John Russell, Goobanko, Gold Coast.

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER

John Leslie Goggan, fit and proper person, Gold Coast.

QRPA CERTIFICATES

VETERAN MEMBER

(75 years & 10 years continuous financial membership):
Peter John Harrison-Kyte, Logan-Beenleigh, Raymond Leslie Laidlaw, Darling Downs, Phillip Mannion, Southern Downs and Granite Belt, Joseph Moskwa, Sunshine Coast and Desmond John Wolski, Near North Coast.

VETERAN ASSOCIATE MEMBER

(75 years & 10 years continuous financial membership):
Pauline Marion Anderson, Hervey Bay and Christine Merle Coleborn, Gladstone.

SENIOR MEMBER

(65yrs and 10 years continuous financial membership):
Timothy John Battle, Southern Downs and Granite Belt, Laurence Bell, Southern Downs and Granite Belt, Mark Bradley Clark, Ipswich, Michael Raymond Dunn, Logan-Beenleigh, John Carey MacDonald, Logan-Beenleigh, John Edward Warner, Near North Coast, Paul Anthony Wilson, State, Mervyn Victor Johnston, Townsville, Geoffrey James Palmer, Gold Coast, Christopher Michael Sang, State and Wayne Allan Woods, Sunshine Coast.

SENIOR ASSOCIATE MEMBER

(65 years & 10 years continuous financial membership): Judith Iris Dunn, Logan Beenleigh, Marion Leila Goddard, Townsville and Suzanne Fay Luskie, Redlands.

90 AND OVER

Vince Beutel, Ipswich, 100 on 5 April 2024, Dulcie Green, Townsville, 92 on 11 April 2024, Frederick George Maynard, Ipswich, 92 on 18 April 2024 and Norah Gwenllian Spreadborough, Mackay-Whitsunday, 92 on 3 April 2024.

OBITUARIES – MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

MEMBERS

Veteran member and former Inspector Cecil Arthur Horne, 13/03/2024, age 98 years, member and former Sergeant Norris Lindsay Francis Carney, 04/03/2024 age 86 years, member and former Sergeant First Class Graham Jonsen, 27/03/2024 age 79 years, Life Member and former Sergeant First Class Rex Albert Allison 13/04/2024 age 99 years, Life Member and former Chief Superintendent Granville Patrick Pearce aged 81 years 16/04/2024, Veteran Member and former Sergeant John Daniel Thomson 80 years 21/04/2024 and Veteran Member and former Detective Senior Sergeant Gerald Morgan aged 91 years 06042024.

FAMILY

Gwendoline Muriel Cislowski, 06/03/2024, age 96 years, widow of former Life Member Osmond Ertmann (Ossie) Cislowski and Beryl Bye, 22/03/2024, age 96 years, wife of Life Member Vincent Joseph Bye.

NON MEMBERS

Former Queensland Police Officer Colin Bruce Jackson, 04/03/2024, age 65 years, former Queensland Police Officer Norman Leslie Beitz, 07/032024, age 95 years, former Queensland Police Officer John Edward Newman 06/03/2024, age 74 years, former Sergeant Kenneth Brian Leitch, age 70 years, former Sergeant Keith Hutchinson, 31/03/2024 age 87 years and former Sergeant James Bindon aged 79 years 15/04/2024.

AROUND THE BRANCHES

BUNDABERG

Meeting held on 22 March 2024. Welfare: In the absence of Mary Waugh, an informal welfare report was made by several members. It noted that Grannie Pearce was still in good spirits. (Unfortunately Grannie passed away on 16 April 2024). Lou Pukallas advised that he is hopefully on the mend after a further protracted round of treatment. The Charity Bowls Day: Bob Materna, Alan Edgerton and Mary Waugh are going above and beyond in an endeavour to gain some major prizes from local businesses. Alan Edgerton advised that he had been to see the manager of the local Betta Electrical store and was hopeful for a positive outcome. Bob made the suggestion that members give thought to a 'barefoot bowls day' for a future date (possibly after the yearly charity bowls day) with it being suggested it be held on a weekday, such as a Monday or Friday, as opposed to a weekend when fixtures are held. This idea was warmly received and will be given further thought in the coming weeks. Next meeting: 26 April 2924. *(Secretary – Rowan Bond – 0408 286 483)*

GOLD COAST

Meeting held on 5 March 2024. President Russell Robertson has sincerely thanked the Ipswich Branch of the Retired Police Association (in particular President Ken Morris and members Bruce Raymond and Margie Poole aka Kussrow) for their very helpful and muchly appreciated assistance provided in the recent passing and funeral of Gold Coast RPA Veteran Member Patrick Clancy. Meeting held at the Currumbin RSL Club on 2 April 2024. Five members and associates attended the social meeting at the Currumbin RSL Club on 28 March 2024. The annual luncheon will be held at Twin Towns Services Club, Tweed Heads, on 16 July 2024. The application for membership by former QPS Sergeant Terrence Michael Winters was recommended for approval. Guest Speaker: Inspector Chris Critton of South Eastern Region who gave a very thorough and highly informative presentation on issues affecting policing in the Region in particular: Youth crime, curfews, staff retention and over capacity watchhouses where youths are now held for some 30 days on remand with the QPS having to fill the role of Queensland Corrective Services. Next meeting: 7 May 2024. *(Secretary – David Manfield – 0413 957 610)*

GYMPIE

Meeting held on 7 April 2024. Welfare Report: Glen Durre gave an update on his wife Margery's ongoing medical treatment. Norm Breen and Annabell Andrews mentioned that Garry Casey had been in hospital with Influenza and was now recovering. Discussion ensued about a request by Laurie Pointing for $500 to assist in printing another book. There was talk of arranging a bus outing in the near future for a get together and informal lunch. Next meeting: Tin Can Bay Sports Club on 5 June 2024. *(Secretary – Wayne McDonald – 0406 728 070)*

LOGAN-BEENLEIGH

Meeting held on 28 February 2024. President Col Thorne welcomed Lisa Jones, Curator of the Queensland Police Museum. Later in the meeting Lisa gave a presentation on the murder of Gwendoline Thorpe in 1956. Greg Spies, one of the founding members of the Branch, was presented with his Life Member Plaque. (Greg is a tireless organiser of prizes for the monthly raffles). Welfare by Eileen Riley. The Klupfels came back from a cruise with COVID and Graham spent some time in hospital. Three other members were also struck down Jim and Lola Wagner and Wayne Barnes. Mike Pearson is doing extremely well after his bypass surgery; Dale Ellsworth continues with her chemo regime which is tough going and Max Faulkner is back driving again after his knee

replacement last October. It was wonderful to see John and Dale and Jim at the meeting. Eileen tendered her resignation as Welfare Officer as she concentrates on her own health issues. A vote of appreciation was carried with acclamation for her tireless efforts as Welfare Officer and Guest Speaker Co-ordinator. Meeting held on 27 March 2024. The guest speaker, Ian Frame, CEO of Youth Enterprises Trust, was welcomed to the meeting by President Col Thorne. The vision of the Trust is to improve the lives of young people through engagement with the environment, education and entrepreneurship. He also spoke about the achievement and future plans of the Trust. A motion to include the words 'associate or honorary' under QRPA badges for new members was passed. Welfare officer position. The executive formally accepted Eileen Riley's resignation as Branch Welfare Officer from 27 March 2024. The branch formally acknowledged Eileen's excellent and compassionate work as the Welfare Officer. Members showed their appreciation in the usual manner. The executive is now looking to form a welfare committee. The Committee looked at the replacement of the current flag poles and decided on poles which are more suitable to be used for the flags. Meeting held on 24 April 2024. Guest speaker: Acting Inspector Chris Tritton on Facial Recognition. Chris has been identified as a Super Recogniser with ability to recognise people from a photograph and video. This is a natural talent which cannot be taught or developed. He won a Churchill Scholarship and travelled to the United Kingdom where he undertook training to enable him to identify other people with a similar talent within QPS. This is a new and developing process with QPS. President Col Thorne presented John MacDonald with his Senior Member Certificate. Les Melville was presented with his Veteran Member Certificate by President Col external to the meeting. Gerry Stevens has raised a further $300 through his can/bottle collections. The Management Committee is planning a trip to Summerland Camels at Harrisville in the August - September period. Eileen Riley was presented with a plaque in appreciation of her service to the Branch. President Colin Thorne provided an update on the health and wellbeing of a number of branch members. Next meeting: 22 May 2024. *(Secretary – Kevin Francis – 0401 668 760)*



Greg Spies being presented with his Life Member Plaque by President Col Thorne.



Les Melville being presented with his Veteran Member Certificate by President Col Thorne.



President Col Thorne presenting John MacDonald with his Senior Member Certificate.

SUNSHINE COAST

Meeting held on 26 March 2024. Welfare report by President and Welfare Officer Dick Turpin. A written message from Whisky Walker was received and circulated among members updating everyone on John's health. Members conveyed best wishes to Whiskey with his ongoing health issues. There are a number of members suffering health issues and several updates were conveyed to the meeting. Tough times for some. Guest Speaker: QRPA – SCO member Rick Pak spoke about his role as a forensic photographer involved with the human remains recovered following the Air NZ DC10 Mount Erebus Air crash in 1979. It was an interesting discussion to what has become a joint Australia – New Zealand Police process to Disaster Victim Identification. The annual luncheon was held on 23 April 2024 at the Headland Golf Club. Thirty nine members and guests attended. The following Branches were represented: Redlands (1) and Near North Coast (5). They had four lucky door prizes and thirty three other raffle prizes. Special guest was Tony Ross, Relationship Manager of QBank, the Association's major sponsor, who spoke of his role in QBank and his association in a large part of the state with police and other bodies serviced by QBank. State President Greg Early presented Joe Moskwa with his Veteran Member Certificate and updated those present on QRPA matters. Next meeting: 28 May 2024. *(Secretary – John Ballard – 0447 432 622)*



Joe Moskwa receiving his Veteran Member Certificate from State President Greg Early.

SOUTHERN DOWNS AND GRANITE BELT

Next meeting: 3 May at Stanthorpe. *(Secretary – Brian Cannon – 0476 156 968)* Brian is on holidays and will catch up with comment on his return.

ROCKHAMPTON

Meeting held on 6 March 2024. The renovations at the Frenchville Club continue. Some recognition will be given to former Detective Superintendent Bob Drew, New South Police. He contributed to national training courses for Stock Squad Officers run by member and former Detective Sergeant Terry Hanly. Unfortunately, Bob is now a quadriplegic after a fall and requires ongoing care. Andrea, Rose and Carolyn attended a morning tea with June Young during the month. Unfortunately, Tom Young, now 95 years, is becoming too frail to travel. Meeting held on 3 April 2024. President Barry Self gave feedback on the outing at Cockscomb on 17 March 2024. Meeting held on 1 May 2024. Social event: There was a wearing of the green at the Cockscomb BBQ. After Secretary Dennis Smith's cleanup, back issues of the Union Journal will be taken to the paper/cardboard recycling facility at the city dump. Next meeting: 5 June 2024. *(Secretary/Treasurer – Dennis Smith – 0408 321 416)*

MACKAY-WHITSUNDAY

Meeting held on 16 March 2024. A letter was sent to QPU President, Ian Leavers, conveying the Branch's support to him for his media comments and efforts to hold the current Government accountable concerning the current disgraceful youth crime situation faced by the Queensland community. Senior Sergeant Simon Wylie, OIC of Whitsunday Police Station, has pencilled in 17 August 2024 for the annual meeting at his station. Dennis Hansen addressed the meeting outlining the current status of his work concerning the restoration of Constable Doyle's grave. Dennis has been in contact with Bob Burns, President of Friends of the QPS Museum, about funding for the work. Welfare: Graham Drury was attending Townsville on the day of the meeting to have stitches removed after recent surgery. Nora Spreadborough was contacted by phone. She was in good spirits but is unable to venture out much. She misses being able to attend meetings. Barry Downs was not able to attend the meeting as he was having an off day. After discussion, all agreed to amend the 2014 motion – so that those birthday members would be shouted lunch after the relevant meeting by MWS QRPA. Presentation of Veteran Associate Member Certificate to Michelle Sheehan. Michelle and Sam Sheehan, accompanied by their wonderful family, attended the meeting to celebrate with Michelle who remembered back in 2009 when the Branch was formed. Guest Speaker: Retired Dr Bert Sadlier (Board member of CQ-RACQ Helicopter Rescue Service). Bert gave a wonderful and very detailed outline of the current and past status of and operational side of the Service, including hourly costs of operating the helicopter during rescues and other missions, the cost of replacing the helicopters, the staffing arrangements, how the service had evolved, regulations and accountability and also the funding required to maintain the service. Bert also spoke of many other matters relating to the Service. Further brief discussion was had regarding a Certificate of Appreciation for recently promoted and previous Whitsunday OIC, Nathan Blain, for his continued support over the years of MWS QRPA. Meeting held on 20 April 2024 at Sarina Sporting and Services Club. Mackay police will not be marching in the Anzac Day parade this year and members decided not to march either. Dennis Doring, returned Vietnam Veteran, will place a wreath on behalf of the Branch at the Mackay Anzac service. Welfare: Kev Wall is managing with difficulty following the passing of his sister. Graham Drury, who attended the meeting, was having a tough time with chemo treatment. Barry Downs had been ill of late and was advised by his doctor to lay up and rest. It was resolved to make a yearly donation to the CQ-RACQ Helicopter Rescue Service. A Hikoki 18v cordless drill, impact drill and blower and battery combination pack was donated by Core Gas and will be used as a raffle prize. Guest speaker: Detective Sergeant Joe Murray, Sarina Criminal Investigation Branch, who gave an outline of his service history and then covered staffing, crime trends, juvenile and sexual offenders, vehicles/water policing vessel, uniform and CIB policing areas, difficulties in filling numerous vacancies, growth of the Sarina population and planned growth in police numbers in due course. Joe later made a donation of $50 on behalf of the Sarina CIB Social Club towards the restoration costs of Constable Doyle's grave. Next meeting: 18 May 2024. *(Secretary – Andre Wijtenburg – 0437 230 840)*



President Bob Maher presenting Michelle Sheehan with her Veteran Associate Member Certificate in the presence of her husband Sam and their family.

IPSWICH

Meeting held on 14 March 2024. Welfare Reports from Bruce Raymond and Margie Kussrow: Alison Yarrow underwent surgery for a broken hip after being knocked over by a dog. John Hawkins is looking for a new wardrobe after losing so much weight. Wendy O'Neill was contacted and is going OK. Matt and Elaine Dale were contacted and Matt is still suffering from vertigo. John and Joy Raatz are recovering after some setbacks. Mark Clark was contacted and is recovering slowly from an infection. Doug and Dawn Trace were contacted and Dawn was suffering from an ulcer in the back of her leg. Di Topping would

love to attend meetings but has a low immune system. Cliff Dieckmann was presented with his Senior Member Certificate by Chairman Ken Morris. Guest Speaker: Senior Sergeant Chris Tritton who has over 30 years of policing experience in the New South Wales and the QPS. It was in the Gold Coast CIB that investigations were restricted by the absence of the capacity of facial recognition and the ability to share CCTV and suspect images. He was awarded a Courier Mail Scholarship to research the use of Super-Recognisers in law enforcement and was the first identified Super-Recogniser in Australia. Since testing in the Southern Region and identifying twenty Super-Recognisers, the unit has identified over 1200 suspects facially around the state. The remarkable ability of individuals to recognise and identify people from photographs to that of the real person is absolutely amazing. Some of the examples provided by Chris and the effect Super-Recognisers are having in solving crime are indeed game changers. The ability of some gifted individuals has solved and prevented serious crime globally. On 21 March 2024 the annual Noleyne Milne award was presented to Detective Senior Constable Katelin Cooper, Ipswich District Criminal Investigation Branch, in the presence of her parents, Robyn and Ian Cooper, Noleyne Milne and Detective Acting Inspector Wayne Francis. Meeting held on 11 April 2024. Welfare Reports from Bruce Raymond and Margie Kussrow: Greg Early, Ken Martin and John Hawkins attended a morning tea at Villa Maria Nursing Home when Vince Buetel's 100 th birthday was celebrated on 5 April 2024 (the actual day). Geoff Bodley is travelling overseas on an extended and well deserved holiday. Len Yarrow was an apology as he was picking up Alison from hospital after recovering from a broken hip. John Raatz is recovering slowly as is Barry Cannon. Ted and Catherine Roberts were welcomed to the meeting as they have transferred from Hervey Bay Branch. Bruce Raymond filled in as guest speaker at the last moment. Bruce presented on the recovery of the ship's bell of the SS Edmund Fitzgerald which sank in a severe storm in the great lakes separating the USA and Canada. The ship sank in 6 fathoms of water with the loss of all 29 persons on board. It was two decades later that the bell was brought to the surface. The ship had been carrying a full load of iron ore when it broke in half. It was a story of courage and endurance by those that ventured out into the storm to search for the then lost vessel. Once recovered the bell was mounted in a maritime museum and a replacement bell, with the names of all lost crew members engraved on it, was lowered onto the wreck. Next Meeting: 9 May 2024.



Guest speaker Senior Sergeant Chris Tritton.



President Ken Morris presenting Cliff Dieckmann with his Senior Member Certificate.



Presentation of the annual Noleyne Milne award: Detective Acting Inspector Wayne Francis, awardee - Detective Senior Constable Katelin Cooper, Noleyne Milne and Katelin's parents Robyn and Ian Cooper.

GLADSTONE

Meeting held on 6 March 2024 at Flavours Marina. Welfare: Wayne Lamb came down with COVID. Frank Winn is recuperating from his knee replacement operation. Liz Cunningham suffered a broken right wrist following a fall. Neil Coleborn has had some more skin cancer surgery on his head. John and Val Caterson are still as well as can be expected. Meeting held at Harvey Road Tavern on 3 April 2024. Darryl Saw advised that Mike and Irene Ball are satisfied with Mike's progress since he had a pacemaker fitted. The annual luncheon will be held on 20 July 2024 at the Chinatown Restaurant. Meeting held at the Queens Hotel on 1 May 2024. Darryl Saw advised that Denis Connolly's replacement knee operation is progressing well. Glen Josefski is still doing well. Diane Janas was in hospital sick from chemotherapy. Frank Winn's knee has done really well but he has to have the other one done later in the year. Karen has to have one after that. Darryl Saw, Keith McCann and Graham Cousins attended Grannie Pearce's funeral in Bundaberg while President Glenn Churchill livestreamed. Darryl reported that his health is good except for age related leg pain; also, while marching in the Gladstone Anzac day dawn service parade, he pulled or tore his left calf muscle. Mike and Irene Ball are feeling much better since recent treatment for ongoing conditions. Next meeting will be at the Gladstone PCYC on 5.6.2024, with a barbecue lunch sponsored by Glenn and Sue Churchill. *(Secretary – Darryl Saw – 0447 417 746)*

TOWNSVILLE

Meeting held on 6 March 2024. Welfare: The Welfare officers had visited Trevor Errington when he was in the Townsville Hospital and were pleased to see Trevor at the meeting. The Acting Secretary, John Cran, had spoken to Stan and Rose Goffin and Brian and Carol Bensley and all were well. A Good Onya (over ninety year award) card was made for Margaret Hooper and signed by all members in attendance. It will be presented to her as soon as possible. The Queensland Police Legacy Scheme gratefully acknowledged the $500 forwarded to it.

One of Townsville's 50 most influential and inspiring women



MEMBER – LINDA JANETZKI - Elder and long-serving Police Liaison Officer

Standing at just 4'11", cast a towering influence on indigenous relations within the Queensland Police Service. Her appointment as the Police Liaison Officer (PLO) Co-Ordinator on April 27, 1993, marked a pivotal moment in history. Linda's iron-clad determination and unwavering presence quickly earned her respect, becoming a formidable advocate for her community. Under her leadership, PLOs operated with dignity and integrity, navigating significant changes from foot patrols to innovative programs like Joyful Noise, which remains a pillar of support in the northern region. Linda's nurturing spirit extended beyond professional duties, as she became a maternal figure to many, inspiring them to pursue higher aspirations. Her legacy transcends her retirement in 2016, as Linda continues to serve through the Townsville Justice Group, epitomizing a lifelong commitment to indigenous empowerment and community upliftment. *(Townsville Bulletin)*

John and Jenny Urquhart travelled to Brisbane to visit their son and his family and to check out his new house in Laidley. They also travelled to the Gold Coast to see one of their favourite Irish singers Danniel O'Donnell. Several Townsville and Ingham members met with Barbara Zupp at the Hinchinbrook Hotel in Ingham to help her celebrate her 90th Birthday. A great day was had by all especially Barbara. Meeting held on 3 April 2024. Recent local passings: Gwendoline Muriel (Gwen) Cislowski, aged 95 years, the widow of former QRPA Life Member Osmond (Ossie) Ertmann Cislowski and Beryl Bye aged 96 years, the wife of QRPA Life Member Vincent Joseph (Vince) Bye. (Several members attended Beryl's funeral). Welfare: Trevor Errington was in the Mater Hospital and had a hip replacement. Fred Angus could not attend the meeting due to a Doctor's appointment and Pat Kelly had a skin procedure on his back. Dave Finlay then gave a very interesting talk on the Queensland Coast Guard, in particular the Townsville Branch. In the very near future the Coast Guard will come under the umbrella of the Queensland Police Service who will then be responsible for all costs incurred by this organisation which will work under the name of Marine Rescue Queensland. Jenny Urquhart was presented with her Veteran Member Certificate by President Merv Johnston. Meeting held on 1 May 2024. A special welcome was given by President Merv to Stan and Rose Goffin and Margaret Hooper who had been unable to attend for some time. Welfare: Jill Hardy had a fall at home and damaged her right shoulder. After many x-rays, scans and ultra-sounds they still have not worked out how much damage was done or how to fix it. They did, however, discover that she has some problem with her heart and she is now undergoing tests. Peter Hardy had a needle in his back a couple of weeks ago and unfortunately it has not improved his problem. Trevor Errington is at home recuperating after his hip replacement. Barry Lewthwaite has had a sleep-apnea test. Stan and Rose Goffin had a fall and Stan ended up on top of Rose's legs. Both have a few scratches and bruises. As usual a 'Good-onya' (over 90 year award) card was made for Joan Maynard. It was signed by all in attendance and will be forwarded to her as soon as possible. On Anzac Day Brian Weston placed a wreath on behalf of the Branch at Ravenswood. A surprised Merv Johnston was presented with his Senior Member Certificate by Treasurer John Cran. As Marion Goddard was unable to attend and receive her Senior Associate Member Certificate, it was given to Tony to give to her when he gets back to Ayr. Margaret Hooper was presented with her 90-year birthday card by President Merv. The Branch's annual trip to Ingham will occur on 5 June 2024. President Merv is organising a bus, morning tea will again be supplied by Barbara Zupp and Fred Angus has organised the Royal Hotel for the meeting and lunch. *(Secretary – John Urquhart – 0407 734 497)*



Barbara Zupp celebrating her 90th birthday.



Constable Declan Johnston at his induction in Brisbane on 14 December 2023. His father Marc on his right and grandparents Merv and Anne Johnston on his left. Merv is President of the Townsville Branch.



Jenny Urquhart receiving her Veteran Associate Member Certificate from President Merv Johnston.



Treasurer John Cran presenting President Merv Johnston with his Senior Member Certificate.



Tony Goddard receiving his wife Marion's Senior Member Certificate from President Merv Johnston.



Margaret Hooper being presented with her 90 year birthday card by President Merv Johnston.

DARLING DOWNS

Meeting held on 14 March 2024. The applications by Jeff Dooley and Darryl Wensley to join the Association were recommended for approval. Welfare: Roger Deshon reported that Rick Niland was on the mend. John Mackay stated that Richard Creagh was out of hospital and recovering at home. He further stated that Alan Lane was recovering from his heart operation and Boyd Wilson was still having issues. Judy Lehfeldt reported that John Cooper was still not well. Wayne Browning stated he had suffered a seizure, had spent three weeks in hospital and was back to normal. Appreciation was shown to President John MacKay for making the necessary arrangements for the meeting and lunch as well as for his role in the funeral service for Kev Weise. Meeting held on 11 April 2024. Welfare: Boyd Wilson had planned to attend the meeting but had to attend a doctor's appointment instead. President John MacKay advised that the plaque for Bob Scarff had been mounted on the Memorial Wall but plaques for Neil Hooper, Gordon Zeidler and Kevin Weise were outstanding. President John also mentioned the need for members to complete a Funeral Planning Request Form. Applications to join the Association from Steve Stewart, Col McCallum and Mick Youngberry were recommended for approval. Guest speaker: Councillor James O'Shea from the Toowoomba Regional Council, on which he holds the Portfolio Chair for Environment and Community. James gave a very interesting and diversified presentation. Next meeting: 9 May 2024. *(Secretary – Mike Jordan – 0438 111 423)*

NEAR NORTH COAST

Meeting held at the Bribie Island RSL Club on 18 March 2024. Welfare: Mention was made of the following members not being well at present: Paul Doyle and Dennis Rayner. Four members recently visited John (Whiskey) Walker at his residence. John enjoyed the visit immensely. Member Vicki Lee was partaking in a 250km bike ride in Victoria to raise money to fight ovarian cancer. Ken Fitzjohn is in the process of transferring from Logan-Beenleigh Branch to Near North Coast Branch. State President Greg Early presented Mike Huddlestone with his Veteran Member Certificate; also President John Warner with his Senior Member Certificate. Meeting held on 15 April 2024 at the D'Aguilar Hotel. Guests: David Crawford-Raby; Imelda Feldman and Peter Schagen. Welfare: Allan Hawkins and Ray Holscher reported on members with whom they had made contact. Special mention was made of Gerry Morgan who unfortunately passed away on 6 April 2024. Next meeting: 20 May 2024 at Sports Central, Caboolture. *(Secretary – Merv Melling – 0408 587 624)*



State President Greg Early presenting Mike Huddlestone with his Veteran Member Certificate.



President John Warner receiving his Senior Member Certificate from State President Greg Early.

REDLANDS

They did not meet in March but held a morning tea at the Bush Pantry at Capalaba. Twenty members attended plus two members who possibly will be transfer-ring to join the Branch. Considering the inclement weather, it was a great turnout and the food added to the relaxed social atmosphere. Pat Priddle donated an Easter basket which was won by Don which was a great way to meet the group. Meeting held on 23 April 2024. Secretary Mark Stiles had a meeting with Sergeant Chris Hebblethwaite in regard to this year's National Police Remembrance Day Service. Mark and Peter Flexman will continue to liaise with Chris concerning the planning of this service. Applications to join the Association by former Senior Constable Beth Chambers and Scott Chambers were recommended for approval. Next gathering: Social outing at Fielders Club on 28 May 2024. *(Secretary – Mark Stiles – 0414 326 992)*





Members attending the morning tea at the Bush Pantry.

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

On Friday 19 April 2024 the Branch held its first lunch/meeting in Innisfail at the Crown Hotel. Fifty members attended. Guests were Assistant Commissioner Brett Schafferius and Inspector Nathan Blain, Cassowary Patrol Group and his wife Traci, and John and Fay Lone from Townsville Branch also attended. Welfare report by Brigitte McKaskill: A call had come in just before the meeting to say that doctors had turned off all medications for John Thomson and he was being placed in palliative care. (Sadly Thommo passed away on Sunday 21 April). Bob Adamson broke his leg in two places and would love some visitors. He is currently in the orthopedic ward at Cairns Hospital. Sadly we farewelled Graham Jonsen just after Easter. He was unwell for some time but hadn't shared this with our group. His service was a beautiful family affair with a number of his grandchildren reciting poetry and singing special songs for him. *(Secretary – Brigitte McKaskill – 0408 281 979)*



Trevor Adcock receiving his Veteran Member Certificate from Assistant Commissioner Brett Schafferius.



Joe Moran receiving his Veteran Member Certificate from Assistant Commissioner Brett Schafferius.

HERVEY BAY

Meeting held on 16 January 2024. Travellers: Dave and Chris Barrowcliffe were in South Australia. Guest speaker: Senior Constable Matthew Bedding, Maryborough District Crime Prevention Officer, attended in company of Acting Sen Sgt Andrew Irvine. Matthew gave the group an insight into the present activities of the local police units as well as trends re crime and crime reporting. Welfare: Advice from Bundaberg Branch that Bob O'Keefe, ex NT Police, was in hospital in Hervey Bay suffering with Covid and other issues. Norm Sprenger, at the time of the meeting, was in hospital at Hervey Bay with Covid. Bill Johnson was having his regular tests on the day of the meeting and was feeling optimistic about his health. Meeting held at the Maryborough Military Museum on 19 March 2024. Travellers: Ian and Sandra West McInnes are back from their New Zealand cruise. Member Garry Jamieson, who is a Director at the Museum, was on hand to explain the many and varied items on display. Garry mentioned the Museum is the number two such Museum in Australia after the War Memorial in Canberra. Welfare: Nick Paton was in attendance at the gathering and he spoke of his partner Brosey who is still suffering the after

effects of radiation treatment. On the day of the meeting Bill Johnson was having his regular tests. The Waterfront Restaurant will be booked again for the annual luncheon. A BBQ is planned for 16 April 2024 at Dayman Park, Hervey Bay. Next meeting: 21 May 2024. *(President – Ian Anderson – 0457 686 108)*

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

Firstly, Happy New Year to all. Hope this finds you all well and recovered from the holiday period and visitors if you had them. Congratulations to Craig Robertson for receiving his Senior Member Certificate. He now lives in the big island to the north of us. Meeting held on 10 March 2024 at Bracknell Reserve. Visitor: Goldie Byrne. The annual general meeting will be held at Tamar Valley Resort on 22 June 2024. Possible new members: Andy advised that he had been in touch with Craig Cutts and Jim Byrne with Tony Grundgeiger, who are now in Tassie, about becoming members of VDLB. *(President/Secretary – Andy Beasant)*

Courtesy of QPS, confidential psychological support service available to retired Queensland Police Officers – 24/7 – 1800 277 478. IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE DOING IT TOUGH, PLEASE URGE THEM TO USE THIS FREE SERVICE OR TALK TO YOU OR SOMEONE.

STATE PRESIDENT:
Greg Early – early.gregory1@gmail.com – 3863 1180 / 0407 960 588

STATE SECRETARY:
Chris Sang – admin@qrpa.asn.au – 0497 104 061

QRPA WEBSITE: www.qrpa.asn.au

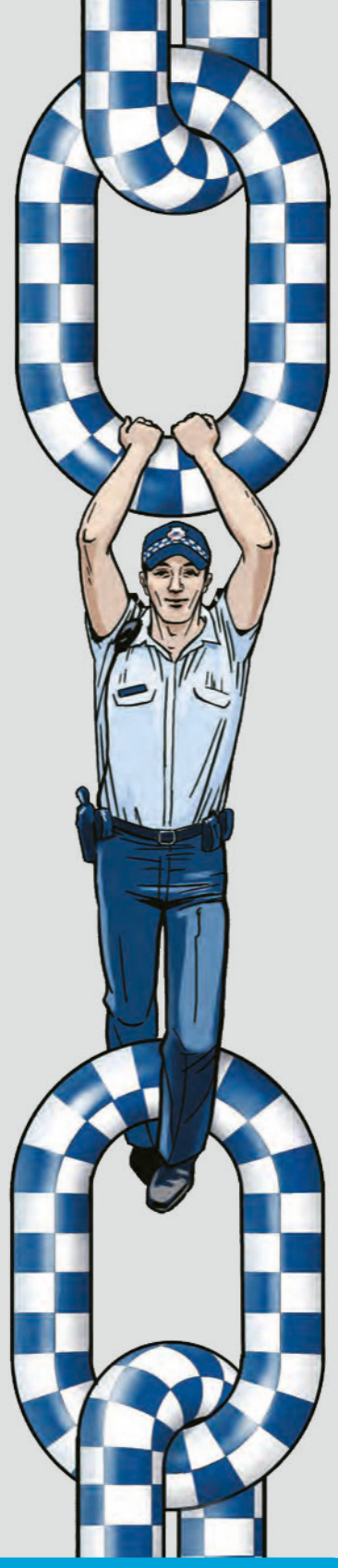
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