

# POLICE

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JOURNAL



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE QUEENSLAND POLICE UNION



## MAROONS OUT MANOEUVRE THE DEFENCE FORCE

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Mekilah Acworth, Liv Smith, and Jorgia Gray.

**COVER STORY**

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**MAROONS OUT MANOEUVRE THE DEFENCE FORCE**

The Queensland Police Service Women's Rugby League Team recorded a resounding 16 to 6 win over a combined Australian Defence Force Team in their first challenge cup game in October.

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

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**Journal Contact**

Queensland Police Union Journal  
 PO Box 13008 George Street Brisbane QLD 4003  
**TEL: (07) 3259 1900 FAX: (07) 3259 1950**  
 journal@qpu.asn.au www.qpu.asn.au

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:** TEL: 0459 241 291 media@qpu.asn.au

**ADVERTISING:** TEL: (07) 3259 1989

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IAN LEAVERS

## NPRD

**Once again this year I was honoured to represent the Union at National Police Remembrance Day commemorations. I am always proud to think it was this Union that initiated this wonderful annual event to remember and honour those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and that it has grown to be an important part of the national policing calendar.**

The ceremonies I attended this year were made all the more poignant for me, and no doubt for many others, following the tragic death of Dave Masters in June. The Masters family attended the Wall to Wall ceremony in Caboolture and the National Police Remembrance Day service in Burpengary.

It is heart-wrenching to think about how difficult these events must have been for them, and for all those who worked with and knew Dave. I hope it was some small comfort to witness the respect and honour shown for our fallen officers, and to know that Dave will always be remembered and revered.

As well as being a day to honour our fallen, National Police Remembrance Day is also an opportunity for all officers to pause for a moment to reflect upon our own roles and our own service to our communities.

Policing is a challenging profession, and we are all so busy day to day that sometimes it takes particular events for us to actually consider the oath we have sworn and some of the situations we have found ourselves in.

It's important to do so every now and then, and to ask ourselves how we and our colleagues are coping. Do you need to debrief with someone, or catch up with a mate who is struggling? Have you seen enough of your family lately, or have overtime or specials been getting in the way?

In reflecting upon those who have lost their lives in service to their community, it is inevitable that we also reflect upon our own lives and careers.

Take the time to acknowledge how you are faring, and if necessary, make some readjustments to ensure you are not only serving your community to the best of your ability, but also enjoying a work/life balance that enables you to relax, unwind, and spend quality time with those who are most important to you.

Because although we do expect to come home at the end of every shift, the harsh reality of our job is that it is dangerous, and that our lives can be put in jeopardy at a moment's notice.

**“Police cannot do everybody’s job, especially not the role of parents.”**

## JUVENILES

It's no secret that rarely have the views of frontline police and the Greens been in sync, or rarely shared common ground on a variety of issues, so I admit I was surprised to read the Greens in *The Courier Mail* recently on the broken system that is Youth Justice in Queensland.

The Greens now agree with the Queensland Police Union that we need multidisciplinary staff to work with children, their parents, and families on the root causes of offending.

I have long been an advocate for parents coming to the table to be accountable for their children and to be part of the solutions to reduce youth offending. Police cannot do everybody's job, especially not the role of parents.

It's refreshing to hear the Greens agree with the QPU that we need evidence-based solutions.

Earlier this year we hosted a summit to discuss this very issue. We did what political based inquiries couldn't, bringing all avenues of the debate together to discuss facts of youth crime and try to develop a way forward that could potentially stop the offending, improve the lives of those tempted into crime, and have a suitable response to those who fail to accept the help.

I'm confident the Greens would never consider the concept of raising the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 as proposed in their new bill, *Criminal Law (Raising the Age of Responsibility) Amendment Bill 2021*, if they had heard the evidence of the experts in attendance at the summit.

Lifting the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 is all carrot and no stick, and just won't work.

The evidence and hard work of former Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson, in his report to Government in 2018, didn't support a step so drastic.

We know that criminal elements prey on kids. I experienced this firsthand in my time working at the Juvenile Aid Bureau

(now CPIU) in Ipswich. Apart from all the ugliness of the things I saw during this period, I can assure you that criminals are aware of the age of responsibility and they use children to commit

The QPU wants to see a range of responses outside of the court room to address the root causes of these problems, but the reality of this situation is that a legal measure is still required.

The QPU does not support raising the age of criminal responsibility even from the age of 10 to 12 years old, let alone the Greens ridiculous suggestion of 14.

The youth justice system caters for those who make mistakes. It does all it can to give chances and opportunities for young people to learn from their mistakes, and by the time they enter the criminal justice system they have been responsible for a wide range of serious offences.

Further, when a term of detention is ordered they will have a lengthy history and there is no other option. The age of criminal responsibility should remain at 10 years old and we should put extra resources in.

Any attempt to raise the age of criminal responsibility will only undermine the criminal justice system and will inadvertently condemn children to a life of crime. The very outcome that these people are trying to prevent, they will cause.

## **“Lifting the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 is all carrot and no stick, and just won’t work.”**

offences to get around the law. In other parts of Australia and the world we see this pipeline where kids are ‘recruited’ into criminal behaviour.

This criminal behaviour is increasingly violent; the data from across Australia confirms that offenders between the ages of 10-18 are growing in offences and increasingly these offences are more serious.

Every day we hear of home invasions, car thefts, and reckless behaviour with those vehicles, and it turns out the person behind the wheel isn’t even old enough to be in high school. What further enrages people is when they hear this is not a young person’s first offence.

Police do exceptional work in apprehending the offenders, but the revolving door of Youth Justice turns them back out on the street, often before the cops who arrested them have finished their shift.

Let’s strip this back to the basics ... something my parents hold dearly and we regularly shared at the dinner table ... accountability for your actions is a fundamental pillar of a stable society.

Juvenile offenders who commit offences like break and enter, theft, and carjacking are committing offences coloured by violence. The invasion of a home is deliberate, traumatic, and deeply unsettling.

Queenslanders who have experienced these crimes know how violating and helpless it can feel. They want accountability put on those who commit such offences.

Cutting to the heart of this proposed change by the Greens in their Bill currently before parliament is that it is a bid by them to fudge the figures in Queensland, by effectively removing offenders from the books until they hit the age of 14.

We will then see offenders suddenly ‘manifesting’ at 14 having completed four years of criminal behaviour with the legal system potentially unaware of them.

Accountability involves the courts in our system of Government, and juvenile

## **“Any attempt to raise the age of criminal responsibility will only undermine the criminal justice system and will inadvertently condemn children to a life of crime.”**

offenders who commit serious crimes need to be accountable at law for their behaviours.

Holding families to account and mandating support and interventions is part of the role the judiciary can serve here. I’m glad the Greens now agree with the QPU that more resources need to be put into juvenile justice and support, however their ill conceived plan of jumping from 10 to 14 without the appropriate structure of accountability at law is simply a bridge too far.

The Atkinson report recommended a move to 12 as the age of criminal responsibility.

There is a point where the community needs to be protected from these recidivist offenders.

We need a system of accountability in place that is rooted in law to catch juvenile offenders and reduce crime. What the Greens propose does not demonstrate this commitment.

**Ian LEAVERS**  
General President & CEO  
0419 786 381  
ileavers@qpu.asn.au



**SHANE PRIOR**

### **MOVING ON 'TRANSITION'**

**In my last Journal article, I spoke of not only the importance but the need to address what we as an organisation were doing for our members transitioning out of the QPS. The uptake of interest has been nothing short of profound, with members all over the state contacting me to discuss their thoughts.**

I first met Senior Constables Marie Newell and Kevin Woodberry on a Covid 19 airport deployment some months back. We got talking and they both told me of the struggle they were experiencing in transitioning out of the job for age retirement.

Their stories resonated with me so much that I asked these wonderful people to attend and tell their stories to the Our People Matter Steering Committee chaired by Deputy Commissioner Doug Smith.

This was no easy feat, and I want to personally acknowledge their courageous effort in telling their individual stories and putting their trust in me and the committee to hear them with a view to starting to make meaningful change.

**“A sub-committee dedicated to transitioning out of the Service has been created.”**

As a direct result of Marie and Kevin's input, a sub-committee dedicated to transition has been created to which I have been appointed a member. Both the Union and the Service can do more in this space, and I am committed to solving this very real issue that is affecting our members transitioning from the job.

### **MEN'S HEALTH BREKKY**

In October Ian Leavers and I presented the first Union 'Men's Health Brekky'. Our guest speaker was Australian of the

Year Assistant Professor of Sports and Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Nick Marshall, who spoke of the importance of men making that effort to get to their doctor and get checked.

**“We are hoping to get Brekkies out to your areas in the future.”**

We hope this is the first of many Brekkies, with the next one already in the pipeline. A big thank you to those who attended on the day, and to the 400 people who joined us on Workplace from all over the state. We are hoping to get Brekkies out to your areas in the future. For further details, check out the story in this Journal.

### **COMMISSIONER'S VISIT TO THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE TO COUNTER CHILD EXPLOITATION**

Our members embedded into the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation wanted to meet Commissioner Katarina Carroll and show her the good work being done to protect children in Queensland and around the world, so the QPU offered her an invitation and made it happen.



I am in awe of the incredible work our people do in not only investigating the most horrific of those within our society, but in identifying victims throughout the world. Investigators within the Child Abuse and Sex Crime Group are world leaders in this much-needed area of investigation and to be able to represent these specialists is an honour.

Thank you Commissioner Carroll for answering the call and thank you to the Australian Federal Police for the hospitality.

**Shane PRIOR**  
Regional Representative  
HQ & Support Region  
QPU Vice President  
0414 383 182  
sprior@qpu.asn.au





**PETER THOMAS**

**As I write this article it is hard to believe that it is almost the end of October and another year is rapidly coming to an end.**

I also find it hard to believe that I am writing about the same issue once again: staffing numbers. I am not going to write of any other issue because this is the highest priority matter that requires urgent attention across all regions.

During this month I have attended Mackay, Townsville, and Cairns Districts for Union matters.

Unfortunately, the same story is told at each organisational unit and station across these areas: they are struggling to cope with the demand of calls for service due to the lack of frontline police officers to respond.

**“I am reliably informed of staff regularly commencing duties in the Townsville District with more than 20 tasks.”**

The part that I find difficult to grasp is that the Government have committed to extra numbers, recruits are graduating from our Academies, attrition is low, and yet there are fewer frontline officers doing the heavy lifting.

I am also having the same message told to me by roster clerks and Officers in Charge who state that in some cases their rosters are running at 42%.

I am aware that recently the second year Constable allocations were all deployed to Ipswich, Logan, and Caboolture to ‘prop up’ the flailing SDRP. This left a massive void for many of the regions that were already supplying staff to the SDRP rollout.

I am also aware that Districts have created additional ‘specialist’ units to review domestic violence and have nominated domestic violence safety review officers, and to address property crime through such initiatives as a juvenile property crime task force, and the creation of prevention units, etc etc etc ... and all the time, these units are drawing staff from frontline general duties rosters.

Add to this the requirement to supply staff to the Covid hotel quarantine response and I can see where the staff have disappeared to!

I am reliably informed of staff regularly commencing duties in the Townsville District with more than 20 tasks.

**“Officers cannot be taken from designated specialist units such as CIB and CPIU to prop up ‘concept units’ if there is no-one available to respond to crime.”**

I am further aware that crews in the Townsville metro area are being removed from urgent priority jobs involving violence to ‘more urgent’ jobs.

The sad fact is that our people on the frontline are burning out, and this is totally unacceptable.

This requires urgent attention and officers returned to the frontline immediately.

I eagerly await the Commissioner’s Operational Performance Review into the SDRP. I am hoping that the additional staffing numbers taken from the Northern Region will be returned or compensated for when the report identifies that it was a failed concept.

It is time to have a serious consideration of removing all of the ‘specialist’ units that have been created without growth positions back to frontline policing (I am including our plain clothes officers who have been taken from their positions in this category), until there are sufficient numbers for these units to be developed.

Officers cannot be taken from designated specialist units such as CIB and CPIU to prop up ‘concept

units’ if there is no-one available to respond to crime.

Units that are merely sending QPRIME tasks to correct administrative errors are not value adding to the frontline response.

I eagerly await the *Working for Queensland* results because I believe the displeasure of the majority will be very high, and rightly so.

Until next Journal, take care of yourselves and each other, try and take some time for you and your families, have your voice heard at your local branch meetings, and remember: no Union Rep = no interview.

**Peter THOMAS**

Regional Representative  
Northern Region  
QPU Treasurer  
0409 591 270  
pthomas@qpu.asn.au



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**GIL DYETT**

### MY FIRST COUPLE OF MONTHS

**Well, it has been a very interesting time to join the QPU Executive. I suppose it could best be described in a word and two numerals.**

They would simply be Covid 19.

I could go on about it, but I am sure most people are sick of hearing about it, talking about it, and having friends and relatives interstate being victims of it. Of course, a couple of members (fewer than 1%) have a different view of it, and they have caused problems.

The only comment I will make about this whole thing is that the legal advice received is valid and accurate.

After joining the Executive, I had a trip up to the Cape with the General President.

It was a great time to catch up with all those at Weipa station, because all hands were working and there was a general mix of extras, with Water Police, TCS, and Road Policing Command all in attendance, just to name a few.

The issues raised by members in Weipa included numbers and staffing, police housing, and lateral transfers. I do not think we solved everything, but it was good to be out amongst it in the red dirt.

The next day was a trip down to Aurukun. I could not believe the road in from the Peninsula Development Road was bitumen the whole way. My last couple of trips have been in the police plane at night, weapons at the ready with great anticipation ... but that will be another story.

The crew at Aurukun appreciated the visit by the big boss from the Union. I was the sidekick driver worrying about his own vehicle, never leaving it unlocked! One could talk all day about the problems and issues at Aurukun and the difficult job of policing up there.

We heard many stories about anti-surveillance techniques, from satellite telephones to drones all being used to beat the coppers to get alcohol into the community.

**“One could talk all day about the problems and issues at Aurukun and the difficult job of policing up there.”**

That could be an article all on its own. The crew that are there on the coalface are doing a difficult job.

I worked with Barry Port, the famous police tracker, a few times while I was in Cooktown, and I would always see him at various race meetings, especially Cairns Amateurs. I, like many others, could call Barry a friend. RIP old mate.

With the next stop being Coen, I was very privileged to be able to have a beer in the Barry Port corner of the bar.

**“Anyone who has been in Cairns a while knows about the Cairns station carpet, so we are waiting for new flooring with great anticipation.”**

We met the Coen crew and Leavo was able to have another yarn with them before heading off to Laura where we were able to grab a counter meal before heading into Cooktown in the dark.

Anyway, the next stop was Cooktown station and then a dash back to Cairns.

Since that trip I have been down to Innisfail on a couple of occasions for various interviews and meetings,

greeting troops along the way from numerous outlying stations.

General Secretary Mick Barnes and Northern Regional Rep Peter Thomas also recently paid another visit to the Far North and we had a meeting with Acting AC Mr Hodgman.

The long-awaited Cairns station is going through the process of a refurbishment and I can actually see where the general duties section will either get some new carpet or a new type of flooring material. Anyone who has been in Cairns a while knows about the Cairns station carpet, so we are waiting with great anticipation.

Throw into the mix some recreational leave and some nightwork, and that just about wraps up what the newest member of the Executive, and the farthest from Brisbane, has been doing. This appointment is a bit of a steep learning curve but it is certainly interesting.

That’s about it from me, so stay safe and look out for each other.

**Gil DYETT**  
Regional Representative  
Far Northern Region  
0418 927 172  
gdyett@qpu.asn.au



KEV GROTH

### SECURE DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

**Time for a history lesson. Back in 2014 we saw the introduction of the Government Wireless Network (GWN). This was heralded as the future of communications in the Service, and promised a new age of secure digital communications. All members were required to be trained in the new system and as per usual a mandatory OLP was rolled out. This wonderful advancement in technology was to bring QPS communications into the 21st century in time for the G20 Summit. The new GWN would be rolled out in the south east corner and in Cairns for the summit, and then the rollout was to continue around Queensland to provide state-of-the-art communications to all areas.**

Now let's move forward to the present day. What has happened to the rollout of the GWN? How have we progressed over the last seven years? The entire state surely now has secure digital communications? This state-of-the-art technology must now be assisting all members perform their jobs without worrying about who is listening into radio transmissions?

Sadly, but not surprisingly, the GWN has gone absolutely nowhere. In fact, it has gone backwards.

Seven years on, there has been no further advancement in the GWN rollout. It is now a white elephant with no plans to continue to rollout around the state. In fact, the technology is now so outdated that it would be a waste of money to even consider pushing the GWN anywhere else.

When are police in regional Queensland going to be afforded the same 'luxury' as the south east corner, and actually have the basics, as far as I'm concerned: a secure digital radio network?

and age of modern technology, we still do not have a secure digital network outside the south east corner.

We are closing in on 5G technology being the standard for telecommunications, yet here we are in Queensland still using analogue radios with massive blackspots, leaving our members alone, exposed, and in danger.

To show how ridiculous this is, at a recent Death in Police Operations (DIPO), we had family members of the deceased listening in to police radios on their mobile phones on one of the many scanner apps available to download.

This is unacceptable on so many levels. Further to this, at a recent riot at a correctional facility we had media reporting live what was happening due to them also having access to unsecure radio transmissions.

We all know that everything in this job comes down to the almighty dollar, but surely a secure digital network for all police should be a priority? Forget that:

Surely it can't be too hard to fix. I've heard suggestions of possible solutions bandied about while talking to members, so maybe management should start listening to the troops to see if we can't further some of these ideas.

If I was a betting man I would wager that leading into the 2032 Olympics, the Government and the QPS will roll out a brand new, shiny communications system for the south east corner. Let's hope this time there are enough coins left in the coffers for us poor cousins in the regions to get a new system as well. Let's see if regional policing is given the same benefits as our city brothers and sisters.

### WELL DONE

A recent DIPO and Coronial Inquest I attended once again highlighted the level of professionalism shown by members each and every day. The way in which these officers went about the tasks at hand is a credit to them all.

I am always proud to turn up and assist members when I know the quality of work our members do each and every day. It makes my job and the job of the assisting legal team so much easier, when crews have done such exceptional work in sometimes dangerous and frightening circumstances.

### WALL TO WALL

I had the pleasure of attending the recent Wall to Wall ride this year.

**"I cannot believe that in this day and age of modern technology, we still do not have a secure digital network outside the south east corner."**

Correct me if I'm wrong, but it is 2021, is it not? We haven't slipped back to the 1980s, have we (did someone mention SDRP)? I cannot believe that in this day

it *must be* a priority. Talking to troops on the ground around the state, they are frustrated at the lack of movement in this area.



**“I thank all Wall to Wall riders for taking part and spreading the goodwill throughout central Queensland.”**



Once again, the ride to Canberra was cancelled due to Covid and so this year the ride made its way through regional Queensland towns to the Bedford Weir near Blackwater.

The weir is the site where the first two police officers were murdered on the job in Queensland; Constables Patrick Cahill and John Power lost their lives in 1867. It was a solemn service and a great turnout with over 200 riders taking part.

From there we moved onto Emerald where the riders gathered at The Mango for some fellowship, a feed, and a few quiet beverages. Many thanks to the organisers and staff from Emerald station for your hospitality.

The small regional towns loved seeing the riders coming through, with many riders stopping to sample the local hospitalities and engaging with community members to explain the history and reason behind the ride.

I thank all riders for taking part and spreading the goodwill throughout central Queensland. It goes to show that no matter when or where our brothers and sisters pay the ultimate sacrifice, we will remember them.

Until next we speak, stay safe and watch each other's backs.

Remember, you are the Union, so stand up and be heard!

**Kev GROTH**  
 Regional Representative  
 Central Region  
 0401 672 997  
 kgroth@qpu.asn.au





GRANT WILCOX

### **A CHEAPER, NASTIER VERSION OF WHAT SERVICE DELIVERY SHOULD LOOK LIKE**

**In early September the Commissioner held a review. In that review, SDRP was a topic of great importance to the members of the Moreton District. It was time to assess what we on the ground identified as a good idea to provide service delivery and a safe work environment ... which unfortunately had failed boundaries and a distinct lack of first response resources that did not reflect proper resourcing to manage capability and capacity.**

As I write this Roundup, we are seven weeks past the review and the silence is deafening from the QPS. The troops on the frontline are no wiser than before the review, and the effect of poor capacity continues to impact proper and safe capability to meet service delivery.

I go back to the words of the Greenfield report and its introduction to the COP: 'If applied appropriately, this will go a long way to meeting service delivery, but it will not be the solution to this demand and more will need to be done in this space'.

Greenfield also said to use what works and move it across the state. I hear stories at this time, even without the evidence of what was working, that those with vested interests are still playing bulls in a china shop and progressing skewed delivery outcomes as the truth of efficient service delivery.

My concern with this is the bastardisation of the future QPS service

If you recall, Greenfield's report said we need to achieve steps sequentially before phasing in the final step 4. Step 2 was capacity and capability, and we are still short on numbers.

I'm sorry, but this is a fail on all levels. We don't have enough first response numbers, and Greenfield identified that all guiding principles were required, sequentially, for implementation:

- 1) Scalable Approach, 2) Capacity and Capability, 3) Policing System Focus, and 4) Phasing.

Not to be too obvious, but if you halve the frontline service delivery options, those job numbers will not improve. Add into the mix making all DV the total focus of the QPS frontline and you have what you are prepared to pay for. There's no proactive policing at any time, unless we trip over it on our way to the next DV-related incident, or if it is prioritised by a job code 1 or 2.

The QPS then adds the extra weight on these already stretched resources of compliance and proactive policing.

**"This is a broken service delivery model with no real viable support for a proper, well-resourced first response system that has capability with capacity to meet service delivery requirements that then meet demand."**

Just sitting on your hands and hoping the fuss all dies down does not support those in Moreton who continue to

They need to walk a mile in the shoes of the officers who are exposed to this debacle. And I don't mean just a ride-along on an 8-4 shift of convenience. Engage in your creation for a month and let us know if you are still a fan of a 24-hour, cheaper, unsafe work environment.

**"There's no proactive policing at any time, unless we trip over it on our way to the next DV-related incident."**

delivery model. The QPS is prepared to provide the cheapest version of service delivery, without proper consideration. Capacity won't meet capability, and they'll rely on the old adage of the QPS work around to establish an alternative service delivery model at a very real personal risk.

suffer a cheaper, nastier version of what service delivery should look like.

I again go back to the figures of jobs we weren't getting to: 42% is now down to 21% of what we are not getting too. So we are still not getting to some jobs, is what I read.

Over the trial period, the minimum roster and traffic light system constantly showed that numbers were below minimum, and there was no relief or system to maintain minimum first response crews. Rather than get the numbers right (capacity and capability), we just changed how to record the

traffic light system references with no real, tangible numbers to meet service delivery and demand.

We've seen the depletion of resources, increased sick leave, and the effect of major incidents on top of those already stretched resources that identified the absolute lack of numbers in the traffic light system. The counter-effect to meet that service delivery shortfall is zero. Nothing changed: there's not an alternative service delivery option in sight.

I'm going to put it out there right now. This is a broken service delivery model with no real viable support for a proper, well-resourced first response system that has capability with capacity to meet service delivery requirements that then meet demand.

This being said, and with Greenfield's 'if applied appropriately' in my head, I see

the QPS bulldozing a failed model for service delivery across the state.

I'm always trying to find something good to say so that my article has some balance and that my repressed anger at the constant failure to support our people is not displayed via pure sarcasm ... but ...?

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

**Grant WILCOX**  
 Regional Representative  
 North Coast Region  
 0411 359 555  
 gwilcox@qpu.asn.au



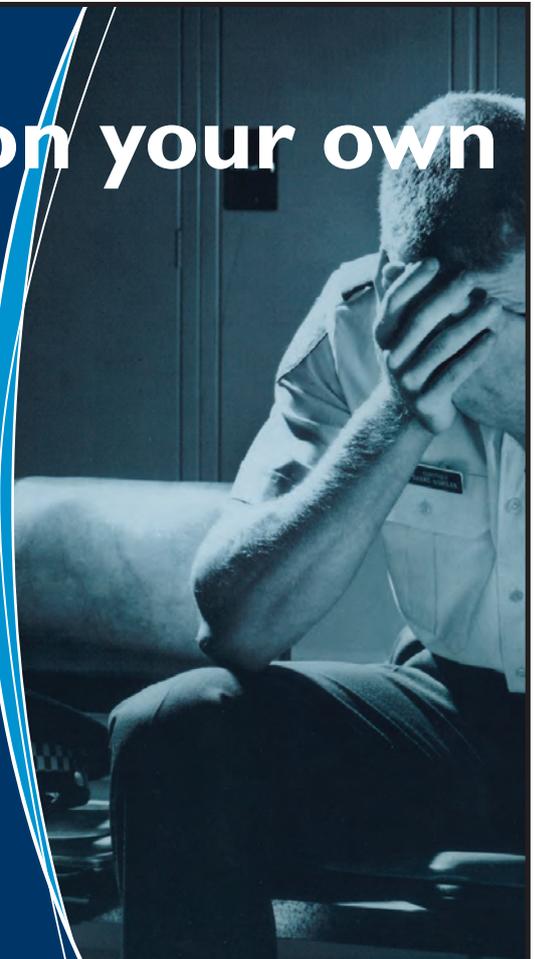
**Without us, you're on your own**

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



**QUEENSLAND POLICE UNION OF EMPLOYEES**

Telephone: 07 3259 1900 • Fax: 07 3259 1950





COL MULLER

### WHERE ARE THE DARLING DOWNS DISTRICT DDOs?

**The Darling Downs is the only District in the Southern Region that does not have District Duty Officers. The level of supervision this would bring to the District is surely something that the QPS cannot keep ignoring. The gap that exists due to the absence of DDOs is evident when serious incidents occur.**

The Darling Downs District has a population of approximately 292,000 people, which represents approximately 47% of the Southern Region population (estimated population at 30 June 2020).

The District covers a total area of close to 50,000 km<sup>2</sup> and has approximately 500 police personnel and 62 staff members across four patrol groups. The Darling Downs District is centred around Toowoomba, which is where the District Office and the Regional Headquarters is located.

The largest station in the District is the Toowoomba police station. To add to the void in supervision, Toowoomba station does not have the ability for proper on-road supervision. The station is a category B police station with approximately 100 Constables and a strength of only seven Sergeants; other similar sized stations boast many more supervisory positions. I would suggest that Toowoomba has the largest Constable to Sergeant ratio in the state.

The Toowoomba District is home to the Australian Defence Force School of Aviation at Oakey and the Borneo Barracks Army base at Cabarlah. It also houses a prison at Gatton, the Toowoomba Wellcamp airport, and major freight terminals.

Since late 2018, the Darling Downs District has run an on road supervisor's program across the Toowoomba city and country for patrol groups as a form of supervision.

The program is to be extended somewhat from 1 January next year, with a group of four to five Senior Sergeants or Sergeants to be rostered

on a semi-permanent roster in this function.

While this may be a step in the right direction, it is far short of what is required. The only way to adequately provide the services required is to create positions for six or seven DDOs who are selected on their merits and have the required experience necessary to perform these roles.

To simply form police positions temporarily from other areas will just increase the stress of areas already overwrought by a lack of staff and supervision. DDOs are specialist positions that require high level supervision experience, leadership skills, and in-depth knowledge of the working of laws and varied roles and duties of the on road police officers.

There is little room for error in decisions around critical incidents, pursuits, and the many other tasks of a DDO. Further to this is the fact that there are roles within the domestic violence legislation that can only be performed by a Senior Sergeant.

### WELLCAMP FACILITY POLICE STATION.

The Wellcamp Police Facility near Toowoomba is on the horizon. I have seen a number of officers in the *Gazette* transferring into the facility, and a recent advertisement may deliver more staff. The building work has commenced on the facility that will be the new station to house 30 police officers. I am advised this will include four or five Sergeant positions.

I am sure there may still be opportunity available for interested officers.



### GROWING PAINS IN THE SOUTH WEST DISTRICT AND A REAL NEED FOR ADDITIONAL HOUSING

Understaffing and growth are affecting almost every District across the Service. The time constraints from endless DV matters and other time-consuming duties related to Covid policing have left our officers exhausted and our stations and District depleted.

How can the QPS continually drag officers from smaller stations where they already rely on them being on call to cover their 24/7 policing response? How is it fair to take people on deployment to Covid duties and Schoolies and leave these stations understaffed?

The QPS needs to get serious and improve working conditions at many stations. I will focus here on Tara station, but Tara does not stand alone in this field. There are many stations across the state facing the same issues.

### TARA STATION

I have had many discussions regarding my concerns with Tara police station and the accommodation. We currently have three members (and recently there were four members) living in one small brick house. There is one bathroom, and one toilet. Two of the three officers are married, with their families residing

separately at other centres. There is no parking for vehicles.

The station rosters around on call to cover shifts, and call outs are common. With staff commuting back and forward on their days off, as is the common practice, it makes it almost impossible to manage the workload and staffing without fatigue.

With the station staffed almost completely with junior staff sent there in their second year, surely there needs to be upgrades to the housing out of fairness to the officers working there?

There is a real need for more staff, and there is no doubt this cannot occur without additional housing.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO SOME MEMBERS AROUND THE REGION FOR THEIR EFFORTS**

Great work by Constable Kimberley Allen from Gatton station who recently received an award for Excellence at the QBank Everyday Heroes awards.

Kimberly arranged for a local Gatton girl, Savannah Burns, to be a police

officer for a day in March this year. She had been diagnosed with terminal cancer, and during an interaction with Kimberley she had mentioned that she dreamed of becoming a police officer.

With Savannah's parents' permission, Kimberley organised policing activities and a uniform for her to wear, making some dreams come true for Savannah.

Congratulations also to Senior Constable Linette Swales from Miles police station for her support to a young cancer victim, nine-year-old Christopher Lowe, who was sworn in as a 'Special Junior Constable' during a Cop for a Day event in September.

Christopher is currently battling a rare cancer (there are only 25 cases reported worldwide) and he dreams of being a police officer when he grows up.

Snr Const Linette Swales was the instigator for this event after she heard about Christopher's battle. She went big and invited specialist units including Roma, Dalby and Charleville RPU,

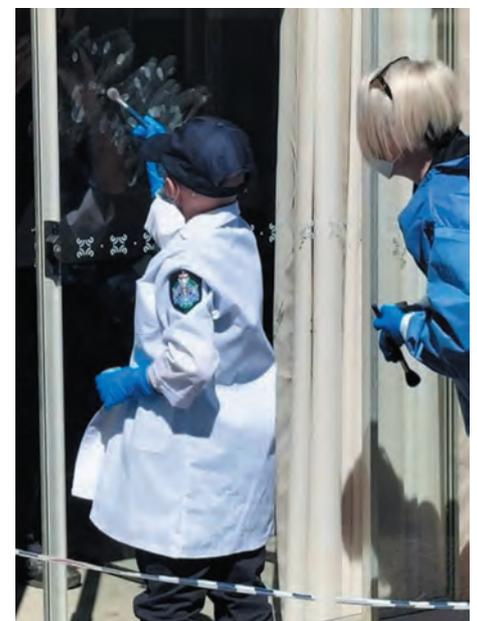
Roma and Dalby SOC, MOCS Rural, Police Pipes and Drums, QPS Chaplains, the Dog Squad, and Dalby CPIU to participate in a special swearing in ceremony for Christopher. Even the local QFES attended in full dress uniform!

Snr Const Swales arranged for Christopher to complete an 'application' and then she hand delivered a 'letter of offer' with his uniform, which consisted of a Junior Police shirt, hat, and pants.

The Cop for a Day event started with Christopher being collected from his home by a motorcade of police vehicles. He was then driven around town with lights and sirens. Christopher was then driven to the local football field where the police piper and drummer piped him in for his ceremony.

He was presented with a St Michaels medallion and offered a prayer by the police chaplains. MOCS rural presented Christopher with a belt buckle (number 50), and he also received a utility belt and a special note book and pen to begin his working day. Of course, the day would not have been complete without a stop at the local bakery for some special police donuts!

Upon arrival at the Miles police station, Christopher identified a 'crime' had occurred (a push bike stolen from the social shed) and called for the assistance of SOC. Christopher was then provided with his own 'forensic kit' and he was shown how to dust for finger prints. He located some prints! With the help of



a witness, CPIU, and the Dog Squad, the 'offender' was located at a local business where Christopher interviewed him before seizing the bike.

Christopher was then presented with the bike, which was donated by the QPU. For all Christopher's hard work, he was promoted to 'Special Chief of Police'. A BBQ lunch was donated by numerous businesses from the Miles community and cooked by police. The day ended with a cake made by the bakery, with Christopher getting the first piece.

Snr Const Swales organised a second day for Christopher at the Academy at the beginning of October where he met officers and dogs from the Dog Squad. Christopher even chose a name for one of the dogs!

Christopher was then able to sit in Polair, play soccer with some officers, ride a police horse, have a ride in the Bear Cat, and complete some 'intensive' training organised by SERT. Christopher also had his photo taken, just like all recruits do at the Academy!

The QPU is thankful we were able to be supportive of this event and look forward to being by Christopher's side when he beats cancer and is sworn in again.



Congratulations to Constable Peter McAulay from Goodna station for receiving the Dedication Award at the QBANK Everyday Heroes awards.

Peter was seriously injured when he was struck by a stolen vehicle at Booval in April last year. He sustained life threatening injuries and was taken to the Intensive Care Unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. Peter has shown

great resolve and his recovery is progressing very well.

### WESTERN DOWNS PATROL GROUP MEDAL AND AWARD CEREMONY

I had the pleasure of an invite to the Western Downs Patrol Group Medal and Award Ceremony in Dalby on 21 October. It was great to see the awarding of certificates and the Brett Handan Memorial Shield. There were many worthy recipients.

It was also great to see the awarding of many medals and clasps acknowledging the dedicated service of many officers. These are proud moments for them and proud moments their families and friends.



Dual certificates for Constable Jo Butler from Tara station.



Joint District Officers certificates for Senior Constable Dan O'Hara and Senior PLO Jenny Thomas.

### POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY

It was a return to some normality for Remembrance Day this year after last year's commemorations were interrupted by Covid. There was no march again this year, but hopefully next year.



### OUT AND ABOUT IN THE REGION



Union meeting at Goodna police station.



Great BBQ invite at Dalby thanks to Terry McCullough.



Catch up with the District Union reps from Dalby: Matt Minz, Justin Drier, and Lindsay Small.



Fortem lunch and presentation at Ipswich.

## Col MULLER

Regional Representative  
Southern Region  
0407 177 207  
cmuller@qpu.asn.au



**KERRIE HAINES**

### **SDRP – MORETON DISTRICT**

**The latest with SDRP is that we are awaiting the results of the Commissioner’s Performance Review (CPR) which took place in early September. The review acknowledged the good work performed by members of the District and highlights areas for improvement, including the need to focus on the health and wellbeing of our members. Speaking with first response officers from Moreton, stations continue to operate below minimum staffing levels with no backfill available. On one occasion a crew from Deception Bay required back up from a unit in NBD when there were no crews from Moreton available to assist. The job involved a violent offender and taser deployment. First response officers are concerned about officer safety and a lack of crews to respond to urgent calls for service.**

Also of concern are the deficiencies with on-road supervision, such as Senior Constables performing higher duties as Acting Sergeant and fulfilling the role of DDO. As a recent example, an Acting Sergeant was required to supervise crews at Northlakes, Redcliffe, and Deception Bay in addition to attending urgent jobs when no crews were available.

**“First response officers are concerned about officer safety and a lack of crews to respond to urgent calls for service.”**

The member was then subject to discipline because of poor supervision. The size and resourcing of the Peninsular and Pine Rivers Patrol Groups has highlighted the inefficiencies and lack of appropriate staffing.

Some members in Moreton believe there have been no significant changes since the inception of the Change Leadership Team (CLT), and it appears meetings are on hold until the outcome of CPR. Critical staffing levels are a cause of concern, as is the unacceptable risk to the safety of first response officers. Further, the inflexibility of rosters to meet demand is resulting in low morale, fatigue, and burnout.

### **SAFE NIGHT PRECINCTS (SNP)**

Funding for SNPs will cease, and management is planning to balance remaining funding up to April - June next year, in addition to examining staffing models required for policing SNPs in the future.

### **NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Officers and staff members from Indooroopilly Generals, CIB, Scenes of Crime, Intel, Highway Patrol, and IWPG Office assembled at the Indooroopilly police station to commemorate National Police Remembrance Day.



*Indooroopilly police station.*

### **TREK2HEALTH**

Trek2Health is a not-for-profit organisation supporting the health and wellbeing of frontline Emergency Services in recognition of their contribution. They provide a supportive and stigma-free environment to boost the mental and physical resilience of our frontline.

This program is an innovative approach to improving physical and mental health

through the concept of ‘green medicine’. Participants are taken outside the usual four walls of our buildings into remote, natural areas for team-orientated treks supported by professionals who provide coping strategies to assist with the pressures of frontline policing.

The program has been four years in the planning and offers six-week modules of training and trekking, culminating in a 23-kilometre trek aimed at building resilience and improving mental wellbeing. Sergeant Stuart Robinson from Hendra station has assisted with the modules and is a trek leader. On

23 September, he commenced module one with six police taking part, and the following module starting on 5 October had 13 police involved.

The program is free for participants, and the cost for each participant is approximately \$1,000. Sergeant Robinson has assisted with fundraising and was guest speaker at Arana Leagues for a Sportsman’s lunch that raised \$8,000.

Sergeant Garry Stephen from Ferny Grove station was involved in the inaugural first module of the Trek2Health program with several other officers from NBD. He has expanded his engagement to help reach out to others within the district who have benefited from the support to their wellbeing and physical health.

Engagement within the Inner West Patrol Group has been fantastic, with numerous officers engaging in the six-week modules offered free of charge to frontline emergency service and ADF personnel.

**“This program is an innovative approach to improving physical and mental health through the concept of ‘green medicine.’”**

In addition to the regular modules, an additional trek was organised to coincide with the start of Mental Health Week. During the early hours of Sunday 10 October, a team of officers and family members from Ferny Grove station entered this Midnight Blue trek, which emulates mateship, endurance, and courage over the 20 kilometres between Samford Village and Enoggera Reservoir.



Constable Gareth Cherriman with Sergeants Stuart Robinson and Garry Stephen.

Branded as ‘Ferny Midnight Runners’ they raised a total of \$2,786, which together with the overall raised funds of \$21,336, will directly support others within the QPS to engage in the Trek2Health programs and future wellbeing modules.

It was fantastic to have Acting Chief Superintendent Stream attend the Midnight Blue event to see the



Ferny Midnight Runners.

engagement from officers within the District. Hopefully with more exposure of this program, more officers will become aware of the support available within the District and will take up engagement.

The growth of engagement within the last three or four months has been phenomenal, with officers from throughout NBD in both uniform and plain clothes roles joining the modules and taking a ‘green pill’. It is wonderful to support one another in preventative strategies with regards to physical and mental health and wellbeing.



Pipes and Drums at the finish line.



After completing the 20 kilometre trek, participants were greeted by members of the Pipes and Drums and NBD District Officer Chris Stream.



**EVERYDAY HERO**

Congratulations to Senior Constable Paul Bagnall on being awarded QBANK’s 2021 Everyday Heroes Award for Excellence. Paul is attached to the Inner West Crime Prevention Unit and he received his award in Townsville in recognition of his hard work organising and delivering special events for two little boys battling terminal illnesses.

**Kerrie HAINES**

Regional Representative  
Metro North Region  
0401 396 053  
khaines@qpu.asn.au



## SHAYNE TREASURE

### POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY

**I had the privilege of attending this year's remembrance ceremony for SBD at the Faith Lutheran College in Thornlands with members of SBD and the QPRA. I was very impressed with the sincere welcome we received from the school and church community at the venue, and the efforts undertaken to host us for the event. I am truly thankful for this.**

The truth really is that all police pay with their lives in some way. Some tragically pay all at once, while others pay over a lifetime. With honour they served. Let them never be forgotten.

### MANDATING THE JOB

As I represent close to one in seven police in Queensland, I do have commentary to make as your Union representative in regards to this particular matter. However, the issue is still under judicial review and it would be inappropriate for me to make comment at this time.

### INFORMATION WITHOUT EQUITY

Recently I had cause to assist a member who was subject to a brief investigation, with his family, that was not work related but left an occurrence report on the system. There was no finding of fault upon the member and his family, but the member was concerned as to the security of the information should he, say, be subject to an off-duty traffic stop or similar, where other members would see a prior investigation status.

Sadly, after legal assistance and many submissions through the Service, there was no remedy in securing the information from general view.

Cynically, I can only say that if my member was maybe someone more important and the information was of some dalliance or matter of remorse, it would be locked down within nano seconds, never to be seen again. I do not see what harm this would have caused to have locked this matter away from general view.

### SDRP SOUTH BRISBANE STRIKES BACK

Earlier in the year we had SDRP bearing down on us like an out-of-control freight train. There were no clear objectives or answers, change anxiety was through the roof among staff, and a lack of clarity as to the purpose of change was evident.

On a statewide basis, the Union called out the issues of the trial in an open letter and the handbrakes started to be applied. For me, I think the following: is this change we need? What are the agendas of those who want change? Are there accolades involved?

**“It's very hard for a majority of members not to be skeptical as to the plans of our betters. One manager's miracle solution is the next's non-repairable write-off project to dispose of.”**

Or, to use the delightful German term, does someone have *Brustschmerzen*, meaning 'chest trouble' relating to one's current lack of awards and honors. I wonder often what is going on in the minds of our change managers.

I lament that such important things as tipping a District upside down are only two-year plans. Surely we can do better than a mobile phone plan duration? One would think we would have five- to 10-year plans that are to be achieved in increments ... or are these cataclysmic events spaced on cycles of the punch in, punch out management rotations?

It's very hard for a majority of members not to be skeptical as to the plans of our betters. I can only repeat my mantra: educated workforces will by their virtue ask questions and challenge the environment in which they work. In 30 years of public service I have seen this come and go. One manager's miracle solution is the next's non-repairable write-off project to dispose of.

In South Brisbane, historic events were under way regarding SDRP. A vast majority of Senior Sergeant Uniform Divisional OICs called for a Union meeting of their own peers to discuss their concerns as to the policies being implemented in the District.

The concerns relayed were selflessly about protecting the best interests of their staff, their divisions, and the community they served, and the discussions resulted in a vote rejecting patrol group rostering, centralising special duties, and the erosion of their roles as NCOs (among other things).

As a result of this and QPU intervention, these SDRP-style activities were put on hold. We await round two, and at the time of writing the evaluation of the Moreton trial was due to be released. As a lot of wise heads say, 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it'. This in effect was

over 700 years of experience in one room, unified in concern and purpose.

Dovetailing into the Divisional OICs were the DDO Senior Sergeants who also called for their own Union meeting. From this, votes were cast, and by a two to one majority, most DDOs rejected a two group coverage across SBD, working in DTTAC, and raised concerns as to on-road Sergeant roles.

Regardless of group composition, the need for an increase in DDO numbers was obvious. Again, the concerns of junior staff were forefront in the minds of these NCOs, above their own concerns.

This again was hundreds of years of knowledge and skill speaking out with selfless concern for staff. The concerns as to the effects of policy and change on junior staff displayed across both these Senior Sergeant groups was truly admirable.

A later meeting was held by SBD Management for DDOs, withdrawing the option of three groups and more DDO staff. Will we see a further reduction? Are we just talking about forgone conclusions via a facade of consultation?

The QPU remains firmly in dispute as to the use of Sergeants in Senior Sergeant DDO-type roles without remuneration and is conducting overwatch on any activities relating to this.

As they say, 'This is democracy manifest'.

### WHAT REALLY IS A PRIORITY?

For some time now I have been pestering the management of SBD about a few basics that will go a long way to improve safety of staff. I am still waiting to see any large scale dividends on these matters to date so I am hoping that something will happen soon.

**Rifle training:** We have a very low ratio of rifle-trained officers in GDs units. One day soon it won't be a gel blaster, we won't have stand-off capacity, and someone is going to be hurt.

Recently, Upper Mt Gravatt had to wait for rifle-trained staff to attend from Inala for an armed person job. This is not optimal at all. If you supply us the weapons, train us to use them.

**First aid training:** Since ambulances are rarer than unicorns, police are left trying to deal with crime and medical issues at the same time. Added to this is the pressure on stations with holding cells to act as quasi watchhouses.

**“Since ambulances are rarer than unicorns, police are left trying to deal with crime and medical issues at the same time. The absence of properly accredited first aid training for station shift supervisors and now first response crews is very concerning.”**

The absence of properly accredited first aid training for station shift supervisors and now first response crews is very concerning. It will only be a matter of time before someone in a cell or at a scene has an issue, bringing about a Coronial. It's not a hard sell to say first aid training may be queried early in any inquiry undertaken.

**Crowd control training:** Rostered for protest: no problem. Trained for protest: probably not. Equipped for protest or an out-of-control party: very unlikely. This issue has been a concern for years, and in sending staff to deal with increasingly aggressive people at events, this is an accident waiting to happen.

**Incident command training:** With the insatiable appetite of management to use Sergeants as quasi DDOs, the first reasonable step would be to provide staff with levels of incident command training required to conduct operations and allow skill base enhancement of the wealth of experience we hold amongst our NCO groups.

**Station security:** If there is money about to build things, why not use it on

upgrading station security? We have had more and more issues of behaviour of a threatening nature towards police at stations.

In some cases, carparking and camera coverage is not beneficial to the safety and security of staff entering or leaving work. The Upper Mt Gravatt complex is a case in point, with staff walking a number of blocks to their private vehicles, often alone and late at night.

### TISM (THIS IS SERIOUS MANAGEMENT)

- Minimum staffing levels
- Deidentified application processes for a true meritorious selection process
- Fulltime Polair coverage
- A workable Injury Management System
- An urgent overhaul of psychological services
- Regional parity for staff, vehicles, and training
- Growth of staff and resources in line with population growth
- Moving our first class people out of third class facilities at the Academy

Just a GD Sergeant.

**Shayne TREASURE**  
Regional Representative  
Metropolitan South Region  
0447 569 483  
streasure@qpu.asn.au



**ANDY WILLIAMS**

### ALTERNATIVE 'UNIONS'?

**There are a number of alternatives out there that want to take your hard-earned money: one so-called 'union' proudly proclaims they will charge half what we do. Much like cheap car insurance, you don't realise there is an issue until you get your car back and it is three shades of silver. There is legal defence, and then there is legal defence. When you're waiting for ESC to attend after a critical incident, do you want the most experienced lawyer, or Dennis Denuto? When you're preparing to give evidence in a Coronial, do you want the best, or Lionel Hutz? Both fit the promise of 'legal defence', both may be able to rightfully claim they have fulfilled their contractual obligation: but the outcomes can be very different.**

We have spent nearly \$3 million so far this year giving members the best legal defence we can, and that's not even including our own in-house staff. No other organisation has the ability to do that.

You can get your industrial advice from a group of experts, or do you want to speak to someone who has just finished giving advice to a bus driver, a nurse, and a teacher?

### **"When you're waiting for ESC to attend after a critical incident, do you want the most experienced lawyer, or Dennis Denuto?"**

We promise to give you direct, honest advice, even if that advice is not what you want to hear. Recently, the Union received legal advice which we released to members. Unfortunately, some chose to attack its contents. I get that the advice was not what some people wanted to hear, but the advice has proven to be solid.

Unfortunately, these same people have attacked our industrial and support staff after various interactions, as well. Our staff are here to assist you; they are not here to be abused.

Some have decided to no longer be members of this Union. I am saddened by this. But these people also need to remember that you are either all in or all out. There will be no assistance from this Union on any front. You also need to remember that if you leave, there is no guarantee that you will be accepted back. Choose carefully.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

The first thing you hear about a possible discipline issue will generally be a call to the bosses' office to be issued with a PDS.

Section 7.9 of the Police Service Administration Act states:

#### **7.9 Implementation of professional development strategies by Commissioner**

- (1) This section applies when the complaint mentioned in section 7.2 is received by the Commissioner, regardless of whether it was first recorded by the CCC.
- (2) The Commissioner must consider whether to impose a professional development strategy on the subject officer.
- (3) The Commissioner may impose a professional development strategy under this section—
  - (a) to reduce the risk of recurrence of similar conduct; or
  - (b) to improve the subject officer's performance; or

(c) for any other purpose.

- (4) The professional development strategy must be implemented, in a reasonable way, as soon as practicable after the ground for disciplinary action arises.

*Note—*

See also section 7.35(3) in relation to the professional development strategy being taken into account by a prescribed officer deciding the disciplinary sanction to be imposed on the subject officer.

Unfortunately, there is a large variance in the attitudes of Professional Practice Managers as to when they recommend a PDS is implemented.

Some use them in matters of a serious nature to move a member and/or restrict their duties, and others take the opportunity to impose onerous conditions and perhaps restrict overtime and relieving, and often move the member away from the frontline. Unfortunately, other PPMs have a much lower threshold.

There are no guidelines, policy, or procedure to guide the issue of a PDS, and no limits on the creativity of the author (one I am reviewing at the moment has eight online learning products associated with it).

It seems to me that some have not read section 4: that the PDS must be implemented in a reasonable way.

Given that a PDS is imposed before any investigation has taken place, it follows that it should only address facts that are unquestionable, and it needs to be immediately addressed so the member can continue to work on the frontline.

with an OST instructor to discuss other ways the incident might have been resolved, an online learning product on the issue, and a period of mentoring and perhaps review of any uses of force. This would naturally reduce over time.

**Andy WILLIAMS**  
Regional Representative  
South East Region  
0404 460 773  
awilliams@qpu.asn.au

**“A PDS should be all about addressing alleged immediate issues to allow the member to continue to work, not demeaning the member by putting them in the corner with a dunce hat on.”**

Unfortunately, the attitude of some seems to be to remove the officer to a non-frontline position, remove or extremely restrict their ability to do overtime, and leave them there for the duration of the investigation. This is not development; this is a defacto stand down.

The Cambridge Dictionary defines development as ‘the process in which someone or something grows or changes and becomes more advanced’. Sticking someone on the counter or in a DTACC is not development.

For example, in a use of force matter, I would argue development might be the reviewing of the incident

There ought to be no restrictions on overtime, and all online learning products should have a direct link to the matter at hand (and have a specific rostered shift to complete them). It ought to be remembered that should the incident progress to a hearing, the decision maker can impose further development based on the full facts if they find the member guilty.

In short, a PDS should be all about addressing alleged immediate issues to allow the member to continue to work, not demeaning the member by putting them in the corner with a dunce hat on while severely limiting their ability to earn extra money for their family.



**THERE COULD BE A CRITICAL INCIDENT AHEAD!**

If it happens, protect yourself and your family by immediately contacting the QPU office

**Ph 3259 1900 (24 hours)**

or your regional representative.

They will steer you in the right direction.



**QUEENSLAND POLICE UNION**

[www.qpu.asn.au](http://www.qpu.asn.au)



# QUEENSLAND POLICE UNION

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR STATION

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

REGISTERED NUMBER: .....

TITLE: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss: .....

FULL NAME: .....

HOME ADDRESS: .....

POSTCODE: .....

POSTAL ADDRESS: .....

POSTCODE: .....

PHONE NUMBERS: [H] ..... [MB] .....

[W] ..... [F] .....

WORK EMAIL: .....

HOME EMAIL: .....

RANK: .....

STATION: .....

STATION ADDRESS: .....

.....

.....

# National Police Remembrance Day

By Darren Curtis

**National Police Remembrance Day is an important annual commemoration of all those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. It's an opportunity for all police officers to pause and reflect on those we have lost, and on the magnitude of the oath police officers swear to protect and serve our communities.**

The ambit of an officer's role has always been fluid as we adapt to the evolving circumstances throughout the state, and our response during the Covid pandemic is a perfect example of our versatility. Just as Covid has interrupted working lives, so too did it interrupt plans for National Police Remembrance Day commemorations throughout the state.

Although it was decided some bigger marches and services would not go ahead, it was very important to the police and wider community that remembrance events still be held in line with Covid restrictions. Nowhere was this more so than in the Moreton Region, where Dave Masters's family and colleagues gathered to commemorate him.

## MORETON

The sound of flags flapping in the breeze was the only noise heard as police officers, their families, and community members arrived at the Moreton District National Police Remembrance Day service on 29 September.



Senior Constable Tina Mackenzie, Constable Peter Chang Chien, Constable Tom Simmonds, and Sergeant Damien Douglas performed critical roles at the Remembrance ceremony.

The flag party was flanked by members of the Mounted Unit and an officer cradling a cushion bearing a QPS cap. Each member of the honour guard bore a significant symbol in recognition of Senior Constable Dave Masters. This was his Region and many of those attending were his colleagues, family, and mates.

Police Chaplain Ian Todd arranged for the service this year to be held in the hall of St Eugene College, Burpengary to accommodate the anticipated large crowd. The service was also moved to the afternoon to allow the Police Commissioner, Police Minister, and members of the Masters family to attend following the memorial service in Brisbane at the State Police Memorial.



An honour guard lined the entry to the memorial service at Burpengary.



The large crowd almost filled the hall for the service, prompting everyone to wear face masks to comply with Covid health restrictions.

A minute's silence paid tribute to a number of police who have died since last Remembrance Day; their deaths occurred while off duty. A wreath was laid to honour Sergeant Martin Hogan, Sergeant Nick Hales, Senior Constable Donna Henwood, and Acting Senior Constable Jason Visini.

The families of murdered police officers Douglas Gordon, Perry Irwin, Norm Watt, and Brett Forte also laid wreaths and tributes. The pain and grief for each of them was still evident as they showed their admiration for men who died protecting the community.



Members of the Forte family laid wreaths in honour of Senior Constable Brett Forte who was murdered in 2017.



The wreath laying was emotional for many family members.

The widow of Senior Constable Dave Masters and their son Jack also stepped forward in front of the large group as a candle was lit in Dave's honour and his service was acknowledged. It's the first National Police Remembrance Day since Dave was killed in June, and the grief was evidently still raw for the pair as they tried to remain stoic.

Senior Sergeant Tim Beard read a poem written for the ceremony in honour of Dave Masters (next page).



Sharon and Jack Masters were honoured so many police and community members came to honour Dave.

# THE WORKING CLASS MAN

*I looked upon his photo, the happy, open grin  
Taken, gone forever, by that vile, evil sin  
Such kindness in his eyes that will never open again  
His memory a haunting echo, of this man amongst men.*

*I thought about his Sharon, his treasured son Jack  
His rocks, his life, his world, who always had his back  
No more Sunday breakfasts, no laughter in the room  
An empty chair, an empty bed, and silence in the gloom.*

*He came to the job later, fulfilling a childhood dream  
Helping others, everyone's mate, the lifeblood of the team  
From fixing cars to fixing society, always seeing the good  
Dave Masters did what he could, and what the rest of us should.*

*He loved the Mounted Unit and the beauty of a horse's soul  
He and Manny rode together, for years on patrol  
The ancient bond between human and horse, timeless and unspoken  
And when Manny passed away, Dave's big heart was broken.*

*He found his way to Deception Bay, and was soon the heart of the station  
Always up for a laugh and a joke, and some after shift libation  
V8 supercars, Jimmy Barnes, and laughs around the fire  
'The Working Class Man' and a police officer to admire.*

*It was a Friday nightshift, on the 25th of June  
Always a busy one, they come around too soon  
Dave shared a joke with young Zac as the magazines clicked into place  
They headed out to face the night, another shift at the coalface.*

*A run of jobs, blues, and people in distress  
They talked about Dave's favourite music, Barnesy, Cold Chisel, and INXS  
The call came over, a stolen car and stingers authorised  
'We're proceeding Code 2 with stingers,' Dave and Zac advised.*

*They set up at a bridge, along the Bruce Highway  
The vehicle thundered towards them, no time for delay  
Dave saw them coming and grabbed the stingers ready  
Fearless and heroic, he stood there strong and steady.*

*The car accelerated suddenly, Dave had nowhere to go  
It altered course, straight at Dave, delivered the fatal blow  
It never braked, never stopped, just fled into the night  
Taking a father, husband, and a mate, the darkness taking the light.*

*Dave and Zac did everything right, in a night gone wrong  
He was gone in an instant, not painful and prolonged  
He had no chance to think of the future that was taken  
Family, friends, and grandchildren, everything forsaken.*

*The phones were ringing early, televisions were switched on  
The blue line came together, we couldn't believe he was gone  
Our family gathered around Dave's family, in a safe cocoon of love  
We sought comfort where it was, or in the bottle or God above.*

*In our sombre lines of blue, we all gather together  
Our national day of remembrance, every September forever  
The piper haunts our wounded hearts with his lonely refrain  
We look ahead stoic and silent, hiding all our pain.*

*Remember Dave, remember him well, remember our others lost  
They stood bravely, served with honour, and paid the ultimate cost  
Be proud of what we do, keep fighting the good fight  
We'll do what we've always done and we'll keep doing it right.*

**By Senior Sergeant Tim Beard**

The words touched a nerve with all of those in the hall and the author himself admitted he was very emotional as he crafted the lines.

‘It took me about three hours to put it together; once I started writing it just flowed,’ Senior Sergeant Beard said. ‘I reworked a couple of lines after I read in the Union Journal some aspects of Dave’s life I hadn’t known before. I never really worked alongside Dave, but he was a fellow officer. I’m the DDO from Moreton and our paths crossed just once; it was after he talked a guy down off a bridge who was intending to self harm. It was a memorable moment that stayed with me. I didn’t really know him but felt like I did. He was one of us.’



Senior Sergeant Tim Beard admits writing *The Working Class Man for Dave Masters* helped him cope with some of the anger he felt over Dave’s death.

The service finished with a blessing and a wish from Chaplain Todd that no other families may experience the pain shared by everyone this year, and that no further names will be added to the Queensland Police Honour Roll.

Deception Bay OIC Senior Sergeant Jason Higgs said the grief is still all around them at the station, and the service was a fitting tribute to Dave Masters.



‘It does hurt and I think it’s going to hurt for some time yet, but together we will get through it,’ he said. ‘There definitely are bad days that come along and we try to support each other the best we can.’

‘Following Dave’s death, we are all aware when we pull on this blue suit that it could be any one of us that something dreadful happens to. But we are police, and we put our life out there to serve the community.’

## BRISBANE

For the Brisbane candlelight vigil on the eve of National Police Remembrance Day, spotlights were trained just so on the State Police Memorial at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, to emphasise the structural aspects of the memorial that resemble the checked remembrance ribbons worn by many in attendance. A special blue light was focused on the newest plaque on the memorial: that which was engraved for Dave Masters and placed upon the memorial just a week prior to the ceremony.

As the piper played, General President Ian Leavers, Vice President Shane Prior, and Metro South Regional Rep Shayne Treasure joined the Governor Paul de Jersey, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Police Minister Mark Ryan, Commissioner Katarina Carroll, and other dignitaries alongside family members of police officers who have given their lives for the people of Queensland.





Candles were lit in front of the memorial as the name of every police officer who has died while on duty was read out from the Honour Roll, and wreaths and flowers were then laid by many, including Dave Masters's sister and partner.

The following morning, back at the memorial, Vice President Shane Prior represented the Union at the Brisbane commemoration alongside many of the same dignitaries who attended the previous evening and family members of police officers who have lost their lives. The flag party signalled the start of the service and the solemn proceedings affirmed the price paid by those who are represented on the memorial, and our community's desire to remember and honour them.

'National Police Remembrance Day honours all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice,' Vice President Shane Prior said. 'We are reminded of the true cost of protecting the community, and the burden of uncertainty our police and members are faced with every time they go to work.'

'This year we mark Dave Masters's inclusion on the memorial wall,' he said. 'We honour the sacrifice he has made to keep the community of Queensland safe.'





General President Ian Leavers, Metro South Regional Rep Shayne Treasure, and Vice President Shane Prior at the Brisbane candlelight vigil.

a variety of sections,' General President Leavers said. 'It's here I formed some lifetime bonds with colleagues. It's important we all maintain connections with those who mean a great deal to us.



Remembering the good days serving together and enduring the tough times is an important part of NPRD for the General President Leavers and his mates.

'We may not see each other everyday, so it's significant on key dates like Remembrance Day that we get together and not only remember mates who have passed but relive the good days on the job with great mates once the formalities have finished.'



## IPSWICH

Dark clouds blanketed the sky over Ipswich as 100 people gathered around the monument in Browns Park to commemorate National Police Remembrance Day on 29 September.

There was a blend of uniform staff, plain clothes officers, senior police, families, and retired police alongside General President Ian Leavers and Southern Region Rep Col Muller. The group stood steadfast, even when swirling winds whipped rain showers across the park.



Ipswich QRPA President Ken Morris honours the fallen and all those who have served in the QPS.



The crowd spread across the paths and grassed areas of Browns Park for the ceremony.

General President Leavers this year opted to be a part of the service at Ipswich and lay a wreath away from the traditional state service at the Police Memorial in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens.

'This is where I spent a very important 14 years of my frontline service across



Chaplain Jeff Baills led the gathering through the police prayer and tributes for all those who have lost their lives as a result of their police service.



Police Chaplain Jeff Baills lead the service and invited the QPU, QRPA members, and families to lay wreaths and floral tributes at the memorial built in 1893 to honour Constable James Sangster who drowned attempting to rescue two people who were trapped in a house washed from its foundations during Brisbane River flooding.



General President Ian Leavers and Southern Region Rep Col Muller lay a wreath on behalf of all serving police.

Constable Chloe Davies is in her second year and was impressed so many longstanding members came to pay their respects.

'We may not know each other by name but certainly we all identify with the uniform and it's an unspoken bond that when things go wrong, we can all come together,' she said.



Constable Chloe Davies believes all ranks can feel the strength of the blue family on NPRD.

Sergeant Isacc Collihole believes Police Remembrance Day needs to become a cornerstone in the police

culture from the day recruits start at the Academy to build esprit de corps.

'We all felt Dave Masters's death through the whole District because this job is a family and at the end of the day, the blue backs the blue,' he said. 'When one person passes, it is felt by all of us, and resonates throughout the Service. Even when people have retired and pass away, it's still felt.'

During the one hour service, Ipswich police were called to four separate Code 2 jobs requiring car crews to respond urgently, which was noticed by the family members in the crowd.

'It's easy for those of us in uniform to identify with National Police Remembrance Day, but it's sometimes harder for families to understand,' Sergeant Collihole said.

'They witnessed the level of passion we have for the job today, and ultimately, they are the ones who give you support when you get home after a terrible shift. They are the ones who pick up the pieces and keep us going, get us back on track. So it's good they could be here today to feel that sense of blue family.'

Standing in the rain trying to stop two small babies from getting wet was Ashleih Cahill and her cousin Kelli. Ashleih's dad Daniel was the OIC of the Communications Centre in Ipswich when he died from a heart attack in 2015.



Sergeant Isacc Collihole wants education of NPRD to start from the recruit phase.

'I have two daughters now and instilling the values of what the police hold dear is really important to me,' Ashleigh said. 'Coming to this service is a ritual every year since dad passed away, and we will continue to do it. We still feel part of the police family.'



Kelli and Ashleigh will continue the tradition of attending NPRD services.

Chaplain Baills is hoping the popularity of the Ipswich Police Remembrance Day service continues to grow as the 130 year anniversary marking the death of Constable Sangster approaches.

'Wouldn't it send a strong message to the community that no matter the passage of time, police never forget those who came before them and gave so much doing the right thing protecting fellow Queenslanders?' he said.



2023 will be the 130th anniversary of the death of Constable James Sangster. The Ipswich community were so moved by his loss they raised money to build a significant memorial in his honour.

## SOUTHPORT

It was one of the more unusual jobs on National Police Remembrance Day: a call for officers to attend a hospice at Arundel on the Gold Coast for a patient with a special message that could only be delivered to police.

Constables Aneesh Singh and Scott Loughlin responded from Southport and were directed to 75-year-old Kurt. Kurt was rapidly losing his battle with cancer and only had days to live after stopping his treatment, but he wanted to pass on his personal thanks to a couple of coppers.

'Kurt told us it was on his bucket list to meet some Queensland police officers and say thanks for the service we provide, knowing it was often a thankless job,' Constable Singh said. 'He told us he was frustrated police

were often vilified and the community expect so much and never say thanks, so before he left this earth he wanted us to know people are thankful.'



Kurt wanted Constable Scott Loughlin and Constable Aneesh Singh to share his thanks to every member of the QPS.

It caught the two young Constables a bit off guard; in the pressure cooker atmosphere of working around

Southport and Labrador, the open kindness was a shock.

'I'm not an emotional guy but it blew our minds,' Constable Singh said. 'Kurt lost his wife about 18 months ago and he said he would soon join her. So here was a guy who had lots he could complain about with his health, and he knew he was in his final days, yet he was thankful for everything and wanted us to know we were appreciated.'

They parted with a handshake and smiles, with Constable Singh reflecting:

'It was a nice way to spend half an hour on Police Remembrance Day. He told us to stay safe and closed the door. In the chaos and calamity of our job, it will always remain memorable.'

## REDLANDS

*With thanks to Eddie Gallo for information and photographs.*

Queensland Retired Police Association members at Redlands branch have undertaken a mission to extend the reach of National Police Remembrance Day by working together with local schools to conduct memorial services to honour fallen police and the work officers do in their community.

On 29 September, despite the school holidays being underway, a NPRD service was held at the senior campus of Faith Lutheran College at Thornlands. The service was



Senior student leaders from Faith Lutheran College pay their respects during a ceremony on campus to honour fallen police.

attended by not only students from Faith Lutheran but also surrounding schools, including Carmel College in Thornlands and Cleveland State School. With a number of serving officers and retired police in attendance, the students laid floral tributes and conducted a candle procession of reverence.

After extensive negotiations, the QRPA have set up what could become a significant milestone, establishing Police Remembrance services at Faith Lutheran College in the last week of term three. The intention of Principal Shane Altmann is for students to gain a greater insight and appreciation for the work police do in the neighbourhoods and suburbs where the children live.



Some of the serving police and retired officers that took part in the 14 September Police Remembrance services.

One thousand students and staff across both the junior and senior campuses attended from Prep to Year 6, with representatives from each year group laying wreaths they had made in class. Members from South Brisbane and Bayside Patrol groups, alongside retired officers and parents,



Junior school students from Prep to Year 6 at Faith Lutheran College Thornlands attended a special Police Remembrance service before breaking for school holidays.



Students from the junior school at Lutheran College Thornlands lay the 'floral' tributes and wreaths they made for Police Remembrance.

joined with students in honouring the fallen, and through the guidance of Police Chaplain Kelly Horne also took part in an Act of Remembrance to acknowledge the loss of QPS members who died over the past year due to non-work-related causes.



Some of the handmade wreaths made by students to honour fallen police.

Through the good work of the Redlands QRPA, Police Remembrance Day will become a permanent part of the school calendar at Faith Lutheran College.

## FORTITUDE VALLEY

Recruits from the Oxley Academy had their first public uniform experience in Fortitude Valley on National Police Remembrance Day this year.

As part of their volunteering commitment in the training cycle, the group teamed up with experienced officers Senior Sergeant Ken Farmer and Sergeant Andrew Ayres to hand out police ribbons and offer to collect donations for Police Legacy.



Senior Sergeant Ken Farmer with the recruits offering remembrance ribbons to passing commuters.

Sergeant Ayres is also Founding Director of Blue Hope, a charity designed to assist fellow police through hard times. With such a

wealth of operational experience and involvement in welfare support, Sergeant Ayres proved to be the perfect guide for the young recruits on an important day of remembrance.



Senior Sergeant Farmer and Sergeant Ayres guided the recruits through the importance of Police Remembrance.

In between the surges of arriving rail customers, Sergeant Ayres stepped the recruits through the significance of Police Remembrance and how it will become important to them as they progress through their careers.

'They probably won't really understand the impact of NPRD until

they are at a station and they lose a team member through an operational incident or while off duty,' Sergeant Ayres said. 'But once it happens it

really hits home about how important the day is, along with organisations like Blue Hope and Police Legacy.'



During the time the group was at the train station they interacted with hundreds of commuters.

'The recruits were exceptionally polite and into the spirit of the day,' Sergeant



Ayres said. 'Most people accepted the ribbons when they were offered to them, and nearly all of them opted to wear them. I don't know how much money was raised, but it was all passed to Police Legacy.'

Similar NPRD operations with fellow recruits were held at Roma Street and Central stations.



Police Legacy Board Member Jason Goodwin linked up with the recruits and Sergeant Ayres to collect donations at the rail stations.

## MOUNT GRAVATT

Senior Sergeant Matt Johnson teamed up with his parents who are committed Community Supporting Police volunteers to hand out police ribbons of remembrance at Garden City Shopping Centre on 29 September.

The Senior Sergeant would normally be participating in the Wall to Wall ride, but unable to travel to Canberra this year, he stepped in to help his mum and dad who manned the CSP display in the main mall of the shopping precinct from 8am until 3pm, all the time handing out ribbons and engaging shoppers about the work police do.



Senior Sergeant Matt Johnson working with his mum Fay who is also a CSP volunteer on National Police Remembrance Day.

Over the past six months, Senior Sergeant Johnson has been a venue commander at three different hotels in Brisbane, managing Covid compliance.

'Lots of people said thanks for keeping us safe,' he said. 'It wasn't lost on them that Covid has put a whole extra workload and responsibility on police, and they appreciate we are keeping them safe.'

Many people wanted to discuss the recent death of Senior Constable Dave Masters and the impact it had on them even though he was working across the other side of the city from where they live.

'You don't normally get people walking into a police station or calling up Comms saying thanks for doing a great job,' Senior Sergeant Johnson said. 'So to have face-to-face interaction and people saying thanks for the sometimes dangerous job we do was humbling.'

Few people rejected the police ribbons and nearly everyone who took one put it on straight away. Some people followed

through with a donation to Police Legacy as well.

Peter Johnson was recently honoured with Life Membership of CSP. The 74-year-old regularly volunteers to help out at CSP displays on Remembrance Day, at the Gympie Show, the Ekka, and annual caravan and camping shows.



CSP Volunteers Fay and Peter Johnson handed out remembrance ribbons and collected for Police Legacy in the Garden City shopping centre.

His son is the only police officer in the family but Peter and Fay feel they are part of his 'blue family'.

'I try to encourage all sworn police to spend some time handing out ribbons with CSP volunteers on Remembrance Day,' Senior Sergeant Johnson said. 'It is a very rewarding experience.'

## QUEENSLAND REMEMBRANCE LIST

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

**With honour they served**



# Outback Wall to Wall of Remembrance

By Darren Curtis

## Covid restrictions and cross border travel bans dramatically altered plans for Queensland participants in this year's Wall to Wall Ride for Remembrance.

**The** Wall to Wall ride traditionally heads to Canberra for the National Police Memorial service, but last year organisers were forced to come up with an alternate route within Queensland. Covid restrictions this year again had organisers planning an alternative satellite ride across parts of Queensland. The ceremonial baton hand over was conducted at the State Police Memorial in the Brisbane City Botanic Gardens.

At the baton ceremony, QPU President Ian Leavers said:

'The Wall to Wall ride has a special significance for all of us, not only for my colleagues who are currently serving but also retired police. It gives us an opportunity every year to meet again to have some good times, to reminisce, and to pay tribute to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. The ride can be very emotional and incredibly powerful for those who participate.'



Colleagues paused to reflect on the names of fallen police around the State Memorial.



The ceremonial baton handover at the State Police Memorial prior to the start of this year's satellite ride.



General President Ian Leavers, injured officer John Kenworthy, Commissioner Katarina Carroll, and General Secretary Mick Barnes share a lighter moment after the baton ceremony.

The baton this year unfortunately contained the name and photograph of Senior Constable Dave Masters who was run down and killed in June. Although the baton couldn't be transported to Canberra, it was carried by his Queensland colleagues across the entire length of the substitute ride from Brisbane to Blackwater and Emerald.



A large crowd attended the baton ceremony at the State Police Memorial in the Brisbane City Botanic Gardens.



Sergeant Jodie Randall with son Atticus interacting with the memorial touch stones honouring police killed on duty.

**“Two hundred and ninety riders and pillion passengers signed on for the 2021 event.”**



Blue Hope supplied hundreds of breakfast wraps and coffee for ride participants.



Senior Sergeant Bradyn Murphy, General Secretary Mick Barnes, Jack Masters, Sharon Masters, and General President Ian Leavers at Caboolture with a handcrafted memento of the Dave Masters Challenge Coin.



Part of the large crowd at the Caboolture departure ceremony.

Two hundred and ninety riders and pillion passengers signed on for the 2021 event, meeting at Caboolture police station close to where Dave Masters served at Deception Bay.

The venue was selected to accommodate the large number of motorcycles and support vehicles on the tour.

The QPU provided funding to assist Blue Hope to cook up an ample

breakfast before a small ceremony to acknowledge the family of Dave Masters and hand over a memorial plaque containing specially minted challenge coins struck as a fundraiser for the Masters family and Police Legacy.



The QPS Official Honour Guard cruise through Goomeri on their way to Biloela.



Riding groups took a variety of routes offering challenging sections for all riding abilities.



Touring groups spent money in a variety of small towns during stop overs and refuelling heading to Blackwater.



A social night in Biloela was a chance to exchange stories from the ride and recollections from days of service in the QPS.

**“I’ve taught myself to ride a motorbike and I do this ride with my Dad now every year. This is my tribute to keep Dan’s memory alive.”**

behind the cause and gave us a lot of thanks for the job we do.’

Each rider had a very personal reason for taking part. Sometimes it was to honour a fallen colleague that they knew.

‘I used to work with Sergeant Dan Stiller at Mount Ommaney,’ Jodie Randall said. ‘Tragically, he lost his life in a motorcycle accident escorting a wide load a decade ago. I’ve since taught myself to ride a motorbike and I do this ride with my Dad

now every year. So this is my tribute to keep Dan’s memory alive.’

Two mates from Coomera police station rode together, with the memory of Detective Damian Leeding still very prominent in their workplace.

‘I register and ride to remember the fallen who died in the line of duty keeping our community safe,’ Rodney Henderson said. This year was Rodney’s fourth Wall to Wall, whereas it was

workmate Rob Hewson's first time joining the ride.

'I really wanted to remember those who have passed on before us and enjoy the opportunity to be around some good quality mates,' he said.

consecrated with a monument to the murdered police in 2013.

General President Ian Leavers spoke at the service, reinforcing the Union's pledge to continually honour fallen police.



The memorial service at Bedford Weir was a solemn and sentimental service honouring two murdered police Constables.

'It's appropriate to gather at one of the first sites where police were murdered in Queensland,' Central Region Rep Kev Groth said. 'One hundred and fifty years on, Cahill and Power would never have dreamed that we could get here from all



The memorial built at Bedford Weir to honour Constables Cahill and Power.

The touring groups converged on Bedford Weir outside Blackwater on Saturday after three long days in the saddle. The location is a popular spot for families to meet for watersports and fishing.

It's also where Constables Patrick Cahill and John Power were shot and killed in 1867 by a corrupt Gold Commissioner who stole the money the two officers were escorting. The site was

'It's important we never let the memories fade of any police officer who dies through the course of their duties,' he said. 'Cahill and Power may have been in the 1800s, but whether it's like this year when we lost Dave Masters, or for these gentlemen: may they never be forgotten 150 years on. They paid the ultimate sacrifice and shouldn't be forgotten for protecting the people of Queensland.'

over the state in just a few days without the need for horses, but they did expect however to go home to their families once their duty was complete. And that's something that hasn't changed.'

Hundreds of riders gathered around the memorial for the service and they were joined by campers who couldn't miss the large number of bikes that filled the dusty carpark. Police from Blackwater set up a tent offering drinks and sausage sandwiches, which proved to be an oasis for the group. It also became the centrepiece for the group to mingle around after the formal, sombre event, to exchange some stories about their trip to Bedford Weir and their experiences on the job.

It's important we remember and honour our colleagues who have died while working.'

For Peter Lane, the red dirt memorial service evoked a whole array of emotions. Two days after completing the Wall to Wall ride, he retired after 40 years of service. He was part of the honour guard contingent able to ride their police motorcycles for the entire distance. He's participated in the Wall to Wall rides eight times, but the 2021 event was his 'fairytale' finish to a long career.

'Doing this on the official police bike: I feel privileged and honoured to do it,' he said. 'It has been brilliant. I'm amazed



Constable Peter Lane finished his 40-year career in policing riding on the Wall to Wall, saying it was a significant honour to take part on his police motorcycle.

'We talk about the police family,' Sean Whittet said. 'We literally are a family. It doesn't matter whether you've served five years or thirty years in the job: if you've been a police officer and seen what we've seen and done what we've done, it's an important shared family experience.'

'I attended my first police funeral in 1983 for a Sergeant in the New South Wales Highway Patrol, and unfortunately since joining the police I've been to too many of them. Losing a colleague on the road who you have worked with is traumatic for all of us, for the entire police family.'

how great it has been; the blokes I've been riding with have been really, really good. As the marked bikes headed into smaller towns, we certainly received some looks.



The large contingent of Remembrance riders heading in formation towards Emerald.



The Remembrance riders received applause and cheers as they approached Emerald.



The Remembrance riders stayed in formation and responsible spacing for the 100km stretch into Emerald.

'However most people weren't hesitant to approach us, and it's been good PR for the QPS, but also to assist educating people about the significance of this ride and Police Remembrance Day. For me, it's very personal. I've lost a few friends over the years, killed in the line of duty or who have unfortunately taken their own lives, so it does mean a lot to me.'

**"For 100 kilometres along the Capricorn Highway, the group stayed in perfectly matched speed and position."**

The entire contingent headed off in formation from the weir to Emerald. For 100 kilometres along the Capricorn Highway, the group stayed in perfectly



The Remembrance Honour Guard delivered the ceremonial Wall to Wall baton to Emerald to signify the completion of the safe journey of Dave Masters to the Roll of Honour.

**“Some road train drivers pulled to the shoulder to let the convoy past and gave a supportive blast of the airhorns and a ‘good on ya’ call over the UHF CB.”**

matched speed and position, lead by the police motorcycle honour guard. Along the route people stopped at roadside rest areas and service stations and took photos of the procession and waved.

By the time they reached the outskirts of Emerald, the CB network was alive with chatter about the event and what it was about. Some road train drivers pulled to the shoulder to let the convoy past and gave a supportive blast of the airhorns and a ‘good on ya’ call over the UHF CB.

Emerald police hosted a live link broadcast of the National Memorial Service in Canberra as a culmination of the official ride. The ceremonial Wall to Wall baton containing the name and details of Senior Constable Dave Masters was also presented symbolically, to signify the completion of the 2021 Ride for Remembrance for Queensland.



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# Maroons out manoeuvre the Defence Force

By Darren Curtis. Additional photos from Gracie A Sports and Events Photography.

**The Queensland Police Service Women's Rugby League Team recorded a resounding 16 to 6 win over a combined Australian Defence Force Team in their first challenge cup game in October.**

**Played** at the Beenleigh High School in 33 degree heat, the game was a battle of defence in the first half, with both teams almost tackling each other to a standstill in front of a big crowd. The ADF team scored the only first half try and there was no doubt that stung the maroons as they went into the break.

Coach Karyn Murphy didn't pull any punches in her half time assessment of the team's performance, reminding her squad to stick to the plan and the results would come.

'The heat played havoc with our fitness and there were definitely a few rough patches in that first half,' Coach Murphy said. 'But once they settled into the second half and their confidence returned, they got on a roll and played really well.'



The heat took its toll on many of the players forced to play long minutes in defence against a very agile ADF team.

Syndee Storey scored from a set play early in the second half and another two tries followed soon after from Steph Hancock and Sam Bliss. Fullback Nyree Gilluley had a pretty good day with the boot, successfully converting two of the three tries.



Coach Murphy delivers an inspiring half time speech that motivated the team for a strong second half performance.



‘The intensity this game was played at really left a lot of people stunned,’ said Vice President Shane Prior. ‘The hits were punishing and you could sense there was a great deal of pride at stake here.’

**“The intensity this game was played at really left a lot of people stunned.”**

‘I think the QPSWRL have really set a benchmark for women’s sport in the Service. Not only did the ladies treat the game professionally, but they proved to be great ambassadors on and off the field.’

‘I know while in camp the team visited the Burleigh State School, talking to

Year 5 girls about cyberbullying and social media safety. They also took the time to show their appreciation to all of their sponsors. That’s another reason the Queensland Police Union is proud to sponsor the team.’

The QPSWRL v ADF game was the feature event of an all-day touch football competition set up by match day sponsor the Beenleigh Lions Touch Football Club.

Organiser Dallas Martin said:

‘We’ve been watching the stress all police have been under maintaining

Covid border duty and protecting our community, so this is our way of saying thanks. The Lions covered the game day costs, plus the 26 touch football teams that played earlier donated their entry fees to the Beenleigh PCYC.

‘That’s put \$20,000 in their account today. It’s our way of giving back. Today there were four major sporting events on in Beenleigh and the QPSWRL attracted probably the biggest crowd, from what we’ve heard.

‘People are now coming to watch them play, not just hanging around after our

**“The QPSWRL v ADF game was the feature event of an all-day touch football competition set up by match day sponsor the Beenleigh Lions Touch Football Club.”**



During the training camp, squad members spoke to Year 5 girls at Burleigh State School and later ran a few football drills with the children.

The Challenge Cup is presented to the victorious QPSWRL team.

event. We will do this every year, and if we can manage another game through the year, we will do that too. We want the ladies to play here in Beenleigh every year. They deserve our support and bigger and bigger crowds.'

Gnech and Associates Lawyers sponsored the Player of the Match Award and it was presented by Assistant General Secretary Shayne Maxwell and Vice President Shane Prior to five eight Savannah Pratten.

**“We want the ladies to play here in Beenleigh every year. They deserve our support and bigger and bigger crowds.”**

As an indication of the dominance Savannah had in the game, she was also awarded the Player's Player Award, the Steph Hancock Shield, presented by her teammate Steph Hancock.

The ADF awarded their Player's Player Award to Lauren Sallis from the RAAF Dog Squad. Lauren was one of 20



Vice President Shane Prior and Assistant General Secretary Shayne Maxwell present Savannah Pratten with the Player of the Match Award.



Steph Hancock presents the Player's Player Shield named in her honour to Savannah Pratten



RAAF Member Lauren Sallis was honoured with the ADF Player's Player award.

players in the ADF squad of 23 playing her first game of representative rugby league.

At the conclusion of the game, both sides came together and along with the sideline crowd paused for a minute's silence and reflection to honour the victims of the 9/11 terrorist



QPSWRL President Liv Smith is presented with the inaugural 9/11 award to commemorate the first in what will become an annual challenge between police and the ADF.

attack in the United States and further military actions and terrorist acts that claimed the lives of defence members and police.

Assistant General Secretary Shayne Maxwell said after the presentations that he was impressed with the dignified way the QPS players and coaching staff conducted themselves. He said he was inspired by the way the spectators responded to the team.

'By the end of the game, some of the locals were calling the QPS players by name,' AGS Maxwell said. 'They were loving the bell ringer tackles and the fact all of our players were coppers made the crowd realise we enjoy the same things they do. I think sponsors will be naturally drawn to teams like the QPSWRL into the future.'

Recruits from class 4/21 also attended the event as part of their community volunteering requirements.

The recruits ran some of the operational aspects for the organisers, contributed to fundraising, and helped out with a free raffle sponsored by the Beenleigh BMX Club, giving away four fully equipped bikes to local families who came to watch the QPSWRL game.

Coach Murphy believes the challenge cup with the ADF will become a permanent annual fixture.



Two-and-half-year-old Jackson and three-year-old Connor celebrated their Mum's success.



Recruit Jason Pascoe helped present donated BMX bikes to children who watched the QPS team play the ADF in the main game of the day.



Winners are grinners.



### The 2021 Queensland Police Women's Rugby League Team

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Nyree Gilluley   | 11. Mekilah Acworth  |
| 2. Britt Mace       | 12. Fran Wilson      |
| 3. Sophie Gunn      | 13. Syndee Storey    |
| 4. Teresa Anderson  | 14. Ayden Bain       |
| 5. Jorgia Gray      | 15. Kaitlyn Cantrell |
| 6. Savannah Pratten | 16. Cass McMullan    |
| 7. Sam Bliss        | 17. Liv Smith        |
| 8. Steph Hancock    | 18. Tracy Bailey     |
| 9. Lauren Bisset    | 19. Donna Davis      |
| 10. Gracie Ryder    | 20. Nikki Aglio      |

Coach: Karyn Murphy

Assistant Coaches:

Linc McLeod, Amy Bock

'If we can keep this going along with games against the New South Wales police, other Queensland first responders, and in fact any other women's team in the state that wants to challenge us, it's a great way to move the sport forward,' she said.

## KERRY LEE LINDGREN

22 JUNE 1972 - 21 AUGUST 2021



Sadly, on 8 September we farewelled a good friend and Ipswich District Police Liaison Officer Kerry Lee Lindgren at St Mary's Catholic Church at Beaudesert.

Kerry was a bright and bubbly person who brought much happiness and a lot of laughs to all the people around her. She was committed to her role as a PLO working from Springfield police station.

Being a PLO suited Kerry's personality. She was very intuitive, and she used these instincts daily. When Kerry helped secure a new car with an Indigenous motif for the PLOs in Ipswich, she felt it would improve community relations in the District. She even made sure the old car went to a local Indigenous organisation who needed it to help domestic violence victims.

For Kerry, the Walking into Doors Family Domestic Violence Project was the first step in tackling family violence. She was absolutely stoked when she received an award for the DV programme and her work improving the lives of those in her community.

Kerry, along with elder group Liworaji, secured the National Indigenous Australians Agency full support for the project and as a result, Liworaji has received further DV support from the state government.

Kerry loved singing and was a talent at our Christmas parties. If you happen to hear Dolly Parton, think of Kerry. She would get a kick out that. The loss of Kerry cannot be properly explained in writing, and we send our condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues.

The Lindgren family would also like to acknowledge and thank the QPS and the Union for their support during this very difficult time.



# Police Legacy Break



By Andrew Gough, QPLS Manager

**The 2021 Queensland Police Legacy family holiday was recently held on the Sunshine Coast from Sunday 19 September to Saturday 25 September with 69 people from 25 Queensland police families attending. While COVID-19 again prevented those Queensland Police Legacy families now living interstate from attending, those who did make it came from near and far, from all over Queensland.**

**The** fact that the holiday even happened was due to a whole lot of careful planning and organising and a decent dose of luck given the ever-present threat of further lockdowns and restrictions. The organised activities that went ahead were enjoyed by all who took part.

Daily afternoon activities included rock climbing, nerf archery, bungee runs, bubble soccer, and jumping castles. While the kids burnt energy, the adults enjoyed some child-free social interaction.

**“Social networking is the most valuable and important component of the holiday.”**



Sunday night was the traditional meet and greet dinner providing the opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. This social networking is the most valuable and

Monday afternoon hosted the 42nd annual Kids v Parents cricket test match. It was a closely fought challenge as always. One school of thought had the kids winning given

**“Monday afternoon hosted the 42nd annual Kids v Parents cricket test match. Incredibly, the outcome was a tie.”**

important component of the holiday. Three new Queensland police families attended their first Queensland Police Legacy family holiday this year.

they had twice as many on their team. Others thought the parents had won given they were umpiring and scoring. Incredibly, the actual outcome was a tie. Who would have thought!

Tuesday morning saw the return of the gathering of QPS staff, animals, vehicles, and water craft, along with a fire appliance.





Most of the QPS families on the holiday made the trek to Leach Park, Caloundra to interact with the QPS staff and the fires and pat the QPS horses. A few wanted to pat the police dog, however the standard barrage of barks from the rear of the dog van saw those brave souls backing up at a very quick pace.

The kids (and a few adults) crawled all over the high vis Stinger and Levorg, the Rhino ATV, the police motorcycles, and the water police inflatable boat.

The horses were a big hit with the crowd, with even those drooling over the fire appliance moving to the horses on their arrival! A big thank you to the QPS and QFRS staff who attended.

It's important to maintain the connection between the QPS and Queensland Police Legacy families. A massive thank you to Shane Panoho for again organising the morning and to Nathan Richards for carrying it off in Shane's absence.



Daily Kids v Parents small-sided soccer matches were on again from the Tuesday to the Friday. Whatever the score, with 15 minutes to play the call of 'next goal wins' was made.

The parents flew out of the blocks winning the Tuesday and Wednesday games thanks to this year's absence of quite a few big kids with deft soccer skills, speed, and fitness. Come the Thursday, though, and the kids won easily thanks to the parents' team being riddled with injury and soreness and there being insufficient Dencorub!



some princesses, a few pyjama-wearers, a present, lollipop ladies, a punk, two versions of President Trump, a prehistoric dinosaur, heaps of Queenslanders all dressed in maroon, a pest controller, a whole team of Queensland police, a pilot AKA Maverick, a lifesaver, a couple of players of the football variety, and a Pikachu.

There were plenty of QPLS 50th birthday cookies to go around. On the topic of birthdays, the birthdays of all Queensland Police Legacy kids were celebrated with a monster cake!



The stiffness had not abated by the time of the all-important Friday afternoon game which the kids won, thus carrying bragging rights through until next year.

Tuesday evening was Theme Night! This year's theme focused on 2021 being the 50th anniversary year of the creation of the Queensland Police Legacy Scheme. Everyone was asked to attend as something beginning with Q, P, L, or S, and what a menagerie we ended up with!

There was a Santa, a Snow White, a Popeye, liquorice, a bunch of skittles, a few pirates, a prisoner,





**“A big shoutout to all those members who donate to Queensland Police Legacy or support us in other ways.”**

The week came and went and before we all knew it, Saturday morning had arrived. Although it was sad to say goodbye to each other, everyone was already looking forward to next year’s holiday.

A big shoutout to all those members who donate to Queensland Police Legacy or support us in other ways. It is through your generosity and kindness that we are able to support

the education of the 78 dependent legatees we are currently assisting, and run the annual holiday.



**THERE COULD BE A CRITICAL INCIDENT AHEAD!**

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 They will steer you in the right direction.

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[www.qpu.asn.au](http://www.qpu.asn.au)



# Everyday Heroes

By Darren Curtis

## The 2021 QBank Everyday Hero Awards were presented in October and Queensland police featured prominently as finalists and award recipients.

The ceremony was held for the first time in its seven-year history in Townsville at the 'Ville conference centre. Finalists across all six categories were invited to attend along with President Ian Leavers, members of the QPU Executive, the Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll, members of the Executive Leadership Team, and senior members of other emergency services.

'The police nominated for these awards clearly put the needs of others first,' President Leavers said. 'While every frontline officer does that every shift, this group have been put forward by their colleagues and members of the community for special mention because they believe the officers went above and beyond their duty to selflessly help other Queenslanders.'



General President Ian Leavers and Assistant General Secretary Shayne Maxwell met with Townsville Academy recruits Liam Nettheim and Benjamin Fuller at the awards ceremony.

QBank CEO Mike Currie reinforced the sentiment that the nominees underpin

the core values of QBank and deserve the title of Everyday Heroes.

'These are stories that otherwise wouldn't be told and they are so uplifting,' he said. 'It's almost a cathartic experience to listen to these people speak and recall events that for them blended into an average day in the job. I cannot help but think if you didn't have a tear in your eye as you listened to some of these stories, you've got serious issues.'

**"These are stories that otherwise wouldn't be told and they are so uplifting."**

The QBank Everyday Hero Dedication Award winner was Constable Peter McAulay from Goodna station. In September 2018, Constable McAulay was struck by a stolen car near Ipswich and sustained life threatening injuries.

**"The support I've received from medical professionals, police who helped me roadside, and the encouragement from Ian Leavers at the Police Union is the reason I'm still here and still contributing to our community."**

After 18 months of hospital treatment and rehabilitation, Constable McAulay returned to duty and is in the process of finding a new role within the QPS that can allow him to continue with his rehab and provide a suitable work-life balance.

'I'm really surprised to receive this award,' Constable McAulay said. 'I just assumed that I was in the back of people's minds now, but this proves I'm obviously not forgotten and that makes me feel quite special. I'm feeling fit and ready to get back into work and life.'



QBank CEO Mike Currie presents the Everyday Hero Dedication Award to recipient Constable Peter McAulay.

'The impact from the car pretty much broke every bone in my face, and broke my neck, my knee, and my ankle,' he said. 'I now have a rod in my arm, and really, I should be dead. The death

of Dave Masters this year is a stark reminder of what can go wrong doing what we do.

'The support I've received from medical professionals, police who helped me roadside, and the encouragement

from Ian Leavers at the Police Union is the reason I'm still here and still contributing to our community. Thank you, QBank: this will be treasured by me for years.'

Detective Senior Sergeant David Miles from the Townsville Child Protection Unit was also a finalist in the same category for his many hours of unpaid work assisting child abuse and sexual assault victims.

The QBank Everyday Hero Award for Excellence was a historical moment, with the judging panel opting to announce Acting Sergeant Paul Bagnall and Constable Kimberly Allen as dual winners.



Dual Excellence Award recipients Acting Sergeant Paul Bagnall and Constable Kimberly Allen.

Acting Sergeant Bagnall was nominated for arranging an extensive police experience for a young boy with an aggressive and incurable tumour on his brainstem.

'It was the most amazing experience,' Sergeant Bagnall said. 'This boy had the courage of a lion and the heart of an angel. For him to leave smiling at the end of the day, and knowing I made something special happen for him and his family ... it made me realise how much I love my job and what we can achieve.'

Constable Allen arranged a similar police experience for a seven-year-old girl from Gatton also diagnosed with a terminal cancer.

'I think this little girl made more of an impact on me than I did on her,' Constable Allen said. 'I'm here collecting this award, but I couldn't have done it without my team. We all worked really well together to make this little girl happy and her eyes light up. Thank you Gatton station.'

Taking the initiative to assist as a co-ordinator with the 'Uniforms 4 Kids' project in South East Queensland paid dividends for Senior Sergeant Tracey Hartley with her recognition as winner of the QBank Everyday Hero Award for Ownership.

While Constable Hartley didn't initiate the program that started in 2018, she gave considerable time co-ordinating a network of retirees who sew recycled emergency services uniforms into stylish clothing for children.



QBank Chairman Daryll Morton presents the Everyday Hero Award for Ownership to Senior Sergeant Tracey Hartley.

In the past 12 months more than 1,000 items of clothing were distributed in the South East Region to victims of bushfires, children in hospital, following domestic violence incidents, and to local schools.

'To be able to roll this program out to South East Queensland so the used uniforms do not go into landfill is a great initiative,' Senior Sergeant Hartley said. 'To see children after they've lost everything in their house after a fire and hand them a bag of clothes ... it's a moment of such joy and satisfaction that is really wonderful.'

Three QPS 'teams' were also finalists in the QBank Everyday Hero Award category for Working Together. Although they didn't win, they were given special acknowledgement for their efforts.

Senior Constables Adam Studholme, Amanda Gould, and Paul James were at Gracemere police station in October last year when a 10-week-old baby from a neighbouring property was brought into the front counter not breathing.

The group worked together and provided CPR until paramedics arrived. Their lifesaving efforts helped the baby start breathing again and regain consciousness.

Inspector Andrew Cole and Emergency Helicopter Pilot Phil Frost were nominated for planning and executing



QPS Teams finalists received special acknowledgement.



Local Emergency Services provided a colourful welcoming for nominees and guests at the QBank Awards Ceremony in Townsville.

**“These are not people who go out of their way for recognition; they’re mostly very humble, and almost determined to stay in the background.”**

a rescue mission to save four backpackers caught in floodwaters for several days.

Senior Constables Dane Britton, Ryan Cole, and Matt Powell teamed up in September last year to run and ride 166 kilometres along the Brisbane Valley rail trail in 24 hours to raise more than \$20,000 for the Queensland Children’s Hospital Foundation.

Each of the category winners received \$1,000 in cash paid into their QBank account plus another \$1,000 donated in their name to a charity of their choice. The QBank Young Everyday Hero winner receives a \$500 bursary to assist with training and development.

In a move that received further praise, most of the recipients requested the entire amount be passed onto their nominated charity.

‘That reflects the type of people they are’, QBank CEO Mike Currie said. ‘These are not people who go out of their way for recognition; they’re mostly very humble, and almost determined to stay in the background.’

The move to take the QBank Everyday Hero Awards to regional Queensland proved to be positive and is likely to be



QBank Everyday Hero Award winning recipients.

**The full list of winners include:**

**QBank Everyday Hero Achievement Award**

Trevor Turner - Queensland Rural Fire Service

**QBank Everyday Hero Dedication Award**

Constable Peter McAulay - Queensland Police Service

**QBank Everyday Young Hero Award**

Will Prentice - Surf Life Saving Queensland

**QBank Everyday Hero Excellence Award**

Acting Sergeant Paul Bagnall - Queensland Police Service

Constable Kimberly Allen - Queensland Police Service

**QBank Everyday Hero Ownership Award**

Constable Tracey Hartley - Queensland Police Service

**QBank Everyday Hero Working Together Award**

Reece Booji - State Emergency Service

Richard Patrick - State Emergency Service



*Finalists all received a memento at the awards function and category winners were presented with \$1,000 cash prize and another \$1,000 for their nominated charity.*

a part of future planning for the event. It demonstrates that QBank is not a Brisbane-focused business, and like the state's Emergency Services, it supports members across Queensland.

Police and Emergency Services Health are now also a proud sponsorship partner of the awards, giving back to Queensland's everyday heroes.

Recipient of the QBank Achievement Award, Mt Alford Rural Firefighter Trevor Turner said:

'This award is wonderful, not because it's an award, but it revealed the story of how my team responded for 60 consecutive days combating wildfires that produced flames and firestorms I've never encountered before.

'There were times when it was so dangerous it could've cost us our lives. Receiving this award has really helped quell some of the demons for me and helped heal my mental health.'

To be eligible for the Everyday Heroes

Awards, the nominated person must be over 18 and a government employee (local, state, or federal) residing in Queensland and be employed in a job that is principally concerned with administration of justice and protection of life and property.

To be eligible for the Young Everyday Hero Award, the nominee must be aged 12 to 17 and reside in Queensland.

Nominations for next year's Awards can be lodged at [www.qbank.com.au/everydayheroes](http://www.qbank.com.au/everydayheroes) and close in August 2022.

# Holding those to account who sprout lies and abuse

## Police welfare has been boosted with a substantial donation following an action brought by General President Ian Leavers and the Queensland Police Union.

A five-figure sum was paid by Jack McGuire of Red Group Support Hub and a formal apology was given by him after he distributed an e-mail containing false and misleading allegations and claiming that he, Phil Notaro, and others were setting up a rival organisation to the QPU.

In the e-mail, among some of the lies that were made, the General President was categorised as a dishonest police officer and a cheat who is underhanded. The e-mail also could reasonably have been considered that it insinuated the Queensland Police Union permits police to engage in dishonest tactics.

Obviously, these types of lies against the QPU are taken very seriously, and frankly demonstrates the desperation that some other organisations will stoop to, to 'sign you up' by denigrating the Queensland Police Union.

Mr McGuire published an apology, and admitted the allegations were unfounded, untrue, and were fully retracted.

The entire sum for damages was gifted to Blue Hope to enable the organisation to continue its significant support in assisting Queensland police with their mental fitness and crisis assistance.

Blue Hope Foundation Director Andrew Ayres confirmed the money will be used to support multiple station visits, welfare assistance, and events.

'I'm eternally grateful for the support of the Police Union and Ian Leavers,' he said. 'We couldn't survive without their support. Ian has sent a strong signal by providing the damages settlement to Blue Hope that untruths and the grubbiness written by members of the public and current and former police about their colleagues affects everybody's health.'

General President Ian Leavers has been a police officer for 32 years. Personal integrity is part of his makeup, and he strongly defends the actions and practices of the QPU, so when untruths

and false allegations were distributed in the e-mail, he and the Union's Executive took action.

'I'm very protective of police and the Union, and when people make attacks without facts to suit their own agenda, they need to be held to account,' he said. 'When you rip into our organisation you are attacking the 12,000 people going diligently about their job every day.'

'It's time to draw a line in the sand,' he said. 'Enough is enough. I'm fed up with keyboard warriors who want to

**"When you rip into our organisation you are attacking the 12,000 people going diligently about their job."**



General President Ian Leavers and Andrew Ayres from Blue Hope are confident the donation will benefit police across Queensland.

attack people. People who write this rubbish need to be held to account for their actions. We at the QPU were never seeking gain by taking this action; we just wanted people to realise there are consequences for defaming people and organisations.

**“I’m fed up with keyboard warriors who want to attack people.”**

‘To get an apology and a retraction was very important. Blue Hope will be able to use this money to assist our members struggling with psychological fitness.’

General Secretary Mick Barnes agrees with the General President.

‘The Police Union has been around for 106 years and has built a significant positive public reputation,’ he said. ‘We are well regarded industrially and politically and we won’t accept these individual scabs or organisations hijacking our good name.

‘We also don’t want these same people providing a commentary that’s based on misguided beliefs and facts. Police need to ask themselves

feeling among the membership when people set upon others through social media.

‘It has had an effect on my entire family, loved ones, and those closest to me’, he said. ‘They’ve read some of this online rubbish about me and the organisation and it’s had an impact on them. They shouldn’t have to contend with this trash talk each and every day.

‘When people write their hateful lies online using words like corruption and dishonesty, it strikes at the heart of everything I care for, everything I stand for and hold dear.

‘Online platforms have made it easy for people to share their opinions without facts,’ he continues. ‘I’ve seen some of our members go through horrific critical incidents and then watched trolls add their version of what they think should’ve happened.

‘What makes it worse is some of these people are colleagues or retired cops. There are plenty of people wanting to attack police on the outside, so having a go at each other is unacceptable.’

Blue Hope say the impact of ‘friendly fire’ criticism can be very detrimental.

‘Imagine being at your lowest ebb and you’re looking for a little bit of encouragement and you start copping

‘I think the days of people being unaccountable for their online behaviour are quickly coming to an end,’ he continues. ‘It’s sad that people seem to need some sort of validation through social media to justify their existence. It cannot be good when your family, friends, and loved ones are reading the rubbish that is said. The ripple effect is vast and we need to avoid it’

Blue Hope says online trolling and defamation allegations can affect a police officer’s psychological fitness. They encourage members to make contact and seek assistance.



**Blue Hope is available 24 hours a day on 1300 00 2583.**



**“Online trolling and defamation allegations can affect a police officer’s psychological fitness.”**

if they want to be associated with organisations where the head of it has paid a five-figure sum and issued a formal apology. I know I wouldn’t.’

Robust discussion and defending decision making are part of the unwritten components of taking on the role of General President of the QPU, however Ian said the personal attacks have been taking a toll on those close to him. It’s a similar widespread

a kicking from people who may not be 100% informed of the circumstances they are criticising you about,’ Andrew Ayres says.

‘The impact can be catastrophic. The keyboard warriors need to stop being critical for the sake of it and let operational police do their jobs. At this time in our country’s history we need to stick together.



## Intake 3/2021 made up of Squads 188, 189, and 190 graduated on a bright and sunny spring day at the Queensland Police Academy at Oxley on Thursday 23 September.



Constable Luke Bianchi with General President Ian Leavers.



Constables Jodie Wischnevsky, Brandon Dingley, and Tiarna Green.

**Under** a beautiful blue sky, the 53 recruits marched onto the lush green grass of the sacred acre in front of their families and friends, and marched out an hour later as the newest Constables of the Queensland Police Service.

General President Ian Leavers was in attendance to congratulate all graduating recruits, and especially so recruit Michael Saxby, the recipient of the Union-sponsored Dux Award.

Police Minister Mark Ryan also congratulated the recruits for joining an organisation that so many people

rely on. He thanked the recruits for their fundamental commitment to service above self for the people of Queensland.

Commissioner Katarina Carroll commented on the resilience and devotion to training shown by the graduating squads, noting this will serve them well in the policing environment.

She listed the values of integrity, professionalism, respect, and fairness as those of a police officer, and asked the recruits to always keep these in the front of their minds while serving the community.

As well as a majority of Queenslanders in the intake, the backgrounds of the recruits included those born in most other Australian states as well as in the UK, India, South Africa, France, and New Zealand. Their previous experience is also diverse, with a butcher, a personal trainer, a chef, and a builder among the recruits.

The induction parade and ceremony marked the end of an intense period of training and study for the recruits, who had all been working towards this day since their intake into the Academy on 15 March. Their crisp movements, serious faces, and air of solemnity throughout the parade showed they appreciated the gravity of the occasion, and the smiles, high fives, and hugs all round afterwards suggests they will remember this day for the rest of their lives.



Constables Mitch Clark, Frazer Smith, and Brady Rice.







# BBQ INTEL

By Darren Curtis

## A conversation over a roaring wood fire as a steak sizzles, complimented with vegetables only harvested a few hours before, is generating some breakthrough results for the local police in Dalby.

**Dalby** OIC Senior Sergeant Terry McCullough is the driving force behind a project he started in his time off, to expand community contacts and confront the issue of rural suicide amongst men and debilitating mental health for men.

In conjunction with the local Presbyterian Church, men from across business, farming, education, and frontline emergency services are invited to an informal BBQ in a machinery shed on a property just outside the township of Dalby. As the sun sets, guests arrive on the chickpea farm to see purpose-built hotplates stretching more than ten metres in length over the top of drum fires, and the familiar smell of ironbark timber burning.



A local boilermaker in Dalby created the specially designed 'long talk' BBQs just for the men's nights.

As the fires settle into glowing embers, the conversation starter comes with plates of USA-style home-smoked meat lovingly created by Snr Sgt McCullough. Beef brisket, hot wings, and chilli-cheese smoked sausage bites are handed out among the group, and it's not

long before strangers are introducing themselves to each other while discussing the smoking techniques used and the flavours generated in the meat.

**"Saying g'day to a stranger is sometimes the hardest step."**

'It prompts people not to stay in their little comfort zone,' Snr Sgt McCullough said. 'Saying g'day to a stranger is sometimes the hardest step. This is really informal and because it is so relaxed, people are comfortable inviting new people to the dinner each time we hold one.'



Conversation flows easily around the BBQ plates.

Main course is a cook-it-yourself steak, with as many fresh vegetables and mushrooms that can fit on a plate, and it's here the real results start to emerge. Conversation is now free flowing, and with inhibitions reduced, the talk turns to all sorts of issues, with blokes naturally offering to help each



The food is plentiful, fresh, and cooked the way you like it.

other or promising to check in with new acquaintances after the event.

Southern Region Rep Col Muller was a first timer at the October dinner and became an immediate fan of the concept.

'The BBQs became a centrepiece, not only for cooking the meat, but also for the way they were built,' he said. 'Every bloke seems to think he's a BBQ specialist, so the talk came easy for

**"This really is community policing at its best."**

everyone. Before long I could hear guys talking about their work, their farms, and realising they had connections with others there and mutual friends.

'They all knew Sergeant Terry and the wide range of people confirmed he has a pretty valuable network happening that he can tap into when needed. This really is community policing at its best.'



The event is informal and relaxed, drawing in a variety of local business owners, contract workers, teenage sons, people of faith, and frontline police.



The guest speaker captivated the guests with an after dinner chat revealing his battle with drugs and constantly chasing an adrenaline rush.

**“Men who attended the BBQ will often stop in the street to talk to officers they’ve met, and offer assistance when police are following up enquiries.”**

For Terry McCullough and his team, the night breaks down a lot of barriers. In the days, weeks, and months after the BBQ, men who attended will often stop in the street to talk to officers they’ve met, and offer assistance when police are following up enquiries. Local officers can also get a feel for who is perhaps doing it tough on some of the outlying farms and may need a welfare check.

police for help in some way. But it’s also become a two-way street. I can call on their expertise if trying to follow something up, or if I need to know something.’



The BBQ designer added heat skirts to reflect some of the heat so people could get closer to the hotplate and talk a lot longer.



Senior Sergeant Terry McCullough believes sharing life’s stresses can make men feel better about themselves and potentially reduce domestic and family violence, along with self harm incidents.

Swapping his chef’s hat for a police cap, Senior Sergeant Terry said:

‘Over half of the people here I’ve met at jobs when they’ve called on the

One of the invitees, Jake, said he’d been struggling after separating from his wife and dealing with issues around their children. On top of that, the seasonal work he’d been doing for decades

meant he didn’t receive a consistent pay cheque, and Uber driving in Dalby wasn’t the boom he thought it was going to be.

‘When things go wrong out here in these country towns, there’s always someone ready to offer you drugs or help them out with something that could land you in jail if you’re caught,’ Jake said. ‘It’s tempting, let me tell you, but luckily I was introduced to some people here who set me straight. One is a copper who told me about how he accidentally set himself alight trying to start a fire with metho.

‘That shared story broke a lot of barriers for me, and I’ve now got a fulltime job. As a result of some wise words from the fellas here, I’m now seeing my son regularly and people are watching out for him around town when I can’t always be with him.’

The guest speaker on the night was world champion muay thai middleweight champion Bruce ‘The Preacher’ Macfie.

Born in Dalby, he’s now returned to his hometown and is working as a chaplain at the local state high school. He revealed what it took to reach the top of his sport, but also how the ‘party lifestyle’ had a negative impact on his life as he celebrated his many victories.



Bruce sat on the back of a ute in the shed and told his story, hoping it would be a tale that may prompt others to put their hand up if they felt like they were getting out of their depth and wanted to share their situation.

Not every dinner is a fundraiser, or an opportunity to constantly talk about faith. The Presbyterian Church runs the event and asks for \$20 to cover costs.

‘The tick of success is noticing blokes having a good time,’ founding member Snr Sgt McCullough said. ‘Talking openly with each other, sharing some yarns, and building relationships. In rural areas there’s not too many things just for men, so this is a start to at least let them know despite whatever problems they have, they’re not alone.’

Bruce Macfie speaks from the heart on top of a ute tray in the machinery shed.

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# Men's Health Brekky

By Andrea Appleton

**Originally scheduled to coincide with Men's Health Week in June, and rescheduled a number of times due to Covid restrictions, Headquarters & Support Regional Rep Shane Prior and General President Ian Leavers were finally able to host the first QPU 'Men's Health Brekky' on Monday 25 October.**

**Getting** health and wellbeing right in professional life is no easy feat, and it's no secret that men are generally less inclined to look after their health than women. Men in Australia are more likely to engage in risky health behaviours and die prematurely.

Men are more likely to experience their total disease burden due to dying early from disease and injury, rather than living with a disease. A 2017-2018 study found that fewer than 1 in 30 men eat the recommended amount of fruit and vegetables. Plus we all know men who haven't been to see a doctor in decades.

Breaking the stigma around maintaining an interest in health and wellbeing for men is essential, and events focusing specifically on men's health is one way to begin the conversation.

For the Men's Health Brekky, the QPU invited members to gather at the Broncos Leagues Club, where they were

able to interact with representatives at various trade tables and catch up with other members for a leisurely chat.

The guest speaker for the event was Nick Marshall, an Assistant Professor of Physiotherapy at Griffith University. Nick has had roles at Olympic Games, World Games, the State of Origin, and test matches in a number of different codes, spending a lifetime working alongside elite athletes.

Nick was the 2020 Australian of the Year – Local Hero in Queensland, an award he won for his work in creating Australia's first inclusive surf lifesaving Nippers program, the Albatross Nippers.

However, it was another group at his local lifesavers club that Nick focused on during his presentation. Nick has been involved in training the Masters at his club, and he one day found himself wondering about their overall health as he watched them pound down the

beach to perform rigorous drills in the surf.

He realised the members in his group were generally very fit, especially compared to others their age, but they weren't getting any younger.

He wondered how many got a regular health check from their GP, and realised it would probably be very few: these weekend warriors felt bulletproof, and were not in the habit of proactively seeking advice about their health when the surf was up.

This train of thought led to Nick wondering if he could instead bring a GP to them. He floated the idea with his club members and received the expected resistance, but went ahead and started small, inviting a doctor to attend to perform simple tests on those who were turning up to train.

The camaraderie of the group eventually led to members looking out





for one another, and keeping each other accountable when it came to the health checks. In the end, half of the Masters group that Nick invited to see a GP had various health problems identified that needed to be dealt with.

Nick's first point was simple: even if you feel fit and healthy, it is very important to have a regular health check that could potentially pick up an issue and save your life.

His second point was that if men are a part of a group or team, where a doctor is in attendance to perform checks, they are much more likely to hold one another accountable and roll up their sleeves.

He encouraged those in attendance to think about what groups they are involved in, and whether they could organise for a GP to attend meetings, sessions, or training to perform simple health screenings. If these men support one another, it could end up saving lives.

As Nick's presentation drew to a close, members in attendance began to offer



**“Even if you feel fit and healthy, it is very important to have a regular health check that could potentially pick up an issue and save your life.”**

up their own experiences of sudden and unexpected diagnoses that led to immediate medical attention required.

As one attendee finished an anecdote, another shared their own experience of a near miss that he was relieved to have had brought to his attention. Nick's presentation led to a general discussion of the importance of being proactive about health, with members encouraging one another to see a doctor, or have a screen, or undergo testing.

A couple of gym passes and a Gelato Messina voucher (for good mental health!) were then claimed as lucky door prizes, and the group moved on to enjoy breakfast together.

Many continued to discuss stories of people they knew who had received unexpected health results and outcomes, and the consensus was that members and their colleagues must take the required steps to ensure they are fit and healthy.

Bowlscan representatives were at one of the trade tables and noted their trip around Queensland visiting police stations earlier in the year. As part of the 'Get Your Bum Into Gear' campaign, the Union helped to supply 600 bowlscan kits to officers, yet only 20% have been returned for testing.

Of the 120 returned, 10% have shown a positive result for an identified health issue. Bowlscan encourages other





officers who have been supplied with these tests to return them for testing.

It is hoped that the Men's Health Brekky will encourage the attendees, the 400 who streamed in on Workplace, and all members to take some proactive steps for their health.

**“How long since you've been to the dentist, or had someone check your blood pressure?”**

If you have a bowlscan kit, send it in for testing. If you've been meaning to go and get a skin check, book in today. How long since you've been to the dentist, or had someone check your blood pressure?

Make an appointment today, drag a mate along with you, and keep an eye out for additional planned Men's Health Brekkies in the future.



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# Blue Dignity Packs

By Darren Curtis

## A Constable from the Lockyer Valley has established a simple assistance strategy that is bringing dignity to victims of domestic and family violence across the Southern Region.

**Like** most police, Constable Kimberly Allen has attended multiple domestic violence incidents where a partner and children have had to flee rapidly. It's often some of the simple necessities that are forgotten in the haste to leave that make a difference to their lives in the first couple of hours away from the threat.

**"It's often some of the simple necessities that are forgotten in the haste to leave that make a difference."**

The 'dignity packs' assembled by Const Allen are a way to offer support during such circumstances. They are a collection of items including deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, ladies' sanitary items, shampoo, body wash, and even a few Band-Aids.

Mostly the packs have been self-funded by Kimberly throwing a few extra items that are on special into her shopping trolley.

'It stemmed from a job where the aggrieved was withheld sanitary items as a coercive control method,' Const Allen said. 'So I went to my own kit bag and gave her some items to help her out and I thought I didn't want anyone else to feel that awful or to be stuck without dignity.'



*Constable Allen has been self-funding 'dignity packs' to assist victims of domestic violence and disasters.*

In some domestic violence incidents, a parent has ensured their children are well groomed and have what they need and it can be at the caring parent's expense, when they go without basic items for themselves to ensure the children have the best life possible.

Recently, Const Allen handed a 'dignity pack' to a woman who had fled a very violent domestic situation. The thankful lady told her the gesture 'gave her hope' that she would be able to survive and start a new life after being subjected to years of controlling behaviour.

'She told me that gesture gave her hope after feeling helpless for so long,' Const Allen said. 'It let her know that people care, and she doesn't need

to return to that environment to get basic necessities.'



*The packs contain basic hygiene goods and even some food sachets of oats and quick prep meals.*

The packs have come in handy not just for DV victims. A recent housefire in Gatton left three young men with literally only the clothes they were wearing. Const Allen arrived with three packs catering for the needs of men and they were able to head to emergency accommodation without having to spend money on basic hygiene products.



*The owner of this property was left with nothing. The pack supplied by Gatton police allowed her to have a shower and clean away the pungent smell of smoke.*

'We had a lady last week and her house burnt down and she lost everything except her dogs,' Const Allen said. 'We were able to give her some products so when she got to her emergency accommodation she could wash the smell of the smoke off her skin and hair. Even though she lost everything, she was over the moon with our small pack.'



Any items spotted on special at local supermarkets are bought and stored in Kimberly's locker to be assembled into care packs.

Const Allen's locker at Gatton police station has become the pantry for the pack ingredients. At times it's overflowing when there's good specials on at the local Coles

supermarket. Const Allen's mother and grandmother have also started contributing with their keen eye for a bargain, and Margaret Killen, who works at the 24-hour service station in town, also drops off items after she heard about the project when Const Allen and her colleagues were fuelling up on nightshift.

'Margaret told me that 20 years ago she needed something like this to get out of an unhealthy, unhappy relationship,' Const Allen said. 'So now she wants to give back.'



Local business operator Margaret was so impressed with the project she delivers supplies when she can afford a few extras.

The Gatton Administration Officer Tracey Eelkema has become a willing enlistment, helping Const Allen assemble the packs and broadening the reach to set up packs that cater for young children, teens, the elderly, and men.

'Tracey has helped with including a DVD in the child's pack, a scribble



One of the 'dignity packs' set up for a child.

book, pen, soap, and toothpaste, so the children don't need to share their parent's items,' said Const Allen.



Some of the donated goods dropped off to Gatton station by community members eager to assist the 'dignity pack' project.

There is an opportunity for all police and their extended family networks to assist.

Most people notice the complimentary items on the bathroom bench and in drawers during a hotel stay. A few are taken home as mementos, but if the seals are still intact they could be repurposed to contribute to the 'dignity packs'. Shampoo, conditioner, body

**"Most people notice the complimentary items during a hotel stay. If the seals are still intact, they could be repurposed to contribute to the 'dignity packs'."**

wash, tea bags, hot chocolate sachets, coffee, biscuits, and sanitary disposal bags would all be appreciated. Unfortunately mouthwash, sewing kits, and razors are unable to be distributed.

'Kimberly is a real self-starter,' Southern Region Rep Col Muller said. 'She saw a gap that needed to be filled and she's already achieved really positive results. Domestic Violence



*Southern Region Rep Col Muller believes every police officer in Queensland could assist with donations in some way, particularly after they've travelled on deployments or for holidays around the state.*

Action Centres are overloaded with requests, and to be honest, places like Gatton, between Ipswich and Toowoomba, aren't the easiest of places to reach around the clock.

'So this is a great initiative of a local cop making a difference in their local

community. Kimberly could really do with some extra help on this and I'm sure our members across the state can assist.'

Donations of hotel reusables or items bought at discount prices can be sent to Gatton police station (5 William

Street, Gatton, 4343) or to Southern Region Rep Col Muller, who is setting up a collection box near the General Duties Day Room at Ipswich police station.

Const Allen is hoping a donation box can also be put in place at Police Headquarters in Roma Street to be collected by Gatton officers when they come into the city off duty.

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**QUEENSLAND POLICE UNION**

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# Western Downs Awards

By Darren Curtis

## Members of the Western Downs Patrol Group gathered in Dalby in October for a medal and awards ceremony held at the Dalby Leagues Club.

**The** awards presented ranged from medals and clasps honouring years of service along with certificates recognising acts of bravery, valour, and outstanding police work both on and off duty.

Southern Region Rep Col Muller was a special guest at the ceremony and was impressed with the array of awards for police who had showed initiative and responded without hesitation in situations that could be life threatening.

'It makes me very proud to see the effort our members have put in for the community which to them is day-to-day in this job,' Southern Region Rep Muller said. 'Here in Dalby and beyond we're a long way from Brisbane, and police out here have to make very serious decisions without close oversight or support at their fingertips.'



Senior Sergeant Terry McCullough was awarded his 35-year clasp to his Queensland Police Service Medal.

'Also, recognition of service is very important: we have some recipients who have clocked up 35 years in the QPS. When you consider these days it's significant to even reach ten years with a single employer, to keep a high expectation job like policing for nearly four decades of service is to be applauded and should be treasured by management.'

Southern Region Rep Muller spoke highly of Dalby OIC Senior Sergeant Terry McCullough who received his Police Service Medal clasp for 35 years' service.

'When you look at the amount of change that's occurred in the job and people like Terry McCullough have rolled with that change, you can see they are true leaders,' he said. 'Terry is a great OIC and a genuine gentleman to go along with it.'

Senior Constable Jo Butler was the recipient of two District Officers Certificates from two different Regions. The first was for an incident in Mackay in 2018 when an armed offender fired rounds from a rifle in a busy shopping precinct and was intimidating a number of business owners.

Senior Constable Butler was commended for establishing a secure cordon to prevent shoppers from being injured and maintaining effective and concise communications from the scene as negotiators worked to calm the offender.



Senior Constable Jo Butler was awarded two District Officers Certificates for separate incidents two years apart and in two different Regions.

**"This certificate is recognition of what we do and helps you to explain it to your family and friends. This ceremony has given me a new perspective."**

'This certificate means a lot,' Constable Butler said. 'Sometimes it's difficult to explain to a family member what happens at those sorts of events, so this certificate is recognition of what we do and helps you to explain it to your family and friends.'

'Now that I reflect on that incident, this ceremony has given me a new perspective of what all of us went through on that day. It is nice to hear a bit of recognition and for it to

come from someone I respect is very heartwarming.'

The second certificate presented to Constable Butler was to recognise her efforts in saving the life of a man who was injured in a vehicle accident on a remote stretch of road near Tara while Constable Butler was off duty in 2020.

The man had been partially ejected from the vehicle after it rolled but was still tangled in the seatbelt by a leg and hanging upside down with severe head injuries. Constable Butler didn't hesitate to render assistance and arrange assistance from emergency services.

'I was told by the paramedics that if he'd been in that position any longer he probably would have died from significant blood loss,' she said.

'His family have been so appreciative; they have called the station a number of times to say how grateful they are and to make sure I was doing okay after having to deal with the scene.

'The victim has since been into the station and in the past his interactions with police have been of a negative nature, so for a police officer to save his life, it's put things into perspective for him. When we've had dealings with him since he's always been very polite, and strangely, if he gets in trouble, he will

always ask for me and is very helpful with our investigations.'

Sergeant Angeline Gates and Senior Constable Chris Metcalf were awarded certificates for rescuing a man who attempted to self-harm in 2018, leaping from a bridge in Dalby into freezing water.

Senior Constable Chris Metcalf was acknowledged with a Commissioner's Certificate for Notable Action for his rapid response, jumping into the water to drag the unconscious man to the creek bank. With the assistance of Sergeant Gates, they managed to move the obese victim out of the water and begin life saving techniques before paramedics arrived.

'The incident is still very vivid,' Sergeant Gates said. 'It happened in June and we were in minus temperatures at the time; the water was extremely cold. Chris swallowed a bit of the Myall creek trying to keep this bloke afloat.

'We found him face down, fully clothed, and heavily intoxicated, which made the job pretty difficult. We never expected to receive anything for doing what we did.

To us, it really was just another call for assistance with a good result.'

The Brett Handran Memorial Shield was awarded to Plain Clothes Senior Constable Samantha Giles from the Dalby Child Protection Investigation Unit.



Plain Clothes Senior Constable Samantha Giles was presented with the Brett Handran Memorial Shield Award.

The award was created in memory of Plain Clothes Constable Brett Handran from the Juvenile Aid Bureau who was shot and killed at Wynnum in 1989 while responding to a domestic violence incident.

**"We never expected to receive anything for doing what we did. To us, it really was just another call for assistance with a good result."**



Senior Constable Chris Metcalf was awarded a Commissioner's Certificate for Notable Action and Sergeant Angeline Gates was presented with a District Officer's Certificate for rescuing a man from Myall Creek in Dalby.



Senior PLO Jenny Thomas and Senior Constable Daniel O'Hara were awarded District Officer's Certificates for a knife prevention campaign in seven high schools across the Western Downs.

The recipient is considered an outstanding officer who reflects the values of teamwork, compassion, empathy, and knowledge of investigative practices during their specialist training.



Senior Constable Juliet McGrath was presented with the 25 years clasp to her Queensland Police Service Medal.

'This award will sit in my office and I hope it reassures the parents that are there reporting crimes that they are being listened to, are doing the right thing, and that they have an investigator who is passionate to help them.'

All of the police who attended the ceremony were commended for the work they are doing in light of the extra pressures Covid has placed on resources. Community expectations of police have risen throughout the pandemic, and the officers were praised for continuing their leadership and maintaining calls for assistance.



Acting Senior Constable Jacob Hopp was awarded a District Officer's Certificate for his selfless commitment searching for a missing two-year-old in Tara. He told Southern Regional Rep Col Muller he waded into a number of dams on the property and never gave up hope of finding the girl alive.

'For me this means a lot of hard work has paid off and I'm now working in the area of the police that I just love,' PCSC Giles said. 'I'm very passionate about Child Protection and that's why we join this unit. The course was the best I've done because we were all like minded people there for one reason: to protect kids in our community.'



Inspector Wayne Rasmussen was presented with the 35 years clasp to his Queensland Police Service medal by South West District Superintendent Garrath Channells.



Sergeant Werner Crous, Sergeant Anne Johnston, and Sergeant Sean Donaghy were presented with their National Police Medals.



Supt Channells presented Detective Inspector Garry Watts with a second clasp to his National Medal.



Administration Officer Penelope Norman and Senior Constable Nigel Hart received the Queensland Police Service Medal acknowledging 10 years of service.



Det Insp Garry Watts presented Supt Garrath Channells with a 30 year clasp to his Queensland Police Service Medal.



Sergeants Anne Johnston and Sean Donaghy received the National Police Service Medal.



Sergeants Angeline Gates and Andrew Gates were presented with the 15 year clasp to their Queensland Police Service Medal.

‘Being a police officer is one of the most “under pressure” jobs in Queensland at the moment and our frontline has not faltered,’ Southern Region Rep Col Muller said.

‘It was really impressive to see so many family members of the recipients here today because they are often just as important and really provide the constant support and “pressure release” for our members when they head home after a challenging shift.’



# Don't break the safety chain

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# Police Recipes

## LEMON ROSEMARY CHICKEN WITH CRISPY SMASHED POTATOES

Is there a better comfort food combo than chicken and potatoes? It's unlikely, and after you've thrown in some lemon, rosemary, and a bit of butter, it's pretty much inconceivable!

This recipe is super easy and once you've paired it with your favourite veges, it will become a 'meat and three veg' staple that's bound to please.

### What do I need?

- 500g baby potatoes
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 1 lemon, thickly sliced
- 60g unsalted butter, divided
- 4 chicken thigh fillets, fat trimmed
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- ⅔ cup chicken stock
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons coarsely chopped rosemary
- Rosemary sprigs, to serve

### What do I do?

- Place potatoes and enough water to cover them by 2cm in a large saucepan. Cover, bring to the boil over medium-high heat, and cook for 10 minutes or until tender. Drain well. Transfer to a baking tray to cool slightly. Using the bottom of a glass, gently smash potatoes until the inside is exposed, but they are not falling apart.
- Next, heat oil in a large non-stick frying pan over medium-high heat. Arrange potatoes in a single layer. Season. Cook for 5 minutes each side or until browned and crispy.
- Meanwhile, heat another large non-stick frying pan over medium-high heat. Cook lemon for 2 minutes each side or until caramelised, and



transfer to a plate. Then melt half the butter in the pan. Season chicken. Cook for 6 minutes each side or until golden brown all over. Transfer chicken to a plate.

- Reduce heat to medium. Add garlic and remaining butter to pan and cook, stirring, for 2 minutes or until garlic is light golden. Add stock and lemon juice and bring to a simmer.

Return chicken to pan and cook for 6 minutes or until chicken is cooked through. Stir in chopped rosemary.

- Arrange chicken, lemon, and potatoes on a serving platter. Spoon sauce from the pan over the chicken. Serve with your favourite steamed vegetables and rosemary sprigs.

Recipe source: Adapted from [taste.com.au](http://taste.com.au)

Do you have a favourite recipe that you'd like to share with members?  
E-mail us at [journal@qpu.asn.au](mailto:journal@qpu.asn.au)

# Flight from Paradise

By Andrea Appleton

**The nature of the role of a police officer ensures most officers never really know who they may meet day-to-day, and what stories they may hear. In Queensland, the background of officers, their colleagues, and those they come in contact with is incredibly varied, which leads to countless yarns of lives lived. This month, we have a record of a life well lived that will interest members.**

**Atray** Lakshman's story in *Flight From Paradise* is fascinating. A retired senior crown prosecutor in Brisbane, many officers will know of the cases in which he was involved, and perhaps may have been involved themselves.

Lakshman says he writes 'mostly to (his) friends, relations, children, and grandchildren', but he is selling himself short: many others will appreciate his family history in Fiji, India, and Brisbane, and the insight into the workings of the Queensland criminal justice system.

The first four chapters of *Flight From Paradise* detail Lakshman's childhood in Fiji, where halcyon days were spent swimming in crystal clear waters and eating only the ripest parts of the abundant paw-paws. He notes his idyllic childhood was not mirrored in the experience of his parents and grandparents, who toiled hard in abject poverty first as indentured Indians in a foreign land and then under the colonial system.

However, Lakshman's father was intelligent and industrious and returned to India for his education. There, he met Gandhi and Nehru and wound up in prison after the famous Salt March in 1929.

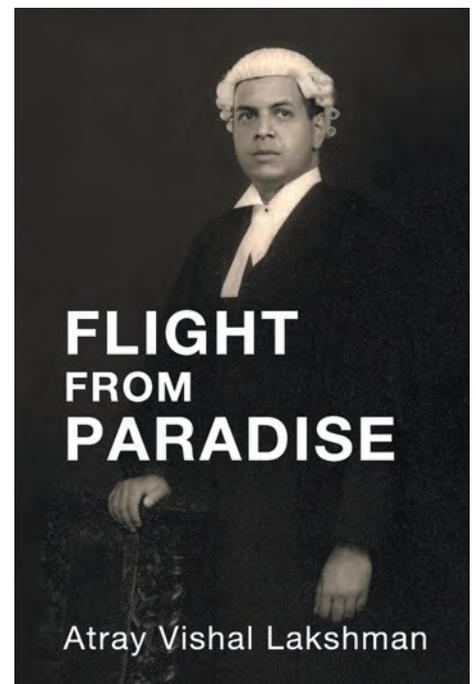
After being labelled a revolutionary he battled with the British Government to

return to Fiji, and when he eventually did he founded schools and colleges and was a member of the Fiji Legislative Council. He sent Lakshman to Brisbane to attend Grammar and the University of Queensland for his education, where Lakshman excelled and entered into the legal profession.

The latter half of *Flight From Paradise* details Lakshman's legal career, shamefully at first laced with racist attitudes towards him, and then onto details of legal cases in which he appeared.

Some members will be interested in Lakshman's discussion of the Southport Betting Case, where a number of corrupt commissioned officers were alleged to have collaborated with bookkeepers; this case was a precursor to a number of corruption trials and eventually the Fitzgerald Inquiry.

At one point, Lakshman even found himself alongside Acting Police Commissioner Gulbransen at a meeting with the Union Executive! Among others, Lakshman also discusses the cases of Sian Kingi; *The Queen v Harding* and the intricacies of calling a child who was five at the time of a murder as a witness; and *R v Weissensteiner*, which is still discussed today regarding how a judge is to properly direct a jury.



*Atray Lakshman*  
Available from Amazon  
RRP: \$22.13

Lakshman's reflections upon his life and successful career in *Flight From Paradise* are thoughtful, insightful, and unerringly entertaining. He reminds the reader of his ancestors who were indentured labourers, his ten siblings in Fiji, and his somewhat rocky path to appearing in the highest court in Australia. He encouragingly concludes that 'everything is possible'.

# Police Living

## POLIGLU – INSTANT TWO-WAY LANGUAGE TRANSLATOR

With borders starting to open up and international travel beginning to feel like a real possibility in the not-too-distant future, it's time to start brushing up on those foreign language skills ... or, if you're feeling far too rusty after the last couple of years detained on our shores, you could opt for the Poliglu, an instant two-way language translator.

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# From the Archives

## A POLICE FUNERAL, 1967



The funeral of Sergeant 1/c William Cowan Putt of Gordonvale who was killed in a motor vehicle accident near Innisfail on 30 July 1967.

Source: The Queensland Police Museum, PM 4104b

**Each month we print a photo from the archives to showcase the history of the Queensland Police Service. We are always on the lookout for any old policing photos, so please send in any you may have.**

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CLAIR, SENIOR CONSULTANT



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# Police Health



**'WHENEVER YOU USED TO HEAR OF SOMEONE WITH ASBESTOS DISEASE (MESOTHELIOMA), YOU'D THINK IT MUST BE AN OLD MINER. BUT NOT THESE DAYS.'**



*Police Health member Kathleen Drage, aged 58*

For every fibre of asbestos you see, there are thousands you don't see. They are that miniscule. I won't even walk down a street if there is a building site with signage indicating asbestos. Part of my 19-hour surgery was picking tiny fibres out of my bowel.

It is just so dangerous.

A house down the road burned down recently, which contained asbestos. Who has to turn up? Police and emergency services!

When the backpackers decide to camp in the old asbestos mine at Wittenoom, who has to drag them out? Police!

**I climbed onto the roof of a house my husband's family were renovating, to fix the TV aerial. When I came down, I was covered in asbestos dust ...**

The latency period for mesothelioma is around 30-45 years, but mine was only 15.

I was diagnosed in February 2015. They picked it up through a random pap smear. The oncologist said only 8% of cancer is picked up from pap smears, and they think this is the only time ever in the world they've picked up abdominal mesothelioma from a pap smear. So I'm rather glad I had that pap smear!

Since joining Police Health 12 years ago Kathleen has received more than \$81k in benefits.

It was recommended that I undergo a full hysterectomy. While I was under, the doctor noticed the cancer had spread. They inserted a port and I had four rounds of chemotherapy: two through the port in my stomach and two intravenously.

**"Since joining Police Health 12 years ago Kathleen has received more than \$81k in benefits."**

By then I'd done my research, so I asked the oncologist about this major surgery called the 'Sugarbaker Technique', where they remove everything they can possibly remove.

**I lost my spleen, appendix, greater and lesser omentum, half my large bowel, part of my small bowel, and my gallbladder. I'd already lost my ovaries**



**and cervix during the hysterectomy, otherwise they'd have come out too.**

They basically opened me up from my breastbone right down to my pelvic bone. The surgery took 19 hours.

I was in the ICU for two days, high care for three days, and then on the ward for around three weeks. After I initially got out, I was readmitted due to dehydration. Then I had the stoma reversal, which became infected, so it was back to hospital again.

**Soon enough my oncologist told me the cancer was growing again. The only thing they could offer me was palliative care, but I wasn't accepting that.**

I asked to be put on any trials going. Luckily there was one being conducted through our local hospital which I went on for about 18 months. The cancer shrunk quite a bit and stayed stable throughout the trial, but now it's starting to grow again. Luckily, a new trial has been announced.

**Police Health have helped in every way they could throughout my treatment. At one point I remember seeing a**



quote for what one treatment would have cost me if I was self-funded, and I thought, 'No-one can afford this'. So I'm extremely grateful to be a Police Health member.

Police Health have been fantastic, and not just with my mesothelioma journey. I went to get my glasses the other day and I told the girl I was getting back more than I thought I should. She put it through and said, 'Oh my, you're getting double back!'.

Even my physiotherapist was surprised at how much I get back, saying, 'None of my other patients get it so cheap!'.

I'm very happy with the fund. It's definitely worth the investment.



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## WELLBEING & SUPPORT SERVICES

*Supporting members and families throughout their QPS career and beyond*

Explore online mental health and wellbeing resources, information and links relevant to current and former Queensland Police Service employees and their families.

<https://wellbeing.ourpeplematter.com.au/>



# QUEENSLAND RETIRED POLICE ASSOCIATION

## QRPA NEWS – Oct/Nov 2021



### MESSAGE FROM GREG EARLY, STATE PRESIDENT

#### GETTING GOING AGAIN

All branches have survived the pandemic very well and are coping with requirements, some of which may stay in place indefinitely. Redlands and Sunshine Coast have held their luncheons in February and

May, while others have been held as follows: Hervey Bay – 22 June (attended by State Treasurer Jillian Steinkamp), Gold Coast – 13 July (attended by myself), Southern Downs and Granite Belt – 16 July (attended by State Vice President Alex Granlund), Far North Queensland – 23 July (attended by Senior State Vice President Bob Pease), Gladstone – 24 July, Van Diemen's Land – 24 July (attended by State Treasurer Jillian Steinkamp), Gympie – 25 August (attended by State Treasurer Jillian Steinkamp and State Secretary Patricia Holden), and State luncheon held at Geebung RSL Club on 13 September.

#### RESULT OF ELECTION AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 6 SEPTEMBER

State President – Greg Early, State Senior Vice President – Bob Pease, State Vice Presidents Robert Atkinson, Edward Bones, and Alex Granlund, State Treasurer – Jillian Steinkamp, State Secretary – Patricia Holden, Assistant State Secretary – Pat Philp, Welfare Officers South – Emmanuel Anthony and Ted Bones, and Welfare Officers North – Robert Atkinson, Lesley Trost, and Greg Early.

#### LIFE MEMBERS APPROVED AT THE AGM

The following members were made Life Members for having given long, distinguished, and meritorious service to the Association: John Thomas Enright (Logan-Beenleigh), Barry Joseph Vincent Downs (Mackay-Whitsunday), John Cran (Townsville), John Thomas Urquhart (Townsville), and Colin John Sullivan (Gold Coast).

#### QRPA-POLICE LEGACY ANNUAL BOWLS DAY

The 15th bowls day in aid of the Queensland Police Legacy Scheme was held at the Northern Suburbs Bowls Club at Wavell Heights on 16 July. As a result of another great day, Police Legacy received \$12,425, the largest amount raised since the days commenced in 2007. This takes the amount raised to \$98,319.84.

#### USE OF THE QPS BADGE ON A TOMBSTONE/PLAQUE

It is necessary for anyone wishing to do this to first obtain approval from the Executive Director, Strategy and Performance, Queensland Police Service, via

StrategyandPerformance.OfficerCCE@police.qld.gov.au, phone 3364 4514.

#### DETECTIVE APPOINTMENT CERTIFICATES

It is now possible to receive such a certificate. To do so, any member of the QRPA who was appointed a Detective prior to 1994 should advise the Secretary of their branch or contact the State Secretary, Patricia Holden, as soon as possible with their name, current address, registered number/s, and approximate date of appointment.

#### VETERAN/VETERAN ASSOCIATE AND SENIOR/SENIOR ASSOCIATE CERTIFICATES

These continue to be presented to members either at meetings or by being posted to them.



*John Pennisi being presented with his Veteran Member Certificate by State President Greg Early at the 6 September meeting held at Police Headquarters.*

#### LUNCHEONS/DINNER TO BE HELD

**13 October - Near North Coast** @ Caboolture Central Sports Club, Paddy Higgins 0451 434 121

**15 October - Mackay Whitsunday** @ South Suburban Bowls Club, Dennis Hansen 4957 2699

**21 October - Logan Beenleigh** @ Club Beenleigh, Col Thorne 0407 905 017

**28 October - Darling Downs** @ Toowoomba TAFE College, Mike Jordan 0438 111 423

**15 November - Rockhampton** @ Frenchville Sports Club, Dennis Smith 0408 321 416 (Dinner)

**1 December - Bundaberg** @ Bundaberg RSL Club, Rowan Bond 0409 286 483

**1 December - Townsville** @ Carlyle Gardens, John Urquhart 0407 734 497

**9 December - Ipswich** @ Brothers Leagues Club, Ken Martin 0407 345 500

## New Members

Former Deputy Commissioner (WA) Timothy John Atherton, Gold Coast; former Senior Sergeant Cameron Ivan Parr-Smith, Redlands; former Sergeant ACT Police Ian David Fox, Southern Downs and Granite Belt; and former Senior Sergeant Eric Krikor Darby, Townsville.

## New Associate Members

Jennifer Jill Hurren, partner of member George Hurren, Gold Coast; Dianne Margaret Day, partner of member Andre Jeane Wijtenburg, Mackay-Whitsunday; Dayle Bentley, partner of member Mike Sparke, Gold Coast; Teena May Fox, partner of new member Ian David Fox, Southern Downs and Granite Belt; Glenda Mary Johannessen, partner of member Brian Johannessen, Gympie; Heather Marguerite Chalk, spouse of member Trevor Chalk, Sunshine Coast; Carol-Anne Darby, partner of new member Eric Darby, Townsville; Rose Ann Swadling, former Councillor, leading citizen and supporter of Rockhampton branch; Rose's husband Graham Lawrence Swadling, former successful businessman and supporter of Rockhampton branch; and Annette Claire Willett, Associate Member of New South Wales RPA, Far North Queensland.

## QRPA Certificates

### Veteran Member

(over 75 years and 10 years continuous financial membership) Arthur James Jamieson, State; Errol Frank, Gympie; Hendrick (Henk) de Visser, Gold Coast; Giovanni (John) Pennisi, State; Neil Raymond Bradford, State; Francis Leonard Lippett, State; and Robert John Mackay, Darling Downs.

### Senior Member

(over 65 years and 10 years continuous financial membership) Patrick (Paddy) Higgins, Near North Coast; Adrian Martion, Rockhampton; Graeme Perry, Gold Coast; Stephen George Allen, Bundaberg; and Robert Patrick Joseph Good, Darling Downs.

## 90 And Over

Donald Braithwaite, Gold Coast, 90 on 22 August; Vincent Bye, Townsville, 95 on 8 August; Ailsa Collins, Hervey Bay, 91 on 30 August; Kevin Monaghan, State, 98 on 6 August; Neville Taylor, State, 90 on 24 August; Annie Vidler, Gladstone, 90 on 3 August; Ronald Youels, Gold Coast, 91 on 18 August; and Thomas Young, 93 on 31 August.

## Obituaries – May they Rest in Peace Members

Veteran Member and former Inspector Neil Maxwell Healy, 13 July, aged 83 years; Veteran Member and former Superintendent Clarence (Clarrie) William Staib, 19 July, aged 88 years; Veteran Member and former Senior Constable Tony Leonard Wynne 24 August, aged 81 years; and Member and former Sergeant 1C John James Hooper 26 August, aged 76 years.

## Family

Rita Butler, wife of the late Inspector Edmund John Butler, 22 July.

## Non-members

Former QPS officer Gregory Nevil Henricksen, 15 July; former Inspector Frederick Earnest Pitt, 19 July, aged 96 years; former QPS officer Ivan Errol Nosworthy 16 July, aged 83 years; former Senior Constable Leonard William George, 5 August; former Sergeant Emily Jane Perrin, 11 August, aged 73 years; former QPS and NT officer Noel Charles Perkins, 16 August, aged 75 years; former QPS officer Malcolm Ronald Forno, 24 August, aged 65 years; and former Sergeant William Allen Cody, 27 August, aged 92 years.

## Serving Member

Sergeant Nicholas Anthony James (Nick) Hales, 14 August.

## AROUND THE BRANCHES

### BUNDABERG

Annual general and monthly meetings held on 30 July. Bob Materna chaired the election of officers with the following result: President – Grannie Pearce, Vice President – Steve Allen, Treasurer – Julie Sharpe, Secretary – Rowan Bond, Assistant Secretary – Mary Waugh, Newsletter Editor – John Lewis, Welfare Officers – Ian Hargrave, John Read, and Mary Waugh, and Bowls Co-ordinator – Jack Field. Welfare: Mary informed the meeting that she has been in contact with Bob Hayes at Burpengary. He is going along as well as can be expected. She had also contacted John and Maree Read. John is much better now and is assisting Mary in the welfare department. She advised the meeting that Ross Green is unable to get to meetings due to health issues. Meeting held on 27 August. Welfare: Mary/Grannie reported: John and Maree Reed contacted and doing okay, Grannie Pearce had his knee replaced a few weeks ago and is going well, and Robyn Bond was undergoing physio for her broken arm which was healing well. Meeting held on 24 September. Several members attended the funeral of John Hooper on 6 September. Welfare: Bob Hayes and Keith Lipp are going okay. John Read is recovering well from hip surgery, as is Lou Pukallus from shoulder surgery. Cec Austen is going okay and his wife Hilary recently underwent day surgery. Stephen Allen was presented with his Senior Member's Certificate by President Grannie Pearce. Twenty members indicated they would be attending the NPRD service at the Uniting Church. Appreciation was shown to Robyn and Rowan Bond for hosting a BBQ at their residence on Father's Day. Congratulations were extended to John Lewis for his efforts on the branch newsletter. Rod Strong is now the branch's official photographer. Planning has commenced already for the annual luncheon on 1 December.

### GOLD COAST

The annual and general meetings were held on 7 September at the Southport RSL Club. The meeting was opened by Acting Chairman Des Sorensen on account of President Russell Robertson being locked down across the border in NSW. The election of office bearers resulted as follows: President – Russell Robertson, Vice President – Colin Sullivan, Secretary

– David McNamara, Treasurer – Mike Sparke, Social Secretary – Denise Sullivan, Protocol Officer – Des Sorensen, and Welfare Officers – Russell Robertson, Colin Sullivan, and Murray Underwood. Mike and Glenys Huddlestone have transferred to the Near North Coast branch and Richard Nikola is moving to the Sunshine Coast. The last social get together was held at the Lonestar Tavern on 30 September. Welfare: Unfortunately Neil Raward’s condition continues to worsen. Roy Graves has medical issues and was recently visited by Col Sullivan. On a brighter side regarding Neil Raward: he has been a member of the Gold Coast Bridge Club since 2000 and was made a life member in 2011. His two passions since retirement have been the QRPA and bridge. The Bridge Club recently honoured Neil by naming the main room after him, which has never happened in the club’s 58-year history. They also named an honour board after him. He never expected these honours for simply following his passions. However, he is incredibly humbled by these honours and they will be a lasting memory of him.



The Neil Raward Room at the Gold Coast Bridge Club.



The Neil Raward Masters Pairs Champions Board at the Gold Coast Bridge Club.

**GYMPIE**

The annual and general meetings were held at the Victory Hotel on 28 July. Norm Breen conducted the election of officers with the following result: President – Keith Bunkum, Secretary – Veronica Kane, Treasurer – George Moczynski, Welfare Officers – Gympie – Norm Breen and Tony Barton and Cooloola Coast – Annabell Andrews. Welfare Report by Norm Breen and Tony Barton: Frank Davey is being treated for three different cancers but holding his own. George Moczynski underwent major heart surgery on 11 August at St Vincent’s Private Hospital, Kersland and is recovering very well. Denis and Jillian Meehan were contacted and they are going well. It was resolved to donate \$400 to the Queensland Police Legacy Scheme. The annual luncheon at the Gympie Bowls Club was attended by 42 members, visitors, and guests. Past President of

12 years (2009 to 2021) Laurie Pointing was presented with an appropriately inscribed QRPA plaque by new President Keith Bunkum in recognition of his support to the branch over those years. Guest Speaker: Andrew Marnie, Bushfire Safety Officer, North Coast Region, Rural Fire Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, who informed the gathering of the practices being used in fire mitigation by combining science with the Aboriginal methods of fire used to regenerate areas. State Secretary Patricia Holden and State Treasurer Jillian Steinkamp, as well as Andy Henderson, Director of QBank, were special guests. Visitors and members came from Bundaberg, Biggenden, Hervey Bay, Sunshine Coast, and Redlands.

**LOGAN-BEENLEIGH**

The annual general and monthly meetings were held at Club Beenleigh on 15 July. The election of officers was conducted by State President Greg Early with the following result: President – Gerry Stevens, Vice President – Graeme Bensley, Secretary – Jeff Bremner, Treasurer – Col Thorne, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer – Lance Stephenson, and Welfare Officer – Eileen Riley. State President Greg Early was guest speaker. Greg provided a most interesting and informative presentation on the history of the Logan – Beenleigh branch since its humble beginnings in 2010. He espoused the commitment of the longstanding foundation Executive Committee which included such great personalities as Max Moloney, Terry Ahearn, John Enright, Darryl Murtha, and Bob Sawford. Mention was also made of Joy Moloney, who with her pleasant and welcoming personality acted as a Raffle Co-ordinator for many years. In recognition of his efforts in assisting to form the branch and for being President on two occasions, Max was recently awarded a Certificate of Appreciation. Later in the meeting Greg presented a Veteran Member Certificate to Greg Spies and a Veteran Associate Member Certificate to Anne Enright. Thank you cards were presented to the following by Greg: Greg Spies, Dale Evans, Jim Wagner, and Gerry Stevens for their generous ongoing raffle prize contributions. Meeting held on 19 August. Guest speaker: Samantha Longman, Vice President, Wildcare Australia. Samantha presented a very interesting talk on the establishment and work of Wildcare Australia within the Logan and Jimboomba area, with the organisation relying completely on volunteers. The branch made a donation of \$250 to Wildcare Australia. Unfortunately, Jeff Bremner has resigned as Secretary for health reasons. Kay Halford volunteered her services to have a ‘for sale/give away’ segment in the branch mailout minutes for the benefit of those members wishing to sell or give items away. Welfare by Eileen Riley: David James appears to have overcome his sepsis infection. Tom Van Zyl has settled into his new place and continues his rehab after back surgery. Nev Hunsley has been going backwards and forwards between QE11, Stretton Gardens, and rehab, but unfortunately at the time of the meeting he had contracted golden staph and was in Logan Hospital. Meeting held on 16 September. Guest speaker: Sergeant Gary Whitlock, Logan Scenes of Crime, who spoke of the advancement in technologies, especially in relation to fingerprints and DNA samples. Photographic officers no longer ‘lift’ latent prints left behind at crime scenes. All prints are photographed and sent to a data base. Urgent

results can be back in as little as 20 minutes. DNA matches have advanced as well, with most results back within two-three weeks instead of two-three months. The NPRD service was held at St George's Anglican Church, Beenleigh. Welfare by Eileen Riley: It was pleasing to see Andy Watt last month, and Tom Van Zyl and Geoff Brooks returning after many months of illness. Gus Lobegeier also provided an update on his recent bout in ICU following a complication with surgery. At the time of the meeting, Nev Hunsley was in Logan Hospital where he was receiving treatment for a bladder infection.

### SUNSHINE COAST

Annual general and monthly meetings held on 27 July. The election of officers resulted as follows: President/Welfare Officer – Richard Turpin, Vice President – John Walker, Secretary – David Betts, Treasurer – Roly Dargusch, and Raffle Co-ordinator – Margaret Williams. Welfare: Margaret Williams reported on Basil Glover, John Bosel, Bruce Shillington, Barrie Johnson, Tom Strain, Trevor Chalk, and Horrie Robertson. State President Greg Early presented Lyle Crompton with his Veteran Member Certificate. Meeting held on 24 August. Welfare: President Dick Turpin, who has also taken on the role of Welfare Officer, mentioned having contacted several members and advised the meeting of their individual situations. State President Greg Early advised that the membership as at 30 June had declined by 32, which was quite disappointing. The application for associate membership by Heather Chalk, wife of Trevor, was recommended for approval. Meeting held on 28 September. Welfare: President and Welfare Officer Dick Turpin spoke to Horrie Robertson (who was able to attend the meeting), Trevor Chalk, Jack Dunn, Basil Glover, Muriel Johnson regarding Barrie, Bruce Shillington, Geoff Smith, Tom Strain, and Narelle Walker, and he gave a report on each member's health. Guest speaker: Ralph Devlin, AM SC. Ralph indicated he became a prosecutor's clerk in 1970, three days after he had sat for the senior public examination. He was admitted as a barrister in 1977 and after eight years as Crown Prosecutor he entered private practice. He was elevated to Senior Counsel in 2005. He appeared as Counsel assisting the Fitzgerald Inquiry and also appeared in the Bundaberg Hospital Inquiry, the Racing Inquiry, and later the Queensland Floods Inquiry. Ralph was able to relate to court cases involving several members present. He is past President of Surf Life Saving Queensland, Life Governor of the Maroochydore Surf Life Saving Club, and head of the Sunshine Coast Chamber Music Festival.



Lyle Crompton receiving his Veteran Member Certificate from State President Greg Early.



Newly elected Executive: President Dick Turpin, Treasurer Roly Dargusch, and Vice President John Walker.

### SOUTHERN DOWNS AND GRANITE BELT

The annual general meeting and annual luncheon were held in the function room at the Warwick Golf Club on 16 July. Thirty-one members and guests attended. Evan Morgan conducted the election of officers with the following result: President – Laurie Bell, Vice President – Tim Battle, Secretary – Brian Cannon, Assistant Secretary – Monica O'Mara, Treasurer – Kristine Grayson, Assistant Treasurer – Susan Burgess, Welfare Officers – Warwick – Yvonne Reid and Monica O'Mara, Stanthorpe – Tim Battle, and Tenterfield – Laurie Bell, and Newsletter Editor – John Maher. Guest speakers were Evan Morgan, Director of the Queensland Police Legacy Scheme, who received a cheque for \$400 on behalf of the Scheme from President Laurie Bell; Dan Keating, Director of QBank; and Alex Granlund, State Vice President of the QRPA. Meeting held on 3 September at the Stanthorpe RSL Club. In the absence of President Laurie Bell and Vice President Tim Battle, Assistant Secretary Monica O'Mara was acting President. Welfare: Yvonne Reid has moved to Killarney Memorial Aged Home. Kristine Grayson has experienced a leg injury but hopefully will be fully mobile in the very near future. Maureen Love is to undergo surgery on her leg at St Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba, in November.



President Laurie Bell presenting Evan Morgan with a cheque for \$400 for the Queensland Police Legacy Scheme.

### ROCKHAMPTON

Meeting held on 4 August. President Barry Self gave feedback on the Gladstone luncheon which was attended by ten Rockhampton branch members. Welfare: President Barry advised he was still receiving treatment for a foot infection and Gloria Heywood advised she had a recent shoulder reconstruction but was still in a fair amount of pain. Meeting held on 1 September. Adrian Martion was presented with his

Senior Member Certificate by President Barry Self. Applications for Associate Membership by Rose and Graham Swadling were recommended for approval. This year's prayer vigil was held at the memorial beside Rockhampton station. There was a march and the NPRD service was held at St Joseph's Cathedral. A BBQ was held on 26 September at Cockscomb Retreat.



President Barry Self presenting Adrian Martion with his Senior Member Certificate.

### MACKAY-WHITSUNDAY

Annual general and monthly meetings held on 17 July. Doug Sologinkin conducted the election of officers with the following result: President – Robert Maher, Vice President – Doug Sologinkin, Secretary – Dennis Hansen, Treasurer/Newsletter Editor – Bev Houley, Welfare Officer – Barry Downs, Social Co-ordinator – Brian Cumming, and Raffles Co-ordinator – Lorraine Hansen. An application for associate membership by Dianne Day was recommended for approval. Welfare Report: Since the last meeting, Barry Downs had been in contact with the following members: Bob Maher, Bev Houley, Ray Hodgson, Merv Fisher, Craig Joy, Col Duncan, and Lorraine Duncan. Lorraine was recuperating at home after her surgery in the Mater Hospital in Townsville. It was resolved to make a donation of \$200 to the family of the late Senior Constable David Masters. Meeting held at the Whitsunday police station on 21 August. Welfare Report: Barry Downs had been in contact with the following members: Bob Maher, Craig Joy, Ray Hodgson, Col and Lorraine Duncan, and Bev Houley. In relation to Lorraine Duncan, she was discharged from hospital in Mackay on 6 August after having been admitted on 5 August. However, she was then recalled to hospital on the 6th (Bev Houley took her to Townsville and returned her to Mackay the following day). Member Ray Hodgson, who through ill health has not been able to attend meetings for some time, gave an account of his ongoing health problems, and overall he is very appreciative of the medical attention he has so far received. President Bob Maher presented Dawn Hodgson with her Veteran Associate Member Certificate. New associate member Dianne Day was introduced and welcomed to the meeting. Guest Speaker: Senior Sergeant Nathan Blain, OIC Whitsunday station, spoke on how the corona virus has impacted on policing, in particular policing in the Whitsundays. He said Whitsunday police carry out duties at Hamilton Island, Proserpine, and Whitsunday airports, and also supplement the Mackay District requirements. Member Steve O'Connell, who is now District Officer, Maritime Safety, for the Whitsundays area, spoke of staffing and the responsibilities of the Department in regard to maritime safety and the tracking of vessels through

Barrier Reef waters. Meeting held on 18 September. President Bob Maher extended condolences to Lorraine Duncan on the passing of Col and expressed his appreciation for the 18 members who had attended the funeral service for Tony Wynne. The Police Ode was read as a final farewell to Tony. Congratulations were extended to Welfare Officer Barry Downs on being made a Life Member of the QRPA. Members were invited to attend the candlelight vigil and the NPRD service. Welfare: Barry had been in contact with Bob Maher, Col and Lorraine Duncan, Ray Hodgson, Merv Fisher, Craig Joy, Bev Houley, and Arthur Brooks.

### IPSWICH

Meeting held on 12 August. Welfare report by Bruce Raymond and John Hawkins: Bruce spoke to Di Bird who has undergone several operations. He had also spoken at length with Dallas Hayden about the welfare of Bill, who is not travelling too well. Ron Lobwein was his usual happy-go-lucky self and would like members to make contact. He and John had been in touch with Vince Beutel, Murray Cavanaugh, and also Peter Cunningham. John had been in touch with Cec Horne who is to undergo some medical tests. Matt Dale is still battling vertigo which has forced the cancellation of the BBQ that had been scheduled for the October meeting. This will now be held at Brothers. Di's report: Some of the ladies were to meet the week after the meeting and she had spoken with Dot Hogan. Guest speaker: Andrew Gough, Secretary-Manager of the Queensland Police Legacy Scheme, provided an update on the excellent work being undertaken by the Scheme. Following the meeting, the Executive discussed a proposal to hold a fundraising morning tea for Police Legacy. Meeting held on 9 September. President Ken Morris launched the fundraising morning tea for Police Legacy to be held on 11 November. The aim of the program is to solicit funds from business houses and firms. Super Rugby League Coach Wayne Bennett will be the keynote speaker. Welfare report by Bruce Raymond and John Hawkins: Visited Cec Horne who is currently a patient in the ICU at St Andrews Ipswich. Visited Bill and Dallas Hayden at their cattle property at Somerset. Ailsa Beutel was having trouble with a cataract operation. Fred Maynard suffered bruising from a recent fall. Guest speaker: Ipswich City Councillor Sheila Ireland spoke of developments in the Ripley Valley area, of the lack of finances to support any major road infrastructure, the construction of a school on Wensley Road, and of the proposed rail link from Springfield to Ipswich.

### TOWNSVILLE

Meeting held on 4 August. Guest Speaker: Assistant Commissioner Mark Wheeler. The Northern Region extends out to Mt Isa and Mornington Island. There are about 1,100 police of which 720 are in the Townsville District. He discussed the current *Juvenile Justice Act* and the problems experienced in Townsville with some juveniles. Welfare: Welfare Officer Gordon Thomas said it was good to have Jenny Urquhart back after her problems with her back and that Brian Hooper had had attention given to the ulcer on his leg. John Pearson, member who lives at Ingham, had a couple of visits to the Townsville Hospital after having had a fall and being on the

floor for a couple of days. Meeting held on 1 September. A special welcome was given to Brian Bensley who had been unable to attend for some time owing to a broken shoulder. Member John Pearson had been in the Ingham Hospital for some time and was to be moved into the Canossa Nursing Home, Trebonne. Speaker Tony Goddard spoke on the 2021 Wall to Wall Motor cycle ride.

### GLADSTONE

Meeting held on 4 August at Eureka Care Village. Welfare: Acting Welfare Officer Darryl Saw had contacted Ann Vidler, who is doing well. Graham Cousins was presented with his Veteran Member Certificate by Brisbane Welfare Officer Emmanuel Anthony at Regis, Salisbury, on 28 July. Meeting held on 1 September at the Gladstone PCYC. Guest speakers: PCYC Manager Sergeant Dominic Richardson and Acting Gladstone Patrol Group Inspector Shaune English. The branch resolved to make a \$300 donation to the Queensland Police Legacy Scheme. Welfare: Acting Welfare Officer Darryl Saw advised that Graham Cousins is now out of the nursing home and is being assisted by family. Glen Josefski is still going well although he still has and always will have a pain problem. Acting Inspector English addressed members on matters of interest to the Gladstone Patrol Group. The NPRD service was held at St Saviour's Church. Sergeant Richardson addressed members on forthcoming improvements to the PCYC, through funding received and more services to be offered to clients. Appreciation was shown to President Glenn Churchill, his partner Sue, and Josie Rouen for sponsoring the BBQ lunch which followed the meeting.



Members and guests attending the 1 September meeting.

### DARLING DOWNS

Meeting held on 12 August. Welfare: Treasurer Dave Lynch said he had been in contact with member Ken Strohfeldt who is interested in attending meetings but would require transport. Ken transferred from Bundaberg some time ago. Geraldine Caesar, widow of former member Graham, has moved to Toowoomba from Bundaberg and she will be encouraged to attend the annual luncheon on 28 October. President John Sullivan reported on the re-dedication of the Memorial Wall and expressed his thanks to those who assisted with the event. Meeting held on 9 September. Welfare: Bob Scarff reported that Tom Tilbrook had been unwell. Alex Singleton put forward a submission regarding the possible establishment of a police reserve of former police officers so that serving officers could be assisted in times of need. The submission was forwarded to the State Management Committee for consideration. Members

were invited to participate in the forthcoming Prayer Vigil and the NPRD service.

### NEAR NORTH COAST

The annual general and the monthly meetings were held at the Bribie Island RSL Club on 19 July. Result of the election of officers: President – John O’Gorman, Senior Vice President – Allan Hawkins, Junior Vice-President – John Warner, Treasurer – Paddy Higgins, Secretary – Merv Melling, and Welfare Officer – Ray Hoelscher. Acting President Allan Hawkins welcomed member Mike Huddlestone who transferred from the Gold Coast branch. Welfare: Allan Hawkins reported on the welfare of members with no serious issues outstanding. The transfer of Associate Member Glenys Huddlestone from Gold Coast branch was recorded. Member Paul Doyle gave a summary of his years of service from Cadet to Assistant Commissioner. Meeting held on 16 August. Allan Hawkins acted as President. Welfare Officer Ray Hoelscher spoke regarding his role as Welfare Officer. Treasurer Paddy Higgins spoke about new funeral procedures, the Funeral Planning Request Form, and certificates for previously appointed Detectives. Secretary Merv Melling spoke about planning for the forthcoming luncheon on 13 October. Meeting held on 20 September at the Bribie Island RSL Club. Welfare Officer Ray Hoelscher reported on the health of member Artie Law and Acting President Allan Hawkins reported on members he had contacted. Guest Speakers: Traditional Funerals, Queensland Organ Donation, and Files/Stibbe, Lawyers from Bribie Island. A very interesting session was delivered on funeral planning, funeral bonds, organ donations, wills, and powers of attorney.

### REDLANDS

Meeting held on 27 July. Welfare: Mike Mills intends returning to meetings but not until he comes to terms with his health problems. President Paul Fitzpatrick presented Merv Collins with his Veteran Member Certificate and Adrian Hall accepted his wife Jenny’s Veteran Associate Member Certificate. AGM: Adrian Hall conducted the election of officers with the following result: President – Paul Fitzpatrick, Vice President – Paul Oates, Secretary – Eddie Gallo, Treasurer – Bernie Coleman, and Raffle Convenor – Pat Priddle. Meeting held on 24 August. A graveside funeral service was held for Clarrie Staib on 1 August and was attended by Eddie and Sharon Gallo and Bernie and Laraine Coleman. A memorial service was held on 23 August and several branch members and serving police officers attended. Clarrie’s son, serving officer Graham Staib, has been invited to keep in touch with the branch. Secretary Eddie Gallo gave the meeting a comprehensive report on planning for the National Police Remembrance Day service which will be held in the auditorium of Faith Lutheran College. Prior to the service on 29 September, school-based services were held on 14 September at the Senior Campus of Faith Lutheran College at Thornlands and at the Junior Campus of the College at Victoria Point. During the meeting, appreciation was shown to Eddie and Sharon Gallo for work done in arranging NPRD services in the Redlands. Meeting held on 28 September. Welfare: Mike Mills has had a rough time in recent times; he found out what triggered the problems and is

slowly getting on top of things. Cathy Orchard has been finding it difficult to get around due to a painful, deteriorating condition in her right knee. Dave Stannard is doing okay but his medical condition is getting progressively worse. Anne Stannard has had a hip replacement, is recovering well, and is fairly mobile. Guest speaker: Greg Saunders spoke on the importance of funeral planning. President Marty Fitzpatrick spoke about the success of the school-based Police Remembrance Day services held on 14 September at the senior and junior campuses of Faith Luthern College. He indicated that the services were very moving and meaningful and a plan was in place for other schools to follow.



President Paul Fitzpatrick presenting Merv Collins with his Veteran Member Certificate.



Adrian Hall receiving Veteran Associate Member Certificate for his wife Jenny from President Paul Fitzpatrick.

### FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

The annual general, ordinary meeting, and annual luncheon were held on 23 July at the Bungalow Hotel. A special welcome was given to Senior State Vice President Bob Pease and QBank Director Paul Wilson. The election of officers resulted as follows: President – Mal McKaskill, Vice President – Trevor Crawford, Secretary – Brigitte McKaskill, Treasurer – Allan Dredge, and Welfare Officer – Brigitte McKaskill. Paul Wilson spoke about the good financial state that QBank was in, how the bank was providing financial education to recruits at the Academy, and how the bank had assisted some members suffering financial hardship during the pandemic. Bob Pease mentioned how the QRPA was formed in 1932, how its structure was changed in the 1980s, and how its 17 branches function in Queensland and Tasmania. Welfare: Brigitte advised that Beryl Pocock was still in hospital and was having a body scan to determine how she was healing. Bob Adamson finally had his knee operation and was recovering well. It was great to see Vicki Crofton and Dell and Ray Stubbins in attendance. Meeting held on 27 August. Special guests: Inspector Russell Rhodes and Senior Sergeant Kyell Palmer. After the AGM in July, Trevor Crawford's

nomination as Vice President was accepted and he was welcomed to the Management Committee. Welfare by Brigitte McKaskill: Beryl's stay in respite care has been extended for a couple of weeks while her son works away. She is doing well and is enjoying visitors. Annette Willett, a former member of the RPA in New South Wales, has joined the Association as an Associate Member. Senior Sergeant Palmer said that the Covid response was still one of the biggest challenges for him and his staff, that anti-vax protests were splitting resources, that juvenile crime was still a major concern, and that domestic violence continues to be a challenge. Another speaker was Mladen Bosnic (Boz) who is heavily involved in Crimestoppers. She sought volunteers from QRPA members to assist at the music festival, Savannah in the Round, being held in Mareeba from 1-3 October. Meeting held on 24 September at the Mountain View Hotel, Little Mulgrave. President Mal McKaskill gave a special welcome to Acting Assistant Commissioner Chris Hodgman, Inspector Russell Rhodes, and guest speakers David Dini and Penny Parsons from Act for Kids. Also welcomed were Annette Willett, new Associate Member from NSW RPA and recommended new members Ken and Roey Hine, which brings the branch membership to 89 members. Welfare: Brigitte McKaskill was pleased to see Beryl Pocock and Bob Adamson in good health and attending the meeting. Acting Assistant Commissioner Chris Hodgman spoke about the mandatory vaccination requirement for all QPS employees as well as recruiting, juvenile crime, domestic violence, and school-based police officers. Guest speaker David Dini indicated that Act for Kids has six safe houses for children in the Far Northern Region and that all local residents are employed to work in the houses. Penny Parsons, the National Manager of Fundraising, Events, and Philanthropy for Act for Kids indicated the organisation had been running for 33 years across Australia with some 400 staff Australia-wide, and that children are usually identified when coming through the hospital system or when they are the subject of child protection orders.



Acting Assistant Commissioner Chris Hodgman addressing the meeting.



Penny Parsons and David Dini, guest speakers from Act for Kids.



*Attendees at the AGM and annual luncheon: Treasurer Allan Dredge, President Mal McKaskill, Secretary/Welfare Officer Brigitte McKaskill, QBank Director Paul Wilson, and QRPA Senior State Vice President Bob Pease.*

## HERVEY BAY

The annual luncheon was held on 22 June with 51 members and guests in attendance, some of whom travelled from Redland Bay, Bundaberg, Gympie, and Brisbane. Special guests included Director of QBank Andy Henderson, Superintendent Mick Sawrey, Senior Sergeant Brooke Flood, Acting Inspector Wade Lee, Senior Sergeant Tony Cole, Sergeant Lyndsay Judson, and State MP Andrian Tantari. Also in attendance was State Treasurer Jillian Steinkamp. Some 25 raffle prizes were on offer thanks to the efforts of local members. The annual and general meetings were held on 20 July. Ian West- McInnes conducted the election of officers with the following result: President – Ian Anderson, Vice President – Derek Mayne, Secretary – Gerry Walton, Assistant Secretary – Sue Walton, Treasurer – Roz Jamieson, Welfare Officers and Social Secretaries – Ian and Sandra West-McInnes. Travellers: Russell and Denise Lewis were in Western Australia at the time of the meeting. The branch made its annual donation of \$500 to the Queensland Police Legacy Scheme. A BBQ was held at Dayman Park on 17 August. Meeting held on 21 September. President Ian Anderson thanked those members who had attended the Gympie luncheon. Travellers: Russell and Denise Lewis who were in South Australia at the time of the meeting. Guest speakers: Paul Jervis and his work partner Danielle presented the group with a comprehensive rundown on their duties as Community Rangers with the Frazer Coast Council. The audience was amazed at the range of animal control issues and subsequent prosecutions experienced by the officers. The branch's wreath was placed on NPRD by Smokey Dawson. A BBQ will be held at The Pines on 19 October.

## VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

Annual general and general meetings held at Tamar Valley Resort, Grindelwald, on 24 July. President/Secretary Andy Beasant welcomed members and guests and gave a special welcome to State Treasurer Jillian Steinkamp. The previous office bearers were re-elected, namely: President/Secretary – Andy Beasant, Vice President – Ian Johnston, Treasurer – Jim Byrne, and Committee – Phil Sharpe, Jenny Johnston (Editor), Colleen Sharpe, and Craig Robertson. Andy advised that the Gretna Green Hotel had been sold by Phil and Colleen Sharpe and that he would be making inquiries as to whether the branch could meet there in future. At the evening dinner, State Treasurer Jillian Steinkamp was presented with a glass etched

with the branch's name. From Andy Beasant: Our next meeting will be at the Gretna Green Hotel on 10 October. Phil Sharpe has made arrangements for us, and this will be our opportunity to farewell Phil and Colleen from the Gretna. If looking for good accommodation in Tasmania, please give our members a call:

Wilderness Hotel – Lyall Highway, Derwent Bridge  
Dave and Carol Fitzgibbon 03 6289 1144  
derwentbridgewildernesshotel@bigpond.com

Touchwood – 31 Church Street, Stanley  
Chris and Gretta Blom 03 6458 1348  
enquiries@touchwoodstanley.com.au

### State President:

Greg Early, early.gregory1@gmail.com, 0407 960 588

### State Secretary:

Patricia Holden, zhende4854@gmail.com, 0428 455 406

**QRPA Website:** [www.qrpa.asn.au](http://www.qrpa.asn.au)

**Email:** [qldretiredpolice@gmail.com](mailto:qldretiredpolice@gmail.com)

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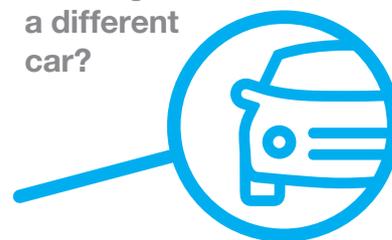
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