

# POLICE

WINTER EDITION 2020

JOURNAL



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE QUEENSLAND POLICE UNION



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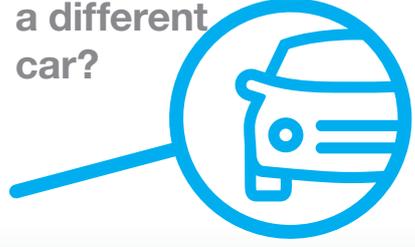
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**COVER STORY**

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**COOLANGATTA TO THE CAPE**

In early January, whispers of a virus spreading from a city in China began to pick up pace in Australia. As the month progressed, and as more people became aware of the newly-named coronavirus, or COVID-19, we here in Australia began to wonder whether we had another SARS virus or bird flu on our hands.

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

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IAN LEAVERS

## PAY

**The Palaszczuk Government has cited the financial duress of COVID-19 to legislate to defer the 2020 pay rise for police to 2021. A situation that is unpalatable for every officer in Queensland.**

It is important however to understand what the deferment means in real terms. Essentially a zero pay rise in the 2020 financial year and a 5% payrise in the 2021 financial year (2.5% on 1 July 2021 and on 2.5% on 1 January 2022). Effectively two payraises in six months once the financial pressure from the COVID pandemic has eased.

The government also guarantees that those who retire on defined benefit over the next twelve to eighteen months are paid out at the rate that would have been applicable under the EBA. It would also include that reclassifications/ paybands with the agreement such as the new 4.7 paypoint would also still be put in place.

The QPU has been in talks with all sides of politics reminding them of the importance of maintaining the integrity of the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA).

The LNP through media statements has now confirmed their support for the EBA police signed last year and opposed a wage freeze for frontline public servants. They are now publicly stating that 'a deal is a deal and should be honoured'.

LNP Leader Deb Frecklington is quoted as saying "Labors changes tear up legally binding agreements and trash the principles of a good faith enterprise bargaining process." At the time of writing Ms Frecklington has not discussed this with me in person or detailed what will happen when the current EBA expires in June 2022.

I'm pursuing answers from Shadow Police Minister Dan Purdie on where the LNP stands on introducing retrospective legislation to backdate the EB payraises to July 1, 2020 as the Opposition has not confirmed their position on this.

I'm committed to working with all sides of politics to secure the best deal possible for our members.

## NUMBERS

There's no better time than in an election year to get clear commitments concerning police numbers. However well outside of any election cycle I have consistently stressed we need an extra 1,650 new additional police in Queensland with at least 300 in investigative capacities and an extra 100 in child protection roles.

These numbers are derived from listening to frontline police and understanding the work loads and demands all our members are under. The QPU Executive can see significant value in adding another 150 police into forensics, road policing and prosecution sections.

Education and training requires another 100 officers to keep our police upskilled and prepared to be the best they can be embracing adaptability.

100 new officers also need to be assigned to each District or Division including Cairns, Townsville, Mackay/Rockhampton, Bundaberg/ Maryborough, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba/Ipswich, North Brisbane, South Brisbane, Logan and Gold Coast.

These positions need to also be supplemented with another 350 civilian roles such as watch house officers, PLO's and TIPSO's.

## BORDER CLOSURE

Police have been the backbone of the compliance operation, working through extreme weather, insect swarms and trying circumstances all while maintaining compassion and professionalism.

We have proved to be adaptable and prepared to accept rapid change. The job done by the frontline police and support services has been outstanding. Due to the sheer expanse of the borders and restricted areas operation, the QPS has had to draw from all areas of the service to keep the compliance checks in place around the clock.

There has been a necessity in Queensland to set up separate exclusion zones to protect our vulnerable indigenous communities. Finding the right timeframe to re-open free access to these areas needs to be a careful balance something I'm confident could be achieved through discussion and medical necessity.

Maintaining the integrity of hotel quarantine compliance looks set to continue for months as more Australians return from overseas to Queensland. The job police are doing here is protecting all Australians and I encourage you to remain vigilant about your own safety and hygiene while continuing to work in this challenging environment.

## PURSUIITS AND URGENT DUTY DRIVING

The current QPS policy on pursuit and urgent duty driving is causing a lot of angst for members. It is against everything we stand for to allow offenders to speed away, especially when their driving puts other road users at risk. The current pursuits policy makes it almost impossible for our members in Road Policing Units to do their jobs.

If you flash your lights at an approaching motorist, and that person does not pull over, it is often treated as a breach of policy to perform a u-turn and go after them, even though doing so is necessary in order to give the legally required lights and siren direction to constitute an evade.

Unfortunately in recent times, we have seen a number of police under investigation for dangerous operation arising out of simply performing their sworn duties. We have seen some officers charged, and the QPU is supporting those officers through the court process. I am aware of many more officers who are subject to disciplinary action for breaches of the pursuits and urgent driving policies.

I reiterate with members to not engage in pursuits or even extended attempts to intercept. Members need to be very careful when engaging in urgent duty driving as well and ensure they comply with the policy. I can assure you it is not worth the grief or anguish criminal or discipline investigations will bring you for simply doing your duty.

I am aware there have been some senior officers who actively encourage operational staff to apprehend particularly prolific property offenders at any cost; this include tactile support for pursuing them. Unfortunately when things go wrong, those same senior officers are nowhere to be seen.

I am committed to seeking reforms to the pursuits and urgent duty driving policies. Police need the legislative protection to perform their duties in line with public expectations.

Community members, particularly those in the Northern parts of the State, are becoming increasingly frustrated with the out of control juvenile crime.

They have had enough of their homes being broken into and their vehicles being stolen. They are sick of juveniles hooning around their streets in stolen vehicles. They are fed up that police merely have to look on and wave good-bye to such offenders as they go flying past marked police vehicles.

I say enough is enough. The time has come to extend the s144 defence to include dangerous operation where officers are performing their duties. The time has come for legislative reform of the evade police offence and additional steps for holding fleeing drivers accountable.

Dangerous operation of a motor vehicle must be amended to also include an additional circumstance of aggravation for being involved in a police pursuit. Where a crash occurs as a consequence of a pursuit, then the offending driver should be deemed to be responsible for it, even if it was not directly the result of that offender's driving.

Where a member of the public, a passenger in the evading vehicle, or a police officer is killed because of a pursuit, then the offending driver should be facing murder or manslaughter charges.

### JUVENILES

Every police officer in recent times has spoken about the frustration of dealing with juvenile offenders, including the feeling of being let down by other government departments and the judiciary.

This again flared with the deaths of four teens in a stolen car in Townsville in June.

Hopefully this tragedy can be the catalyst for the community to end a generational cycle of criminal activity and a belief they can keep re-offending without punishment. I think it's maybe

time to seriously consider a process of modifying welfare for families who refuse to act responsibly and don't take reasonable action to stop young offenders stealing cars.

It's time the parents and guardians of these juveniles are answerable for a lack of clear morals and supervision.

The community can no longer dance around the issue claiming cultural issues make it hard to take action. I plead with you to step up, have the tough conversations required and hopefully the cultural bond you prize so highly can be used to stop juveniles from offending in the first place.

Our members are doing the job to the best of their ability, using every legal tool available but other government departments also need to do the job they are paid to do.

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Just about every police officer I speak to working on the frontline has a concern about domestic violence and the time it consumes in every shift.

The QPU has been working closely with the Police Commissioner to offer realistic practical solutions to reduce the time to complete paperwork and documentation around DV applications. It is a real strength of our operational membership offering options that may work to improve this process for police across the State and enhance public safety standards.

The good news is there could be some significant workable changes on the horizon. Existing body worn cameras could be used to obtain witness statements reducing the confronting need for many victims to relive traumatic moments for statements. There's also consultation around Police Protection Notices (PPN) becoming a temporary order.

The changes would need Legislative Amendments to be completed with the co-operation of the Department of Communities and the Attorney General

but it is at least at the discussion phase thanks to the input of QPU members.

### RETURN TO SERVICE

The QPS has in recent times received a number of inquiries of former police wanting to return to duty in Queensland. There's plenty of reasons that make service in Queensland attractive but the current process seems to have a number of faults.

I recently spoke with a Constable now serving in Longreach who effectively completed 12 months at the Academy after withdrawing part way through his original course due to a family emergency. His previous training cycle wasn't credited at all.

There are also numerous examples of former police wanting to return after a few months separation and looking down the barrel of a complete training cycle at the Academy.

QPU Executive members Shane Prior and Shayne Treasure are contributing to a review of the process and making some worthwhile submissions about the impact the policy could have on the rank structure for former officers re-starting their police career.

### BLENDING SKILLS

An unexpected benefit of the COVID response has been the move to send many police from the South East corner

to some of the most remote areas of the State.

As an example, on a recent visit to Mount Isa I spoke with investigators from State Crime returning to uniform to work alongside local officers to conduct business as usual calls for service. Both groups have learned a lot from each other.. junior officers absorbed techniques that come from experienced officers.

The locals also gave some of the coast dwellers an insight into rural policing skills. The complexities and challenges first response police shoulder in rural and remote postings I'm confident will remain vivid for many of the crime squad crews for a long time to come.

### OUTBACK

Living and working in the outback is an experience many officers currently stationed there believe has been one of the best kept secrets of the job. I recently was at stations across Southern, Central and Northern Regions including key towns of Longreach and Mt Isa to small single officer patrols at places like McKinlay, Bedourie and Birdsville.

The overwhelming vibe was the officers who immersed themselves in their communities really loved the job and could see positive results. Many of the projects they have established have

been self initiated and have generated an unparalleled level of respect for officers.

In the case of Winton a community wide change in attitude to domestic violence has come about from local residents now feeling secure enough to report offences to police .

Some of these remote stations have a patrol area close to the size of Tasmania. It's pleasing to see they now have fit for purpose vehicles after the QPU successfully lobbied the QPS to provide vehicle upgrades.

Police housing is also rapidly improving through strong work from QPU representatives on the housing committee. Suggestions from frontline police have resulted in local contractors successfully bidding for renovation works, already we've seen in one area 5 kitchens upgraded when past practices would've been lucky to complete 3 projects.

Stay Safe.

### Ian LEAVERS

General President & CEO

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## MICK BARNES

### AGILE AND DYNAMIC

**Agile and dynamic are two terms that could best describe the response of our members during COVID-19. From the outset, when I first attended the Strategic Police Operations Centre (SPOC) with our Senior Industrial Officer Steve Mahoney, planning was proceeding at a fast rate.**

That planning cell soon turned into an operational function, with officers being stood up all around this great state of ours in varying roles, and often outside of their normal core duties. It became evident that the effect on our community was going to be severe: not only on social restrictions, but also economically.

We first heard of the QPS's philosophy of Compassion, Communication, Compliance (in that order) while we were in the SPOC, only to hear it repeated many times out on the street by venue commanders in briefings to officers.

SER Executive Member Andy Williams and I were able to visit and overview the setting up of the very first night's border operation on the Gold Coast. We watched and spoke with members as they used their initiative in engaging the travelling public and transport industries as they entered Queensland.

This operation was of course repeated around our state, with static sites set up along the New South Wales and Northern Territory borders, and mobile patrols covering South Australian access roads. The resourcefulness of our members in

acquiring logistical support for these border operation sites is nothing short of remarkable.

Thanks to Chief Superintendent Mark Wheeler who with Senior Sergeant Bradyn Murphy and so many others put together the safe processes and facilities for those on the Gold Coast.

This was just one site—albeit the largest and most publicly visible—and this practice was replicated in southern, far western, and northern Queensland, where the added adversity of remote outback isolation was also faced.



*The first border operation on the Gold Coast.*



*Bio-security deployment at Normanton.*

Human resources (aka our members) was probably the greatest challenge for planners. Yet our members stepped up to the plate and were deployed around the state in roles never experienced before.

Many members from Headquarters and State Crime Operations Command found themselves operating in locations battling flies, isolation, and climatic extremes from day to night.

Special consideration was also made for the protection of our vulnerable communities scattered around the state. This was on top of policing's BAU activities for our stretching of the thin blue line.

It should be noted that during any critical emergency or incident, it is always the police who are able to take command and facilitate whatever needs to be done. I hope this very point is not overlooked by our political

pending court matters, however their passing and isolation restrictions severely limit the ability to grieve as a cohort.

Stay Safe.

**“It should be noted that during any critical emergency or incident, it is always the police who are able to take command and facilitate whatever needs to be done.”**

masters. Health authorities were crucial in this event, however the co-ordination by police was second to none.

Congratulations to you all.

**Mick BARNES**  
General Secretary  
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**“The QPU’s response to COVID-19 was and is to not only ensure a continuation of industrial and legal services to BAU operations, but also specifically respond to matters as they arise from COVID-19 operations.”**

The QPU’s response to COVID-19 was and is to not only ensure a continuation of industrial and legal services to BAU operations, but also specifically respond to matters as they arise from COVID-19 operations.

Initially, leave entitlements played heavily on our Industrial Team as members returned from leave and were required to self-isolate, including some who had tested to COVID-19 and successfully recovered, returning to full duty. Because many resources had been diverted to COVID-19 duties, changes to MDP were also negotiated.

Having an appreciation of the machinations within the SPOC and each District’s Disaster Management Centre, respect is one word to describe my opinion of everyone’s response to COVID-19. This includes everyone at the QPU who operated remotely during the time of isolation, providing members with a seamless advocacy in their roles.

#### ISOLATION RAMIFICATIONS

In most situations we were all compliant in self-isolation, however that brought about some unfortunate ramifications: namely, the inability to celebrate and commemorate the commitment and lives of so many who either retired during COVID-19 or sadly lost their lives through tragic events.

Thank you and best wishes to those who retired after giving their professional lives to policing. This includes QPU Life Member Mick Despot from Tannum Sands, Barry Horne from Redcliffe, and Bill Applebee from Bundaberg. Each contributed to their workplace in their own special way. I wish you and all those retiring the very best into the future.

We also saw the tragic deaths of our four Victorian colleagues and one South Australian who fell victim to indescribable traffic-related incidents. I choose my words carefully with





SHANE PRIOR

### SERVICE ALIGNMENT PROGRAM

**In the coming weeks you will start hearing a lot more from the Service regarding the 'Service Alignment Program'. In charge of this mammoth project is Assistant Commissioner Cameron Harsley, who has committed to consultation as a key focus between himself and the QPU Executive. I think it's fair to say there is still a significant hangover from the membership as a result of the organisational restructure ordered to fit a desired end game in 2013: it was a top-down process that the membership had no hand in developing. In an effort to avoid the farce of 2013, a bottom-up consultative approach has been pushed to ensure our members are involved in the development of a structure they are proud to work in.**

Consultation with the Union on this project has been acceptable. Briefings have been regular, and ability to contact those managing the alignment project to solve arising issues has been excellent. It's an example that some should take a lead on ... but more about that later.

It's a shame scuttlebutt by a few has managed to feed a narrative of anxiety within some sections of the Service. If you have heard rumours, seen e-mails purporting to be the actual direction of the structure, or diagrams of the new structure, please just disregard them. They are inaccurate.

A key focus of the program is to look at centralised and de-centralised models, which will see our members at Headquarters and Support Region being directly affected by many of the proposed changes. A number of our groups and units were centrally focused from 2013, with some great and some not-so great outcomes as a result.

Sections like Intelligence, Road Policing Command, and Major Organised Crime (MOCS) units (including MOCS Rural) are directly in the program's focus, with consultation already commencing to determine whether they should stay centrally managed or be sent back to the regions.

To put it simply, our MOCS units perform important and essential work in the region that they are imbedded in,

with a centralised mission and focus. Our members in these areas want to stay centralised, and their performance justifies the need to maintain the status quo and keep these units reportable to State Crime Command.

Intelligence and Covert Services Command have a double hit with the complete disbandment of their command. The Covert Services arm is being absorbed into Operational Support Command, while Intelligence Services are merging with State Crime Command to form the new Crime & Intelligence Command.

Not only do this cohort of our membership need to contend with their regional intelligence offices being absorbed back into the regions in which they are based, but they need to again be restructured into a new command.

The Crime & Intelligence Command Project has kicked off, where I have been assured that nothing has been excluded in terms of planning and consultation. Your ideas are very much sought.

Within all of this restructuring comes the added complexity of what is going to become of the Organised Crime Gangs Group and Taskforce Maxima, the unit tasked with the policing and enforcement of some of society's most dangerous criminals in Outlaw Motorcycle Criminal Gangs (OMCG).

Make no mistake, OMCG members show blatant disregard for the law and

turn to any means necessary to execute their objectives. They also ensure their conduct is no secret to the community.

In the January/February edition of the Journal I spoke of our dedicated OMCG unit, Taskforce Maxima, as being the only unit in the country whose power relies on its seconded strength to achieve their remarkable objectives.

This is a model that has been in existence for seven years. The unit currently consists of a staffing presence of about two thirds seconded officers. Junior in service, the seconded officers undertake the bulk of Maxima's enforcement actions under the supervision of permanent SCC detectives.

The current model of Taskforce Maxima is widely recognised as successful in countering OMCG activity and contributes greatly to the arrests and seizures relating to organised crime currently enjoyed by SCC.

As also outlined in the last edition of the Journal, the secondees relied upon so heavily for Maxima to fulfil its functions are denied training afforded to permanent PCs, have no certainty of tenure, and are arbitrarily returned to their home stations on an ad hoc basis.

The article I wrote received uniform agreement from across senior police management, the media, and politicians that the existing situation is unfair and untenable, with many reaching out and

agreeing that the situation is becoming ridiculous and needs to be remedied quickly.

The reality is that unless secondees are replaced, officer for officer, with permanent positions, Maxima will become impotent as an enforcement unit.

Any suggestion that a 'scale of economy' can be reached by amalgamation into a proposed 'Drug, Major Crime, and Gangs Group' is plainly wrong. Fewer officers focused less of the time on OMCGs can only mean Maxima will have an impaired ability to do its job.

Queensland led the country in its enforcement of OMCGs with a dedicated, first-of-its-kind unit in Taskforce Hydra in 2006, but if this latest suggestion is realised (plainly due to a lack of appropriate funding), Queensland will suddenly become the only state without a dedicated unit targeting OMCGs.

It is also both strategically and operationally misguided to conclude that because all three units often deal with drugs, they can all be amalgamated into one drug unit. OMCG policing requires OMCG knowledge and rapport, and continual pressure, to be efficient.

In addition, and as mentioned earlier, our satellite MOCS offices are being reviewed as to the need to remain under the central control of State Crime. Groups like Gold Coast MOCS, which operates in the mecca of OMCG activity on the Gold Coast, would be further hamstrung through a de-centralised model that would see the unit reportable to the region, curtailing any real hope for synergy.

Naturally so, our members' roles will gradually be eroded due to being a Regional resource with less independence, budget, and autonomy to conduct their core duties to focus on the dismantling of OMCGs. This is an interesting proposition for members of our Gold Coast community to digest.

Ultimately, like child abuse, the Gangs Group environment is particularly susceptible to public perception and fear. Any serious incident involving OMCGs is invariably prominent in the media.

This area requires ongoing commitment and can quickly develop political and organisational pressures. The Greenfield Report, which is the catalyst for the recent QPS review, did not identify any issues with Taskforce Maxima or State Crime Command more generally. There is no compunction to change!

To ensure my position is crystal clear: our members at Taskforce Maxima do an amazing job with incredible results, and the staffing numbers they enjoy appears to be what is needed to effectively complete their role.

What's not fair is the manner in which regions are drained of their staff so that these essential policing duties are executed, or how the secondees are treated differently to other secondees within the Service, or how our politicians refuse to properly fund and make this essential unit a fully permanent unit within the Queensland Police Service.

Dare I say it, but could this be seen as an opportunistic strategy to kill two birds with one stone? Is it a slight of hand trick that the QPS has had to resort to: absorbing Maxima into the Drug and Serious Crime Group so as to alleviate the lack of dedicated funding issue and secondment issue all in one hit? It certainly doesn't seem right to me, and questions need to be answered.

A state election is to be held in the latter half of this year. New policies and promised funding will be announced by both sides of politics, as is traditional at this time.

It seems it would be appropriate to stall any decisions now until the QPS knows what the intentions and priorities of the next Government will be. That being said, our leaders at 1 William Street need to decide. Where do they stand on OMCG crime in our communities?

## STATE CRIME COMMAND AND COVID-19

Our members from Headquarters and Support Region have frequented all areas of the state in response to COVID-19. I'm hearing a lot of positive stories from our members who have been travelling to the very far corners of our state to assist in border closures, general duties, investigative activities, and quarantine checks.

I got my chance to head far north in June, and I enjoyed seeing how our members do their job outside of the south east corner.

## OUR PEOPLE MATTER

Does anyone know what has happened to the Our People Matter strategy? I get that our organisational focus has somewhat shifted as a result of COVID-19, but isn't it at times like this that we need Our People Matter to be front and centre in everyone's minds? Just the other day I received an enquiry that read, *'Is Our People Matter still operating? We have been trying to contact them for months with no response.'*

Since the initiative was taken over by 'Communications Cultural Engagement', the strategy no longer seems to be a priority, and meaningful engagement with the QPU has really gone by the wayside.

By 'meaningful engagement' I mean being actively involved in developing and executing direction for a program the QPU took to the Service, rather than being briefed about what the Service is doing after a decision has been made. Now more than ever, life needs to be breathed back into this strategy that was making headway within many areas of our organisation.

## Shane PRIOR

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**MARTY BRISTOW**

## **CORONA EXPOSURE**

**We are at the halfway point of 2020 and QPU Executives, branch officials and full time officials have been extremely busy, particularly in the Far North with a number of critical incidents at Kuranda and Stratford, significant works and renovations at Cairns Police Station, along with repairs to the McLeod Street complex and Ethical Standards Command and Juniper also paying us a visit or two.**

The arrival of the Coronavirus, plunged not only Queensland, and Australia, but the world as we know it into absolute turmoil.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put massive strain on the staff and resources in the Far North. Indigenous communities closed off, vehicle check points closing off Cape York at Mount Carbine, Weipa, Chillagoe and Kowanyama.

A vehicle checkpoint staffed by police 24/7 at the base of the Yarrabah range, ensuring the safety of the vulnerable persons within. There is also the responsibility of ensuring compliance of persons under quarantine and security at airports.

## **The Corona Virus seems to have caused a significant drop in crime figures: assaults have dropped 24%, break and enters down by 25% over the past three months.**

The Corona Virus seems to have caused a significant drop in crime figures: assaults have dropped 24%, break and enters down by 25% over the past three months.

What is certain when many restrictions are eased, Cairns District will need more police on the ground to check on offenders to ensure they comply with bail conditions, investigate property offences, unlawful use offences and offences against the person, not to mention the

potential increase in family violence and other disturbances.

Many people within our city, towns and remote communities will have been and still will be dealing with stressful situations: such as loss of employment, loss of income, isolation, loss of business and more.

Consideration needs to be given that Cairns is moving into peak tourism season from May/June through to October/November and whilst attendance of the usual overseas tourists flooding our region will be zero to nil, it could be expected if the borders remain closed that many

Queenslanders will make their way North for holidays.

There is a necessity to be prepared for a potential surge in traffic and tourists Cairns will experience as many people head out to explore Cape York. What can be readily identified is, we do not have enough staff to deal with the enormity of it as well as continue with business as usual.

Social distancing, isolation and quarantine assisted us to continue

on with BAU. If it hadn't, then there would've been considerable issues with respect to staffing for frontline first response policing.

To keep the Far North going it required numerous staff constantly rotating from Brisbane to assist with running the COVID virus response and also Australian Defence Force personnel to assist with vehicle check points.

What we do know is, that to police the Far North effectively, the model used for the ratio of police to members of the community of approximately one police officer to 650 members of the public is not effective as it just doesn't cut it with the distance and or the weather that can turn nasty up here during the cyclone season.

Cairns General Duties staff are the feeder pool for relieving and back filling to police stations across Cape York and its communities.

Whilst this is allegedly planned for in the staffing model, there needs to be a significant increase to ensure that local police are still able to carry out their frontline first response responsibilities and requirements, whilst also effectively providing proactive policing to Cairns and the rest of the Far North.

Also, the practice of putting First Year Constables against position numbers needs to stop! FYC's are not permanent staff, and end up having to work in other areas around Cairns. This effectively creates a vacant

position when the FYC is working elsewhere and receiving training in areas such as TCS, Road Policing Unit and compulsory training days.

To be extremely blunt, we need more staff, more first response police in Cairns District. I am certain that there will be comments in relation to the cost for these positions and the current status of debt Queensland has incurred during the pandemic, however the fact is in the long term providing Cairns with more police will save the state government a significant amount of money.

More police means criminals are kept under control and prevented from committing offences, reducing costs incurred for investigation, prosecution, and potentially incarceration.

I believe we urgently need approximately 40 additional general duties staff in Cairns. These additional positions will enable more effective

policing to the Far North District, from Cairns to Badu Island in the North, West to Kowanyama and Cardwell to the South.

Most of all, these additional numbers will ensure the frontline staff needed to fill areas such as Cairns Station Watchhouse, Property Crime Unit, and rotations to Cape Stations can be maintained.

We need these additional staff, and we need them ASAP. There is another benefit employing more police... I will help reduce the State's unemployment, even if only by a small amount is a positive.

Finally, during these 'interesting times' many people will be subject to massive amounts of strain, stress and burden, including our families, colleagues, neighbours and community members. If you see someone struggling, lend a hand, offer assistance, be a friend. You will be

amazed at how good it makes you feel inside when you assist someone who appreciates it greatly.

Be safe.

I'm available 24/7.

## Marty BRISTOW

Regional Representative  
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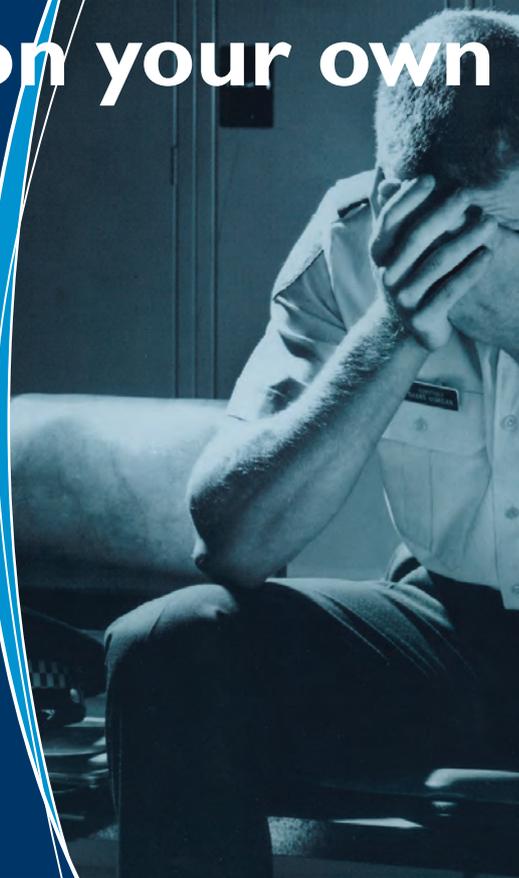
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**PETER THOMAS**

## THANK YOU

**Drought, flood, cyclone, bushfires, and now COVID-19 ... throughout all of these events, you have done us proud.**

Over the past few months I have seen our members in some of the most isolated and remote locations get in and get the job done under some very demanding conditions.

The border closures and the establishment of bio security vehicle checkpoints to our vulnerable communities was established very rapidly and with minimal infrastructure.

Ian Leavers and I have attended all checkpoints outside of the bio security areas on two occasions and have spoken with many members performing these duties.

We also had the opportunity to speak with members who are conducting business as usual in a number of our

more remote locations to support our members.

Our members are positive and enthusiastic in assisting with these duties, even though there has been extreme heat, a fly plague, then a gidgee bug plague, and then extremely cold desert conditions.

perform duties in the middle of virgin scrubland with no running water, toilet facilities, communication, or building structures in place for protection from the elements. But you did it with no fuss and extreme professionalism.

It has been a pleasure visiting and talking to our members who are so

**“Our members are positive and enthusiastic assisting with border and bio security checkpoints, even though there has been extreme heat, a fly plague, then a gidgee bug plague, and then extremely cold desert conditions.”**

I want to offer a huge thank you. It is a huge ask to have people leave their own families for extended periods to

positive performing duties in these areas in these conditions. I am sure most people I spoke with had inhaled





and swallowed more than one fly, and most members were bitten by more than one gidgee bug.

An even bigger thank you to everyone who continues to work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure our members are provided with everything possible to make their duties as comfortable as possible. Every request that could be met was met, and I sincerely thank you.

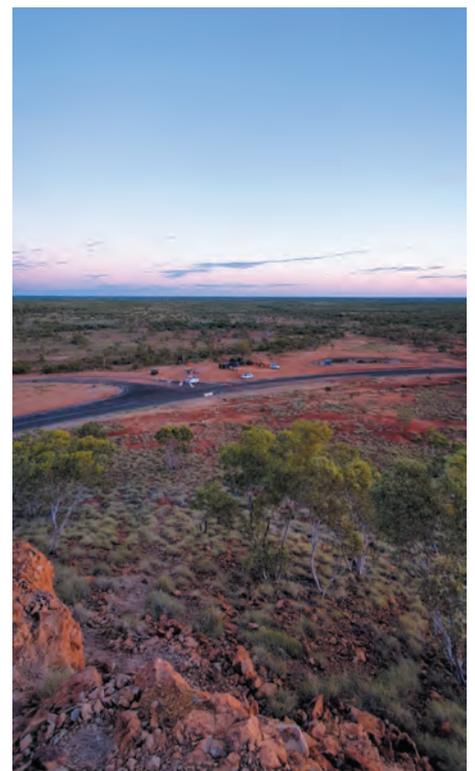
I have the privilege of travelling to most of these beautiful, isolated places at least twice a year to visit our officers.

I never get bored of the sunrises and sunsets, and it is fantastic that so many of our people who would not normally have this opportunity get to experience these remote locations at the best time of the year.

It is unknown how long this response will be required, but we, as your Union representatives, will continue to attend these locations on a regular basis to ensure that you are being supported.

If you ever need assistance or advice, please do not hesitate to give me a call.









**BRANCH MEETINGS AND WELFARE**

With the current restrictions on the number of people who can meet in one place at the same time, we are not encouraging traditional meetings. If you have issues that need to be raised, please contact either your local Branch Official, me on **0409 591 270**, or our Union full time officials on **3259 1900**.

As a response to the many emotional and financial demands that have impacted our members and families, we have introduced a Member Assistance Liaison to provide a triage service for member and family support. Please telephone **0429 954 210** or e-mail **support@qpu.asn.au**

As always, if I can provide any support or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Until next month, please take care of yourselves, your families, and colleagues; please take time to reflect on the good things; know that we are here to support you; and remember: no Union rep = no interview.

**Peter THOMAS (Thommo)**  
 Regional Representative  
 Northern Region  
 QPUTreasurer  
 0409 591 270  
 pthomas@qpu.asn.au





**KEV GROTH**

### **FAREWELL & WELCOME**

**We recently said farewell to Assistant Commissioner Clem O'Regan who has headed to Brisbane to finish out his distinguished career in the COVID-19 support team. I would like to thank Mr O'Regan for his time here in Central Region, he was always available to listen and assist with members issues and his vast knowledge will be a loss to the Region.**

We also welcome our new Assistant Commissioner Kevin Guteridge to the Region. I have already had a couple of meetings with Mr Guteridge who is very approachable and welcoming and I look forward to building a working relationship with him to ensure the continued safety and welfare of our members.

### **INJURY MANAGEMENT**

This is an area of great concern for me still. The Injury Management area is vastly under resourced and overwhelmed with cases. As a result, members are falling through the cracks and issues are not being dealt with in a timely manner.

Members are waiting up to 6 weeks to get suitable duty plans developed while on restricted/light duties with some even being cleared to return to work with no engagement at all during their stint off the road. It seems ludicrous to me that in the Year 2020 we are in this position. How has injury management got to this point? Members physical welfare is being neglected and I'm very concerned about their psychological welfare. It is disgraceful!

I'm calling on the Commissioner to urgently overhaul this section and give it the staff it needs to look after our most valuable resource.....THE PEOPLE!!! Commissioner your staff are breaking and need your help. PLEASE FIX THIS NOW before we see the unthinkable and unmentionable results of neglecting serious mental health issues.

### **FATIGUE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

By the time this hits the print the long awaited and overdue new fatigue management policy should have been

released. There are two 5Mile training videos being developed in conjunction with this policy release. Whilst I have been talking about this policy for the past year, and have been pushing for it to be released, I don't want the QPS to do the usual and push the policy out and expect OIC's and roster clerks to immediately understand and have a working knowledge of it.

I am proposing that information sessions are conducted similar to the flexible hours policy release where members from employee relations and our own industrial officers conduct member meetings around the state to answer and resolve the multitude of questions that will surround this new policy.

Understandably due to COVID-19 this will be challenging so I am suggesting we release the policy for everyone to access, but have an operational start date a couple of months down the track around August to give OIC's roster clerks and management time to digest this new information which will have significant impact on how rosters are developed and how OIC's will manage the fatigue of staff under their command.

### **COVID-19**

We have all been under greater pressure and demands due to the global pandemic. We have seen staff performing duties outside their normal areas all over the state to ensure the safety of the community and for this I THANK YOU.

Police always rise to the challenge no matter what obstacle is put in front of us. Be it large events like the Commonwealth Games, natural disasters or even a global health crisis such as this.

You should all be proud of the work you are doing, for going above and beyond once again, far exceeding the expectations of what a police role entails.

### **WAGE FREEZE**

The Palaczzuk Government is going ahead with a public service wage deferral, despite a valid Enterprise Bargaining Agreement in place.

The way it stands at the moment is a zero pay rise for all police in the 2020 financial year and a 5% pay rise in the 2021 year (2.5% on July 1, 2021 and a further 2.5% on New Years Day 2022).

The LNP now says it opposes a wage freeze for frontline public servants but has been short on details on what their position will be on reintroducing the scheduled EBA pay rises if they win Government in October.

I call on the Opposition to be honest and forthright in regards to this topic, police deserve to know where the LNP stands in regards to this.

I will ensure to keep all members updated on this important topic as soon as we get information and more importantly commitments from both sides of politics.

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  
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GRANT WILCOX

## ABSENCE MANAGEMENT

**Most of you would be aware that the QPS undertakes Absence Management meetings. These meetings historically had the local or Executive QPU rep attend, to maintain an awareness of who was undertaking sick leave across the district or region.**

Of course, the major focus was on those who had suffered significant injury or illness and were in need of support, both from the QPS and, if necessary, the QPU.

For privacy reasons (still unexplained), the QPS has backtracked on my North Coast Region and the QPU is no longer invited to attend these meetings.

I will say at the outset that I think this is a mistake as far as our people who matter to the QPU.

In making this decision, the QPS just excluded me from the monthly meetings some six or more months ago: my own Sunshine Coast hierarchy did not advise me, let alone advise me why.

**“The QPU offers unique support for members on sick leave, especially when they are unsure whether they can talk with their employer, for any number of reasons.”**

The rudest part is that it was the QPU full time officials who told me we were no longer being invited, and the very interesting reason why: the QPS has privacy concerns. Thanks, QPS, for the inclusive and transparent process.

I think the QPS has dropped the ball on this by excluding the QPU.

The QPU offers unique support for members on sick leave, especially when they are unsure whether they can talk with their employer, for any number of reasons.

Through your QPU rep, the Union can offer referral support, advice for WorkCover, discuss the process for return to work, or deal with other non-WorkCover issues. The Union can have those discussions the member is afraid to have with the QPS.

The biggest issue is the perceived (or actual) abandonment of officers on sick leave, and more than ever the QPS can benefit, rather than lose, by having a QPU rep or delegate engaged to assist in this space.

In the absence of the QPS hierarchy making a better decision regarding inclusion in the future, I’m asking that you all let me know if a member needs a call, or contact me or the QPU if you

find yourself in need of support or assistance.

### COVID-19

Thank you all for doing what is the right thing to do despite the very real risk to you and your nearest and dearest.

I’m just going to leave it at that and cross my fingers this has ended by the time you read this.

I’m also cognisant at the time of writing that a rumour has it that the

Labor Government is contemplating the deferral of our Certified Agreement and our 2.5% 1 July pay increase. There is to be no back pay, and it would be to deferring an increase to commence in 2021. It’s all guesswork at this time.

**“In the event we are getting the short end of the stick, make sure your vote counts in October.”**

The LNP wants to freeze pay increases: that means no increase, no back pay, nothing ... and you can bet they will absolutely fall short on providing 1,650 extra police as is needed.

This decision is not one the QPU wants. We want what has been agreed. I hope that by the time you are reading this, we are getting what we deserve.

In the event we are getting the short end of the stick, make sure your vote counts in October.

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  
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gwilcox@qpu.asn.au



COL MULLER

**COVID TEAMWORK**

COVID-19 saw great changes in the country border areas of our region. There has been some significant work by our officers, OIC's, and commissioned officers to put compliance checking crossings in place. Operations at the check points continued around the clock in all types of weather and I thank all involved for the outstanding teamwork, positivity, and professionalism that has been on display.



**HOUSING**

Housing improvements in the Southern Region have been incredibly successful for our members.

The 2019–2020 financial year will see Southern Region complete in excess of 70 separate projects on PSBA managed residences, improving the lives of our member tenants. These projects were funded by member contributions derived through the Accommodation Contribution Revenue (ACR).

The ACR is the funding stream delivered by the new QPS Residential Housing Policy which came in to effect in January 2019. More funding will be released by the State Housing Management Committee (SHMC) in the next financial year.



In addition to the ACR funding, Southern Region PSBA managed residences have benefitted from Special Project funding secured by Organisational Capability Command and provided to the SHMC to deliver kitchen and bathroom renovations. Eighteen kitchen and bathroom renovation projects will be completed across Southern Region by June 30.

## Strong QPU lobbying has assisted in the delivery of a new fit for purpose vehicle for the Ipswich district PLO's.

### PLO VEHICLE

Strong QPU lobbying has assisted in the delivery of a new fit for purpose vehicle for the Ipswich district PLO's.

Goodbye to the old brown Dodge which has now been moved on, and hello to a new Isuzu dual cab, covered in the QPS indigenous artwork.

The PLO's and I would like to thank Superintendent Dave Cuskelly and Assistant Commissioner Mike Condon for their support and commitment to the delivery of this new PLO vehicle.



### TEXAS IS CALLING

Here's an opportunity to be a police officer in Texas without having to leave Queensland. Texas Queensland has a population of around 800 and backs onto the Stanthorpe Granite Belt area close to the New South Wales border.

It has good schools, shopping, various businesses, and is an ideal location for a Senior Constable with a young family because the police house is next door to the police station. The station is in the heart of the township, within walking distance of shops and schools.

Other entitlements include:

- 36.5% allowance, with accommodation supplied
- Acting Sergeant opportunity when OIC is away
- Minimal night work
- Opportunity to improve communication skills by working autonomously
- Opportunity to improve investigation skills by doing jobs from start to finish.
- Employment opportunities with local businesses for spouse
- Cod fishing: Glenlyon Dam and Duaresq River
- Hospital and medical centre.



- Foodworks and SPAR supermarket
- Fully equipped gym for \$1 per visit
- Possibly the best pub in Queensland, the Stockman Hotel.

Officers are advised to research on-call requirements and discuss with family before applying for this position (research ITAS instead of QPRIME for the types of jobs in the Division).

For any further information, contact current OIC Sergeant Greg Finucane on 4667 6811.



### Col MULLER

Regional Representative  
Southern Region  
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cmuller@qpu.asn.au





**KERRIE HAINES**

**RIP**

**It is with a heavy heart that I advise of the sudden death of Sergeant Christopher Gregory of the NBD Liquor Unit. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends, and colleagues, especially Cam, Bernie, Dion, and Damien.**

**COVID-19**

**FEBRUARY**

Brisbane Region co-ordinated a response to the pandemic. I attended briefings at Alderley with members from RPC, TCS, the Railway Squad, and staff from Queensland Health. We were tasked to conduct welfare checks on residents recently returned from overseas, and to facilitate health questionnaires and self-quarantine. No-one could imagine what was to come.

**MARCH**

I was rostered on airport security, to manage those arriving at the Brisbane Domestic and International airports. We were initially a small contingent working with Queensland Health and the QFRES; at this time passengers were required to complete documents (including a history of overseas travel), undertake health checks, and listen to directions issued to self-quarantine for 14 days. Many passengers were from cruise ships, including the Ruby Princess.



*Brisbane Domestic Airport: carparks and concourse empty.*

**28 MARCH**

As of midnight 28 March, all returning international airline passengers were served with a notice ordering 14 days mandatory quarantine at a designated

place. Passengers were served with the prescribed document at the Brisbane International Terminal and then transported by bus to designated hotels.

This measure was Operation Cottonwood, based on the principles of compassion, communication, and compliance. The operation was a dedicated workforce ensuring the management of persons accommodated at four designated hotels within Brisbane, who were responsible for hotel security to ensure compliance. Persons subject to the quarantine document were not to leave their designated hotel for the duration of the period of quarantine.

The challenges for our members were immense. These persons were potentially positive cases in lock-down, and they were deprived of basic human rights such as walking to the shops. The managed persons in isolation were separated from family and friends, and some suffered anxiety, depression, and physical ailments. Some cases required hospital treatment.

On one shift our members were required to manage hundreds of people requiring exercise and cigarette breaks. They formulated rosters to accommodate everyone's needs, while at the same time complying with the directions of the Chief Health Officer. Some members provided necessities, such as groceries and newspapers, paid for out of their own pockets.

To meet the increased demands on resources, it was necessary to alter normal matrix rostering practices. We had to move rest days and change shifts, at times without 24 hours' notice, and mostly without complaint!

I'd also like to acknowledge work units across NBD and RPU who contributed to border control efforts, and first response officers attending to BAU calls for service, crime, and road safety, including patrols of fever clinics following incidents of assaults on health staff.

The professionalism, dedication, and commitment of our members in these challenging and unprecedented times is to be commended.



*Some of the crew at the airport.*

**26 APRIL**

Eight partner agencies worked side by side at Brisbane International Airport welcoming home and processing 184 Australians on a Federal Government repatriation flight from Doha, the capital of Qatar.

Queensland Government Chief Health Officer's emergency powers arising from the declared public health emergency.

It was great work by our officers, who stepped up to the challenge and worked hard.

I'm appreciative of the support given to me by Assistant General Secretary Shayne Maxwell (SPOC), Rosemary Featherstone, and the QPU Industrial team: I have bombarded them with enquiries regarding PPE, travel, rosters, leave, and health and safety.

As we move onto easing restrictions, please look after each other and stay safe.

**Kerrie HAINES**

Regional Representative  
 Metro North Region  
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 khaines@qpu.asn.au

**“Due to COVID-19 we had to move rest days and change shifts, at times without 24 hours’ notice, and mostly without complaint!”**

(The agencies: QPS, AFP, ABF, Queensland Health, ADF, Biosecurity Dogs, QAD, and Brisbane Airport Corporation.)



*In action at the Brisbane International Airport.*

**“The professionalism, dedication, and commitment of our members in these challenging and unprecedented times is to be commended.”**

Our members enforced Brisbane Domestic Airport border restrictions by communicating, being compassionate, and ensuring compliance with the

We had three passengers come through the domestic airport who later tested positive to COVID-19. This shows how dangerous our work is at the airport, and what we are exposed to, because officers talk to these people and process positive cases.



**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)





SHAYNE TREASURE

### STRANGE DAYS INDEED

**At the start of the year who would have thought the world would have been turned upside down and that shaking hands along with close human contact would no longer be the norm and that whole sections of society would be shutdown with workers stood aside? The social impact on the citizens of Queensland has been of an enormous magnitude, with everyone knowing someone whose livelihood was jeopardised in some way.**

I am proud to say that police from the three Commands I represent in the Metropolitan South QPU Region have stood up to the challenge and accepted all that it involves.

They are conducting duty around the clock keeping Queenslanders safe from the Cape to Coolangatta. A demonstration of the commitment of our members is the continual positive comments from management about the low levels of sick leave.

find this revolting and many police will feel sour about the deal.

The LNP says publicly at least 'a deal is a deal' and supported no pay freeze action for frontline public servants. However the LNP wont commit to introducing retrospective legislation to immediately reinstate and backdate the payrises if they win the election in October or what they would do with pay increases during their government.

The main areas of concern relate to rank and where an experienced former officer would restart. My view is highly tempered by the knock-on effect on morale regarding those staff who have remained in situ working away towards promotion being disadvantaged by the return of former superior officers.

The consultation period is in its early stages but I can say it has been positive and balanced in its direction.

### THE QUIET CHAT AS DANGEROUS AS EVER

'You won't need the Union present because you aren't the subject member', and, 'It's just preliminary enquiries, so just tell me what you know: it's no biggie'.

Both of these are actual statements made to members, and both are equally dangerous portals to a world of hurt if you follow the Hatter down that rabbit hole.

Firstly, if it's important enough for investigators to come all the way out to see you, why should you not seek advice from the QPU as to your legal position?

Secondly, the Commissioner's direction is always standing, so without a direction your admissions and/or omissions may come back to bite you in a big way.

If you are being approached or e-mailed for information regarding an investigation, seek QPU advice as

**"I am proud to say that police from the three Commands I represent in the Metropolitan South QPU Region have stood up to the challenge and accepted they have 'taken the Queen's shilling' and all that involves."**

### WAGES

Despite police stepping up to the challenge during the pandemic the Palaczsuk Government has opted to defer scheduled pay increases set down for police from the first of July 2020.

This is despite a legally negotiated, agreed to and contracted Enterprise Bargaining Agreement ratified in 2019.

What it means is a zero pay rise in 2020 and a 5% pay rise in two stages in the 2021 financial year (2.5% on July 1, 2021 and a further 2.5% six months later on January 1, 2022). I

I send this message to all politicians, be fair and give us what we are entitled to.

### COMING BACK TO THE FOLD

A side effect of the pandemic has been an influx of former police making application to re-join due to their new jobs being made tenuous or redundant as a result of the economic downturn.

The QPU has been working with management at PCAP to find the most equitable processes for all concerned when dealing with former officers returning to the QPS.

soon as possible so you can ascertain your legal standing in the matter.

Ensure you receive a direction for the information supplied so it is given under duress, and have a QPU or legal rep attend the interview with you.

You pay your fees, and we have the content experts, so make use of them. Do not be intimidated or beguiled into making statements that can have career ramifications of an unpleasant nature.

road due to preventable foot injuries that a pair of decent boots made to be constantly run in could have prevented.

This boot allowance is a good decision and another great benefit to come out of EB9.

**TISM (THIS IS SERIOUS MANAGEMENT)**

- 1) Deidentified application processes for a true meritorious selection process.

**“If the job has a code attached, drive to the conditions; don’t use excess speed and outdrive the security blanket of policy, putting yourself at risk.”**

**DRIVEN TO DESPAIR**

Despite previous articles on the subject and MGs flying around like dollar bills in a rap video clip, members are still driving service vehicles and demonstrating decision making processes that are leading down disciplinary pathways at a great rate of knots.

With its twists and turns, the pursuit policy is a minefield. Don’t pursue: let the helicopter watch and ground crews sting the car. Surveillance and deflation. If the job has a code attached, drive to the conditions; don’t use excess speed and outdrive the security blanket of policy, putting yourself at risk.

Sadly, victory has a thousand fathers and defeat is an orphan. If the job goes bad, just wait and see who from the QPS backs you at the Coroners or other Courts.

**THESE BOOTS ARE MADE FOR RUNNING**

Logic has triumphed. After nearly two decades, the Dog Squad have finally won a boot allowance on par with other specialist squads.

I found the prior situation breathtakingly wasteful: that we spend tens of thousands of dollars training a dog, and thousands more training handlers, only to have them off the

- 2) Fulltime Polair coverage.
- 3) A workable Injury Management System.
- 4) An urgent overhaul of psychological services.
- 5) Regional parity for staff, vehicles, and training.
- 6) Growth of staff and resources in line with population growth.
- 7) Moving our first class people out of third class facilities at the Academy.

**Shayne (Trash) TREASURE**

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Metropolitan South Region  
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ANDY WILLIAMS

### WITH HONOUR THEY SERVED

**My heart goes out to the families of Leading Senior Constable Lynette Taylor, Senior Constable Kevin King, Constable Glen Humphris, Constable Josh Prestney, and our colleagues in Victoria over the tragedy on Wednesday 22 April. They were taken from us far too soon, during a routine traffic stop. They serve as a reminder of the dangers of even routine policing. With honour they served.**

### COVID-19

When I penned my last article, social distancing was not even a concept. Covid was one of those weird diseases that would probably go the way of swine flu. We were looking forward to sending the kids back to school, and a return to business as usual at work ... and then the world changed.

**“We have proven our worth as the go-to agency when crisis calls.”**

In the last three months a lot has happened: we have closed borders, set up quarantine hotels, and enforced laws that we didn't even know existed. We have done this with flexibility and empathy and again proven our worth as the go-to agency when crisis calls.

During this crisis, I have often said that while other parts of the public service are coming up with every reason why they can't do something, the police will already be working out a way that it can. We start with a vision of success and adapt it until the mission is achieved.

As I type this, restrictions are slowly being lifted, and I know the kids will be back at school in three weeks: thank God! Still, *The Barefoot Investor* tells me that the impact on family budgets will continue to be felt for some time.

It is unlikely that employment will go back to pre-Covid levels in the near future, and this may affect your finances. We do not want you to struggle alone; don't forget the Member Assistance Liaison helpline is still available on 0429 954 210. Please call if you need a hand.

While our members have been fighting hard, either on the Covid frontline or backfilling the frontline for business as usual, members of the Government and the Opposition have turned their minds to an auction on who can be tougher on the same public service that got them through the pandemic.

Let's face it: the Government didn't come up with the plan on how to beat Covid. The public service did. The police made it work by closing borders and setting up hotels in the shortest of timeframes. All our bearded brothers on the frontline gave up their right to individual choice by shaving their beards. Our friends in Health treated the patients.

We are responsible for the success in which the Government now basks, and they seek to reward our efforts by knifing us in the back. With an election due in October and Covid hopefully on the wane, you can expect to see politicians of all persuasions out and about trying to win votes.

There is nothing they like more than getting pictures with local police. I would suggest you ask where they stand.

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Working on the frontline, I see the amount of police resources devoted to DV daily. We are the combat agency; we are the ones who go in when the respondent is swinging, and see the results of the failure of the system.

We are also the ones the system likes to hide behind when it fails. It is never those charged with making legal decisions, or those providing support services for the respondents or safety for the aggrieved.

It is the police that spend lengthy amounts of time completing the affidavits for the aggrieved, and who drag them off to a Justice of the Peace to swear their account of the abuse is true.

We are the ones who complete the Police Protection Notices that are just as much work (if not more) than the system they replaced, while those sitting around the table pat themselves on the back about 'saving police time'.

**“Police can move mountains if given the correct tools.”**

Justice continues to ignore advances in technology with body worn cameras, and refuses the ability to obtain a court-admissible statement on the camera at the time, knowing full well that due to the DV circle of

violence, the aggrieved will no doubt be loved up again when the trial comes about (or not want to work out how to pay the totally inappropriate fine from the family budget should the perpetrator be found guilty).

It is time to give police the tools to do their jobs. As our Covid response has again shown, police can move mountains if given the correct tools.

Police orders should be the norm. If we identify a respondent, we should be taking out a five-year order then and there. This order should be able to be prepared via an iPad (if available) and served via e-mail or MMS.

If the respondent wishes to contest the order, they can make application at the Court. It isn't hard: plenty of people manage to work out how to contest tickets.

The immediate reduction in the need for service of orders, temp orders, and

adjournment paperwork across the state would be massive.

I know there are discussions around moving the responsibility of DV legislation from the Attorney General and placing it under the Police Minister's portfolio. This needs to happen as a matter of urgency.

While we are on the topic of DV ... where are the Vulnerable Person Unit's staff? Logan were promised four, and the Gold Coast three. The units have been up and running for some time and are drawing staff from the frontline. But this is a flawed strategy that diverts the very staff that respond to the calls for service.

With DV stats rising, the units are important and need continuity of staff who are selected for the positions. The victims of domestic violence also deserve to know that if they go to the VPU for help, they can form

relationships with officers who will be there for the long haul.

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



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# COVID-19

By Andrea Appleton

## COOLANGATTA TO THE CAPE

**In early January, whispers of a virus spreading from a city in China began to pick up pace in Australia. As the month progressed, and as more people became aware of the newly-named coronavirus, or COVID-19, we here in Australia began to wonder whether we had another SARS virus or bird flu on our hands. Contraction rates began to rise overseas, and the first COVID-19 case in Australia was confirmed on 25 January.**

**Medical** professionals warned the virus may have more impact on our communities than those seen previously. Little did anyone truly suspect the ramifications COVID-19 would have in every community in the country.

Members of the Queensland Police Union and the Queensland Police Service began to mobilise in preparedness for the oncoming pandemic. The Strategic Police Operations Centre (SPOC) was created in early March and began to meet daily at Police Headquarters in Brisbane. Border controls along the New South Wales, Northern Territory, and South Australian borders were set up, and bio security checkpoints for vulnerable communities were promptly established. Our members were immediately sent to staff them, initially with minimal infrastructure in support. They have maintained these posts in rolling shifts ever since.

Other members of the Union began to conduct welfare checks throughout the community on those recently returned from overseas. This procedure soon evolved into rostered airport security, where our members managed the influx



of passengers returning from overseas who required health checks and direction regarding self quarantine. This procedure next evolved into returning passengers being subject to mandatory quarantine: passengers were met by our members at their arrival airport, transported to designated hotels, and supported by more of our members through a 14-day quarantine.

Meanwhile, other members right across the state were carrying on with business as usual, while simultaneously ensuring businesses and community members were complying with social distancing measures. Members faced resistance

in some quarters and were at times labelled the fun police, but found most community members sympathetic and compliant.

Overall, our members have remained positive, flexible, and highly professional as they have dealt with ever-changing rosters, competing priorities, and processes and procedures changing daily. As always, Queensland Police Service officers have taken every challenge in their stride, and have proved they can always be depended upon to help those they have sworn to serve.



Over the last few months the Union, too, has continued with business as usual, as well as providing extra COVID-19-related advice and support. Our Industrial team has supported members with a myriad of job-related queries, and a dedicated support line has linked others with pertinent information.

Our full time officials have been in continual contact with both the QPS hierarchy and with members on the ground to provide the vital link between those making decisions and those carrying them out.

Our Executive members have travelled throughout their regions and worked around the clock to check in with members and provide support and information as needed. And as always, behind the scenes, our branch officials have remained available for their colleagues.

The unsung backbone of our Union, our branch officials have selflessly provided





encouragement, advice, and a shoulder to lean on. The Journal caught up with just a few of them to see how COVID-19 has affected their colleagues and communities. We thank them, and all our tireless members, for their service.



**BOWEN**

*Craig McConnel,  
Bowen Branch President*

Bowen has taken social distancing in its stride. While it's not a thriving metropolis at the best of times, it is like a ghost town lately.

The residents of Bowen are generally onside and supportive of our efforts. Moving them on from public spaces has been about the greatest drama so far. It's difficult to get through to them that they can't enjoy their takeaway at the beach at the moment.

Over the Easter weekend, the parks and beaches were empty but the boat ramps were getting the greatest workout they've had in years. It would have been the most full the ramp carpark's been for at least five years.



Despite this, everyone seemed to be mindful of social distancing and didn't hang around near the ramps when they returned with their catch.

The greatest impact we've had is with caravans and backpackers. Bowen is a seasonal town and usually the caravan parks and backpacker hostels would be filling up about now, but with the travel restrictions, the businesses are largely empty.

For the station it means a lot of time on the road simply checking compliance by these businesses and travellers in general. This is also accompanied by the creative excuses people come up with for why it is necessary for them to travel. We are still awaiting an answer as to why one gentleman had decided the quickest way to get to Perth from Mackay was to go via Cairns.

**BRISBANE CITY**

*Matt Bach, City Branch Vice Secretary*

The city is eerie. It's the absence of people, the regular people you see every day, and their absence has revealed to us the number of homeless and indigent people that are in the background.





There are those who are always here, as well as those who have come in due to the efforts of the government, Micah, and the various social support agencies who are bringing people into the hotels in the city, to reduce the community contact issues with COVID-19.

So we have had an increased number of our client base, which has made life a little more interesting for us.

We have also undertaken the quarantine side of things: Operation Cottonwood. We've been dealing with supervising and managing people who are here on official quarantine and that presents its own challenges: ostensibly we're not incarcerating them, but we're depriving them of their liberty.

We're putting them on quarantine and then we have to attend to their basic needs and try to make life as bearable for them as we can.

Morale among members is good; we're not beaten down by it. The

ever-changing restrictions are a little frustrating, though. There are a great number of people asking us a lot of questions about what they can and can't do, and given the changeable nature of the advice we are receiving and giving, it's hard to give definitive answers.

For example, we recently received an e-mail telling us not to give advice to

businesses: if they have questions they are to ring Queensland Health.

The community has generally been compliant, but we always experience the full range. We have seen people who inadvertently breach public health directions, and we're quite happy to have a quiet word and send them on their way.





We have also seen people who flagrantly breach, and in that case we're happy enough to issue a ticket.

Some people are still seeing the city as an entertainment centre. Although they can't go out now, they're still coming to the hotels and still having hotel room parties.

We've seen 15 people in a two-bedroom apartment, which is a pretty egregious breach of the health directives, so all of a sudden you're throwing out tickets at \$1,334 a throw: it's quite extraordinary.

One group who were having a hotel party were in fact health workers, so that's pretty appalling behaviour on their part.

Although restrictions are easing, I still have some concerns. We've weathered the first wave: that was all our imported people coming from overseas and from cruise ships. The whole idea of the second wave, where it will be community contact, where it's a lot harder to trace ... if that eventuates, we will start to see the real drama.

The deaths that we've had thus far are tragic, there's no two ways about it, but when you compare this to 100 years

ago with the Spanish flu, our numbers are looking really good compared to that, and also in comparison to other countries. However, we are still in the early days.

So City station is continuing on; the nature of the jobs have somewhat changed, and we're dealing with more of our homeless and indigent people, and the associated problems with that. But morale's good: we don't have issues.

People are still coming to work, and people are still doing the job. It's refreshing that people are still happy to keep coming in and doing what they do.

### CHARLEVILLE

*Chris Proudlock,  
Charleville Branch President*

Charleville has been well ahead of the curve with regard to station hygiene mainly due to an Acting OIC and his quick response to the virus issue.

He was provided excellent advice and support from subject matter experts in our Scenes of Crime officer and one of our police officers who has a medical background.

In early February, this group of SMEs limited access to the various buildings within the complex, provided and strategically placed sanitising stations at each entry point, and advertised their reasoning by virtue of signage accessed from various COVID-19 information points.



To further keep our workforce safe within the station confines, sanitising products are placed within the day room and counter areas for use in disinfecting communal computers, and phones. Comprehensive instructions in workstation cleaning procedures have been provided for our information.

Our contracted station cleaner is using more potent products to ensure as sanitary a workplace as possible. Access to the complex has been restricted to local staff only and to visitors only in operational circumstances.

Charleville was well ahead of the QPS generally, establishing a distance barrier via the judicious placement of tables in front of the station counter itself, thereby ensuring social distancing well before it became mandated.

Similarly, witness statements and other interviews have been conducted electronically without the need for actual entry into the station, and the use of Notices to Appear in matters which previously may have resulted in detention are now the norm.

Identifying particulars were halted, except for evidential samples, well in advance of our Commissioner's direction. In short, Charleville station's response to the threat posed by COVID-19 has been innovative, comprehensive, and ground breaking.

I don't know if the responses here have been adopted by QPS management, or if they are aware these measures had been adopted so far from the capital, but most of the instructions issued from Brisbane have not required any action here as those procedures were already in place.

While country people can be quite blasé in their approach and the 'she'll be right, mate' attitude is rampant, it is good to see that most of our residents are complying with the stay at home message. There will always be those who don't, but they are few and far between here.

The number of enquiries regarding travel over Easter was astounding, but the restrictions have certainly made for a very quiet town. The absence of travellers (grey nomads) will have a big effect on the local economy, but it is better than swamping our meagre medical facilities.

Fortunately, the town of Charleville itself is yet to have a confirmed case, but if the virus does get here, Charleville police are well and truly prepared.

**CHARTERS TOWERS**

Throughout the pandemic the local community have turned to officers stationed here to seek advice on what they can and cannot do under the Chief Health Officers directions.

People wanted to comply and do the right thing, they just didn't want to be caught doing something that may

breach the rules and get themselves into trouble or be the cause of an 'outbreak'. There was an inquiry every shift either through drop in's at the station or while our crews were on the road.

Strict hygiene protocols were introduced for all our staff and the direction to shave beards was taken in stride. The shave down turned a few heads both around town, at the station and at home....

Constable Jarrod Townsend is pictured here with one of his 3 kids, who up until now had never seen dad beardless.



Constable Jarrod Townsend.

Constable Leith Couper had also been a long term beard lover, even before it was hipster. He also has three kids and they got quite a fright to see him without it for the first time.



Constable Leith Couper.

**MORANBAH**

Jared Smith,  
Central Highlands Branch President

During these unprecedented times we are witnessing changes to the way we conduct our daily lives in communities across Queensland, and Moranbah is no different.

With the restrictions on public gatherings and leaving your home for prescribed purposes only, many of the normally busy outdoor spaces in Moranbah are eerily empty.



However, it just shows that the Moranbah community has taken on board the messaging from Queensland Health, the Queensland Government, and local police.

We have been really impressed by the way the whole community is changing their regular routine and way of life to help them stay healthy and avoid the transmission of COVID-19.

We have taken some pictures of places in Moranbah that usually bustle with activity: Moranbah Town Square, the Moranbah sports ovals, the Moranbah skate park, the famous Moranbah Red Bucket, and the Grosvenor Creek rest area.

As you can see, there is not a person in sight. We all have to make changes during these challenging times: some are big, and some are small, but they are all for the benefit of our



communities, to stop the spread of COVID-19. The Moranbah community is taking this on wholeheartedly, which is fantastic to see.

Moranbah community members were not the only ones who have had to make changes over the past few months.

With the directive that all QPS officers must be clean shaven, there were more than a few fresh-faced officers at Moranbah police station. With almost half our station being bearded chaps, it certainly was a sight to behold.

Tough though it was to say goodbye to our beards, it was vitally important that we all made these changes to help us stop the spread.



In line with everywhere else across the state, our daily routines are now taken up with compliance checks and hi-vis patrols to reassure the community. We are patrolling the Moranbah airport, mine camps, and business areas to ensure compliance and reassure and assist the community where we can.

We are delighted to report that we have had no compliance breaches at all in Moranbah.

**MT ISA**

*Sean Wade, Mt Isa Branch Vice President*

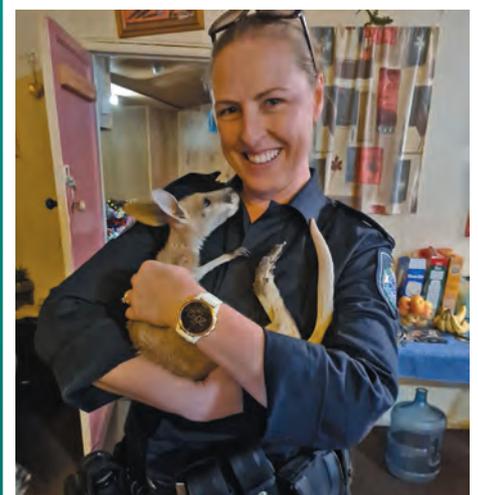
I've been involved in the planning of the border operations, and also the staffing and logistics around the biosecurity areas set up for our indigenous communities.

There are a couple of issues at play: Queensland wanting to keep the state safe and limit the spread of coronavirus from other states, and the added level of local indigenous communities wanting to secure their boundaries and ensure the integrity of their people inside the biosecurity areas.

Our people appreciate the fact that we are in a different world than we were a few months ago, in a policing aspect, and they have embraced the asks that we've made of them from a district level: to be able to secure our vulnerable communities and to also secure the state borders between Queensland and the Northern Territory, and Queensland and South Australia.

One of the complexities with regards to the indigenous communities is the preference for having police from this division involved in the security of their areas, rather than police from other regions; it was identified early on that police from Mt Isa and surrounds are less likely to have come in contact with coronavirus than police from the south east corner and other more metropolitan areas.

So we have moved our staff out to the indigenous areas and we have a rolling request for 30 staff out of Brisbane to





attend to our borders, State Mobile Patrols, and to backfill BAU in Mt Isa station.

The staff out of Brisbane are on eight-day rotations, and we have seen a real mixed crew. We have had people who have worked on TI and in other rural areas, and also others who have never been out to the west of the state at all.

So for some, it's a bit of an experience in seeing parts of the country they've never seen or worked in, including the experience of the wildlife and pests and the conditions that are simply part of life out here in the more remote parts of Queensland.

Nearly all of the officers are saying it's been a great experience: an experience they've never had before. It's challenging, and it's not easy; some of these places are very remote and the conditions aren't great. We're not exactly staying at the Versace on the Gold Coast. But most of the guys and girls are really accepting of that.

Most police will go anywhere to do anything to help anybody: that's police. They're doing a really good job, and they know it's trying times for all of us: for ourselves, and of course for other members of the community. We've still got a job, we're still getting paid to assist the community of

Queensland, and we're just having a craic.

We also now have the ADF embedded with us at various sites across the District, which is great in providing us with further infrastructure to make our workplace better. They are digging in and doing projects within the Urandangi community, such as repairing buildings and vehicles in their downtime, which is impressing the locals no end.

The District Office has been really accommodating. It all happened so quickly, the coronavirus measures, that we put people out on the borders and



in communities first, and then started putting assets around them to assist them in having a safe workplace. It's constantly evolving.

We're regularly asking for feedback about what could make the worksites better and safer: a more comfortable worksite. And then of course we're checking in about the conditions they're living in, and what could make that better. We've had a few hiccups along the way, but that's to be expected when you're setting up something this big so quickly.

There are two firm points on the borders, at Camooweal and Urandangi. There are of course more roads, and it's a fairly porous border, so we also have five vehicles travelling 24/7 along the Queensland

and Northern Territory borders to restrict the flow of traffic and to check people travelling through.

Most people are really compliant. People in the bush are fairly laidback, so they are generally very tolerant of what they have to go through. The education phase has been a success because most people are turning up at the borders with the relevant paperwork they need.

Of course, you get a few people trying to test the boundaries (quite literally): for example, we had a bloke who wanted to travel through Queensland to get from the Northern Territory to South Australia, which is a fairly roundabout way to go about it, all because he didn't want to drive on 400kms of dirt road. But most

understand that the government is simply trying to restrict the spread of coronavirus.

I should also mention those in the community who are providing us with accommodation and meals. We've been checking in with them, too. For example, the pub at Urandangi is supplying meals.

The motel at Dajarra has dongas that we're staying in, as does the Burke and Wills roadhouse between Cloncurry and Normanton.

So we're spending money locally and checking in with these communities who are struggling with a huge reduction in people travelling through. We're starting to be seen as a part of the communities.





We had one station owner, Wendy Hicks from Thornton station about 100km north of Mt Isa, visit one of our locations in the middle of absolutely nowhere with two shopping bags full of Easter eggs and cakes. I think that speaks volumes for the appreciation these people have for the job we are doing.

Also, on the flip side back in Mt Isa, some of the visiting police from Crime Ops are doing BAU out of the station. They have been pulling the uniform back on to attend DVs around Mt Isa with our first and second year Constables, and some of the comments from these detectives with 15 or 20 years' service is really refreshing.

They're telling us what we already know about our young officers out here: that they're very resilient, and that they love the job. They are experiencing situations in their first few years, such as continual serious DV and the like, that a lot of police do not see in 20 years of service in the metropolitan areas.

So it's very much a joint effort out here, to be able to respond the way we are. It's not just our police; it's police visiting from other areas to lend a hand wherever they're needed.

It's also the local businesses and station owners and community members who are welcoming us and looking after us as best they can. And, in return, we are doing our best to look after them.



### TOWNSVILLE

*Mick Stokes,  
Townsville Branch President*

In Townsville, the policing response is currently business as usual. There is very little restriction as to how we go about our duty; there is just a greater focus on hygiene. However, there have been a range of restrictions placed on the various communities within the Townsville Police District.

Within the District there is a vulnerable community (Palm Island) which is subject to a lockdown, a small island community which is a local and international tourist destination (Magnetic Island), the Townsville metropolitan area, and both small and large rural communities.

Townsville police played a role in ensuring compliance with Chief Health Officer Directives in regards to travel



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3<sup>rd</sup> prize 1kg of plain flour & 1 packet of Fettucine

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to both Palm and Magnetic Islands, and police also conducted patrols of camping destinations such as Rollingstone, just north of Townsville.

This pandemic has shown that police are truly members of the community, and are just as susceptible to the economic and health impacts associated with the pandemic. Newly sworn officers have in some cases found their partners without jobs, which has resulted in significant hardship.

The support colleagues have shown towards these affected officers has reinforced that we are all a part of the



blue family (and by colleagues I mean commissioned officers, OICs, peers [special honorable mention], and the QPU). It has been heartening to note the compassion of our people ... everyone is looking out for everyone else.

Generally speaking, members of the Townsville community have responded well to the Chief Health Officer Directives and have been happy to comply when given guidance and advice. Of course there have been those who have openly disregarded the directives, but these have been a definite minority.

These unprecedented times have brought some of the nuances of human behaviour to the fore. They range from the mildly irritating hoarding of toilet paper (I was reliably informed by my son who is working in Julia Creek that it was in plentiful supply while the shelves in Townsville were still bare) to the profoundly aberrant such as intentionally coughing on police and even licking supermarket products to exploit community fear in regard to COVID-19.

Members of the QPU Executive, Operational Legal Advice, and the officers supporting the Covid Legal Advice portal have provided some quality support and advice, and have assisted in a first class response.

**YEPPON**

*Werner Oosthuizen, Capricorn Coast Branch President*

I am currently stationed at Emu Park which is a little five man station near Yeppoon, and thankfully there have not been any newsworthy stories to come out of here in relation to the COVID-19 epidemic, except for the closing of all public areas and licenced premises.

The larger stations within the region may have more stories to tell, yet from what I hear, the Capricorn Coast seems to be doing relatively well compared to most major centres. In early April, we had recorded only eight cases for Central Queensland.

As for businesses, it appears that for the most part they have found ways to operate, whether it be through the use of takeaway or delivery services or implementing their own set of rules to enforce the social distancing rules.

I have seen a lot of smaller businesses using things like tape to mark out their distances and advise people on where to stand. On a personal note, I am happy to report that I have saved a small fortune since the closing of Subway, and my coffee consumption has drastically reduced.

I think I speak for the rest of the Capricorn Coast when I say that we have definitely noticed an increase in the amount of calls for service whereby members of the public are concerned that directives are not being adhered to. It is good to see people taking the issue so seriously.

At the early stage of these measures, our community seems to be handling it well and there has not been a noticeable increase in calls for service relating to the stresses of being stuck at home.



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## A Thankyou can mean so much

**While** frontline police and support staff across the State have been focussed on meeting the needs for COVID-19 Quarantine Compliance, bio security checkpoints for vulnerable communities and maintaining business as usual calls, the work and dedication hasn't gone unnoticed by the community.

Spontaneous words of appreciation have been sent to the Police Journal for the work all police have been doing during the crisis. Some of the messages have been simple others give an understanding of shared experiences.

Here's a selection of thankyou notes sent free of sarcasm or eye rolls.

Messages of thanks from people who appreciate a job well done.

---

Dear QLD Police,

Thanks you for being our First Responders and keeping us safe.

Kind Regards,  
*Mick.*

---

Just a THANK YOU to all the Police having to put up with all of the stupidity going on at the moment.

Cheers,  
*Maurie.*

Coppers All,  
Many thanks for your fortitude and strength in your handling of the COVID-19 and the unthought out protests that have occurred as a result of uniformed and obviously other engendered participants.

Keep up the good work and know that your work is appreciated.

A supportive veteran,  
*Jeff.*

---

Thanks for doing a great job.  
*Frank.*

---

I would like to say thank you for the job well done by all members of the force. At times it must be frustrating and very hard to keep your cool.

These last few days regardless of the State, these protesters have no regard for the law and put themselves above it. Keep up the good work.

Regards,  
*James.*

---

Thanks to every police officer for doing such a great job under trying times.

Regards,  
*Steve* (retired army sergeant)

As a former soldier who has served in a combat zone under combat conditions I am fully aware of the dangers your members face on a daily basis.

I would like to thank you for your devotion to duty. In Vietnam I had the comfort of an SLR rifle. Without this reassurance I thank you for the protection you supply to myself and my family and friends.

Thanks,  
*Robert. "Stay safe out there"*

---

If you have received any messages of support at your station during COVID, forward them onto us here at [journal@qpu.asn.au](mailto:journal@qpu.asn.au)

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# 'Patrick Cahill' no longer unlucky

By Andrea Appleton

**'The name Patrick Cahill can be said to be a very unlucky name for any Queensland police officer' ... or so read the opening line of a police history article written by then Northern Regional Rep and General Vice President of the Union, Phil Hocking, which was published in the December 2001 Union Journal.**



**The** premise was based on the tragic deaths of two Queensland police officers named Patrick Cahill, both of whom appear on the Queensland Police Memorial.

The first police officer ever murdered on duty in Queensland was Irishman Patrick Cahill, who was shot during a gold escort in 1867. Thirty years later, another Irishman of the same name drowned near Longreach while on duty.

The lesser-known tale of the drowning near Longreach was the subject of Phil Hocken's 2001 article, and the two untimely deaths did seem to relegate

Patrick Cahill—and a number of his colleagues—read the article. At the time, Senior Constable Cahill was working (where), and he came to

**"The two untimely deaths did seem to relegate Patrick Cahill an unlucky name for Queensland police officers."**

Patrick Cahill an unlucky name for Queensland police officers.

Upon publication in 2001, another Queensland police officer named

receive repeated ominous predictions and lighthearted warnings from his fellow officers.

One day he left his work computer

unattended and the result was a Letter to the Editor of the Union Journal, which was duly published in the January/February 2002 edition.

'He' wrote:

*Thanks for the message of support in the last Union Journal. I feel a lot safer coming to work now. Do you know if any Patrick Cahills have made it through to age retirement?*

We here at the Journal are pleased to report that this particular Patrick Cahill has now, twenty years later, made it through to retirement. Perhaps he was getting a little nervous, because he actually pulled the pin a little early in late March: he is 58 years old.

'No, no, it was nothing like that,' laughs Sergeant Cahill. 'It just seemed like it was time to go.'

He is looking forward to retirement.

'I feel like the job's not quite the same any more,' he says. 'You start playing cricket and then you end up playing soccer.'

Sergeant Cahill admits he and his wife have long hoped to join the ranks of grey nomads out and about seeing the

at hand.

In reflecting on his 34 years in the job, mostly in Traffic, Sergeant Cahill is largely philosophical. He has always maintained a steadfast commitment to road safety, and is thankful his career has been relatively uneventful with regards to critical incidents and

## **"Do you know if any Patrick Cahills have made it through to age retirement?"**

country, but that he has a long list of chores to tick off at home before he will be able to hit the road. It seems COVID-19 has not then interfered with his travel plans, and that the enforced time spent at home will have only served to focus him on the many tasks

dangerous situations.

On Police Remembrance Day, and every so often, he remembers the Patrick Cahills who went before him. He is mindful of their sacrifice, and in comparison counts himself as really quite lucky.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

# *Letters to the Editor*

## **Tragic Death of the Irish Constable. *Patrick Cahill.***

The name Patrick Cahill can be said to be a very unlucky name for any Queensland police officer. The first police officer ever-murdered on duty was an Irishman named Patrick Cahill, he and John Power were shot dead during a gold escort in 1867.

*Extract from Police History article December 2001*

ATTN GARY WILKINSON

Dear Gary,  
Thanks for the message of support in the last Union Journal. I feel a lot safer coming to work now. Do you know if any "Patrick Cahill's" have made it through to age retirement?

Patrick CAHILL  
S/Const 6119

Dear Sir,

As a result of my promotion to Detective Inspector, State Crime Operations Command, I formerly resign from the Queensland Police Union of Employees effective 28 January 2002.

Thanks to you and your team for your valued support over the past 18 years.

**Mike Condon**  
Detective Inspector  
28 January 2002

**POLICE HISTORY**

## Tragic Death of the Irish Constable. *Patrick Cahill.*

By Phil Hocken.

The name Patrick Cahill can be said to be a very unlucky name for any Queensland police officer. The first police officer ever-murdered on duty was an Irishman named Patrick Cahill, he and John Power were shot dead during a gold escort in 1867.

They had stopped for the evening and were camping on the banks of the MacKenzie River, the murder was committed by their boss the assistant gold commissioner for Rockhampton, Thomas Griffin, who was later to hang at Rockhampton for the crimes. To date this is the only double murder of Queensland police officers since Queensland's separation from New South Wales in 1859. Another Constable also named Patrick Cahill and also a native of Ireland was to die on duty in remote Queensland, he was to tragically drown near Longreach thirty years after the death of his namesake. This is how his unfortunate end came about...

### Arid Queensland.

Much of the country in western Queensland is semi arid to arid; drought regularly causes heartbreak to the community in the remote districts, with cattle and sheep on the pastoral runs generally being the victims. In the early to mid 1800's when water was discovered underground and obtained by means of bores, settlements in western Queensland soon began to spread. Small towns flourished with the successful pastoral industry and soon required professional law enforcement. Which meant mounted police were stationed in many country towns throughout Queensland.

In the event of any emergency these police were called upon to use their bush skills, natural sagacity and physical abilities to overcome the dilemmas that confronted them.

Many Australian police officers in the mid to late 1800's were formally from the British Isles and Queensland was no exception. After induction into the police force a large proportion were sent to the country where the officers were needed most. Many had come to Australia for adventure or to gain colonial experience, one such person was Patrick Cahill who had migrated to Australia from Dublin, Ireland. Cahill was a quite and reserved person and kept mostly to himself however he was very popular amongst his comrades in Longreach. He was a competent horseman and had been a stockman on 'Eskdale' Station on the Upper Brisbane prior to joining the Queensland Police Force.

### Heavy Rains.

In early February 1898 rain clouds formed to dump the summer rains in Central and Western Queensland, dry creek beds became fast flowing rapids and the normally sedate Thomson river was to fill and burst it's banks to flood the Longreach area.

On Wednesday 9 February 1898, a milkman named Michael Murphy rode to the Longreach Police Station and reported to Constable Patrick O'Grady that a man named Todd was at his home with his family and was concerned about the rising flood waters. Todd resided near the Thomson River, about 13kms up stream from Longreach. Constable O'Grady immediately reported the matter to Senior Sergeant Bain. It is understood that Todd was warned

some days earlier, that he should pack up his family and move to town before he was totally flooded by the rising nearby river, but tragically he did not take heed of this advice and decided to remain on the property.

O'Grady was instructed by his Senior Sergeant to ride to the property and assess the situation. The constable rode towards the residence, and as he neared the property he found it was in fact surrounded by water for about a kilometer. Although the water was not deep it was certainly rising, however, in some sections he certainly found it to be deep and in one particular section he had to swim for about 20 meters before he could reach the house.

On arriving at the home he saw Todd, his wife and their three children. The water was within twenty meters of the house and slowly rising. The Constable and Mr. and Mrs. Todd had concerns about the rising water but at this time all was well. It was decided that Constable O'Grady would return to town but would call on the family the following morning in the event of assistance being required. O'Grady stated that the police would monitor the height of the river and that in the event of the river rising quickly he would organise an evacuation of the family. On his return to Longreach he reported the situation to Senior Sergeant Bain.

### Rising Waters.

The following morning Senior Sergeant Bain again instructed O'Grady to proceed to Todd's home

to ascertain if they were safe. O'Grady discovered that the water surrounding the house had increased in volume and was much deeper. O'Grady had to swim or wade through water for about one and a half kilometers to get to the house, and in many sections there were now strong currents where serene and tranquil creeks normally existed. The water was about 4 or 5 meters from the low set house, Todd by now was relieved to see O'Grady and asked him to procure a boat to rescue himself and his family. The problem was the lack of boats in Longreach and also the distance that any boat would have to be rowed up stream to get to the Todd property, it was hoped that the flood waters would subside so that a rescue would not be necessary.

O'Grady and Todd organised an emergency contingency plan in case the water rose excessively prior to the officer returning with assistance. Before O'Grady left the property, the two men secured a waggonette to a tree so the family could move into it to be above the water level.

On the morning of Friday 11 February Constables O'Grady, Bestmann and Cahill rode to the Thomson River. Their instructions were to procure a boat and for O'Grady and Bestmann to row up the edge of the flooded river to rescue Todd and his family whilst Cahill was to return to Longreach with the police horses. Cahill at the time was a fit twenty-eight year old single-man, and had been in the Queensland Police Force for three and a half years.

## Locals Assist Police.

The party had to cross three billabongs, each of which was in flood, before they could get to the Thomson River. The middle billabong being the deepest and with the stronger current was the most dangerous. The water in this channel was flowing fast and was over a metre deep. The party managed to cross on the culvert, without incident and reached the Thomson River. A boat was procured and also the

services of two local men named Brown and Morris who volunteered to row up the river and help rescue the family. It was decided that Constable O'Grady would accompany the two volunteers. In the meantime as there were sufficient men to manage the boat. Bestmann would remain behind to accompany Cahill back to Longreach with the horses. The boat party set off but were unable to reach the Todd's residence before the light faded. The three men passed an uncomfortable night on the river, O'Grady spent the night in a tree and the two volunteers slept in the boat. Next day they managed to reach Todd and his family and were able to convey them to safety.

After the boat left, Bestmann and Cahill remained about an hour and a half at the river before starting for home. The officer's had to cross the three billabongs again, Cahill led the way, and they had no problem in crossing the first of the three streams, the water being no deeper then when they crossed previously. It was about one kilometer from the first creek to the second.

At the second crossing the posts on the up streamside were about a metre above the level of the roadway and about two metres on the down stream side. The causeway was constructed of logs, gravel and metal and was from sixteen to seventeen feet in width. On reaching the second channel they could only see the tops of the causeway guide posts on the down stream side, it was obvious that the water height had risen, because when they had crossed previously they could see both rows of posts. This meant that there was now about two metres of water over the roadway. The current was running with much more vigour and swiftness.

## Competent Swimmer.

Cahill considered himself a competent swimmer and had something additional in his favour, the police horse that he was riding was considered to be a very good

horse in water. Cahill knowing that Bestmann could not swim, told him if he got off his horse in deep water, just to move his hands and he would float.

Cahill led the way, all was well with the crossing until they were two thirds over, and it was then that Cahill's horse went down suddenly and began to plunge. At this moment Bestmann's horse also commenced to plunge, the water was up to the kneepads of his saddle and the plunging horse turned down stream, while Cahill's horse faced up stream. The current was so strong that both horses and their riders were washed off the culvert into the flooded creek.

Bestmann was holding on to the pommel of the saddle and his horse's neck. Cahill was on his back now and within moments he was out of the saddle, clinging to his horse's neck. Seconds later his still plunging horse turned and was facing down stream. Cahill was soon in the water directly in front of his horse, hanging on for grim life; the horse was floundering and kicking desperately to stay above water.

## Cahill Lost.

Bestmann then became dislodged from his horse and floated down stream, he called out to Cahill who spun round in a semi circle. By this time both horses had got away from their riders, leaving both men struggling in the fast flowing floodwater. Bestmann yelled out two or three times to Cahill who uttered several quick choking screams, by now it was each for himself. As Bestmann was being washed down stream he was able to grasp on to a tree in the water and gather his composure. On looking around he saw either Cahill or his hat about 200 meters down stream. Bestmann then floated down stream until he struck a divisional board fence, which he held on to, he was able to work his way along this fence to the bank and then out of the water.

Bestmann immediately searched along the creek bank down stream for his partner but to no avail. He

## POLICE HISTORY

went to the nearby residence of Mr. Donaldson about two kilometers away and informed him of the incident. He told Donaldson that he and his mate had been washed off the culvert and that he was afraid Constable Cahill had drowned. Mr. Donaldson took his boat to the river and the two went to where the accident occurred. They searched for Cahill, but were unable to locate him. They then searched down stream for about a two kilometers below where the mishap had occurred, but by late afternoon the search had been unsuccessful and it was abandoned for the day. Bestmann returned to Longreach and reported the matter to his Senior Sergeant.

### Body Located.

A search continued over the next few days, however there was no trace of the missing constable. It was not until 17 February that Constable Patrick Cahill's body was located some distance down stream below the town by Constables Furley and Carseldine. The waters had subsided and they were searching the second billabong by boat. During the search Furley saw something floating, they rowed to it and saw that it was the body of Patrick Cahill. The body of the officer was lying on his back across a bush, both legs were entangled in the limbs of a submerged tree. The body was freed from the tree and conveyed to the bank where it was wrapped in a blanket and transported to the morgue.

Constable Bestmann, who was visibly upset, had the unenviable task of assisting to remove the officer's body to the hospital morgue. After being in the water for 6 days the body was unrecognisable, it was very much decomposed and the officer's identified the body of the missing constable by the clothes and Cahill's distinctive moustache.

### Post Mortem Examination.

Dr. Alfred Hewer, who was the medical practitioner residing in

Longreach, conducted the post-mortem examination on the body of Constable Cahill. On the day Dr. Hewer saw Cahill's body in the hospital morgue, he immediately noticed that it was in an advance stage of decomposition. he stated in his report that the face was very much disfigured, and the body presented the appearance of having been in the water for some time. There was no noticeable outward evidence that Cahill had received a kick from his horse, except, that there was a large bruise just below the left shoulder as the skin on the left of the chest was more discoloured than on the right side.

During the post-mortem Dr. Hewer found that the upper ribs on the left side were more movable than those ribs on the right. He found that the ribs were partially separated from the breastbone and believed that the injury was caused prior to death. Dr. Hewer formed the opinion that the injury was consistent with a horse striking Constable Cahill with its fore feet, the result of the post mortem concluded that the cause of death was by drowning. It certainly appears that Cahill was struck by one of the horses, this no doubt would have caused him extreme discomfort and pain, disabling and rendering him incapable of swimming and preventing him from reaching safety.

Had Todd and his family left his house on the Wednesday week prior, there would have been no reason for the constables to make the journey which ended so disastrously for Cahill, and which nearly cost Bestman his life!

### Monument Erected.

The following morning Father Hanley read the burial service for Patrick Cahill at the Longreach cemetery. He was carried to his last resting-place by his

work mates and friends who were to later raise money and erect a monument on his grave.

One hundred years to the day of his death, another service was held at the grave site to commemorate this officer's death, a modern day plaque was placed on Patrick Cahill's head stone by the Police Commissioner who had travelled to Longreach to commemorate this anniversary. This gesture was to remind people that although Constable Patrick Cahill was laid to rest one hundred years prior, his death on duty as a Queensland Police Officer has not been forgotten in the annals of Queensland's Police History.



# Every boat has a name and with it comes a story of sacrifice

By Darren Curtis

**Two new multimillion dollar patrol boats were officially commissioned by the Queensland Police Service in March and in keeping with tradition they've been named after two fallen officers.**

**General** President Ian Leavers attended the ceremony at the Water Police Base in Brisbane, where they were blessed by a QPS Chaplain.

'When we see the Norm Watt and Shayne Gill vessels, we will reflect upon Norm and Shayne and their service,' he said. 'They were our mates and they paid the ultimate sacrifice. But for the grace of God, it could have been one of us. I think it is really important that we never let their memories die and that they live on forever.'

The two boats boast the latest technology to keep them safe crossing shallow coastal bars, boarding ships, and operating as long distance

floating command posts. Each is constructed of fibreglass re-enforced plastic, including sleeping quarters, showers, toilets, and air conditioning.

The Shayne Gill is the third vessel named in honour of the young Constable killed in a traffic accident in the Glass House Mountains in 1996.

His father Bill said the honour showed a unique side to the Queensland Police Service.

'They remember their people, and they love their people,' he said. 'It's like they are all friends, a big family. Very few other jobs in our country get this sort of recognition. Police do a very unique job in our community: it's a tough job.'

Twenty years after the death of dog squad officer Norm Watt, who was shot and killed near Rockhampton, his name will adorn a patrol boat that will operate out of Mooloolaba.

Norm's mother Rosalie smiled proudly as she viewed the vessel after the ceremony.

'It's a nice legacy,' she said. 'It's 20 years and it's lovely they are still thinking of him. We've had terrific support from the police and the Union all through that time. When people see this boat on patrol I'd like them to think Norm is there in spirit and that he's still part of the Service, doing the job.'

QPU Central Regional Rep Kev Groth, who was working with Norm on



PVs Gill and Watt.



Rosalie Watt.



The Gill Family.

the night of his death, was also in attendance at the ceremony.

**“When people see this boat on patrol I’d like them to think Norm is there in spirit and that he’s still part of the Service.”**

‘We as a Union will never let any officer who pays the ultimate sacrifice be forgotten,’ he said. ‘The reason I actually became involved in the



General President Ian Leavers and Evelyn Kerlin.



PV Kerlin, with moustache motif on its bridge awning.



PV Lena.

Union was as a direct result of Norm's incident and the way we were treated by the Service back then. I will never let any officer who has fallen during their service to the community be forgotten by the community, the Service, or by anyone.'

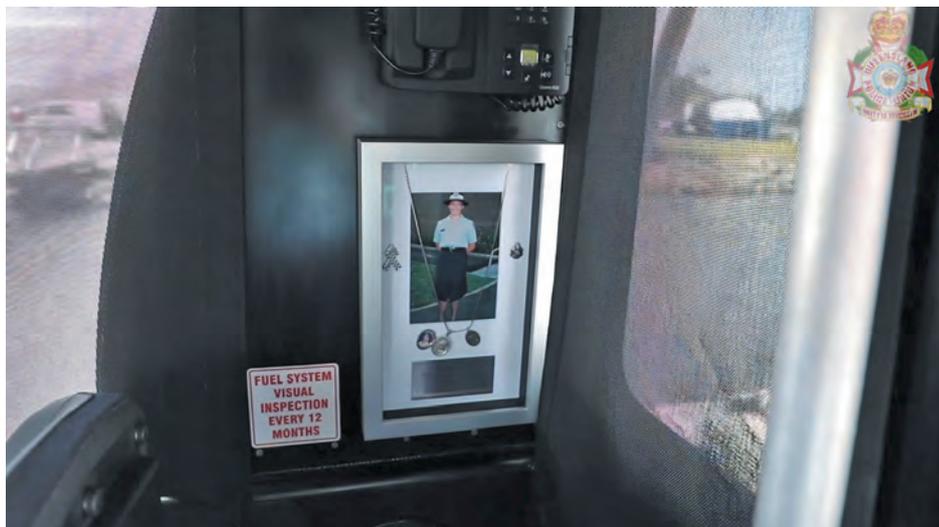
The recent commissioning follows the addition of two other vessels to the Water Police fleet in late 2019.

During a similar service in Brisbane, the mother of Constable Sondra Lena officially christened a new patrol boat in her daughter's honour. Constable Lena died in 1992 following an accident at a police roadblock near Rockhampton.

'It is very humbling, but I think from a parent's point of view it's keeping her memory alive,' Sandra said. 'It was one thing I was always worried about: that no-one would remember her.'

A necklace of Sondra's is now permanently mounted alongside her photo in the cabin of the patrol boat. These were a gift from her family for every officer to see when they step onboard.

'I now know the boat is going to look after whoever goes aboard,' Sandra said.



The memorial for Sondra in the cabin of PV Lena.

On the deck of a new high speed barge nearby, Evelyn Kerlin completed the tradition of breaking champagne to honour its being named after her husband, Detective Sergeant Stewart Kerlin.

'It's beautiful: it's great for the whole family,' she said. 'We just love the fact that he's remembered. He was a unique individual; someone you didn't forget.'

The Stewart Kerlin 2 has a moustache painted on its bridge awning, a tribute to the distinctive feature of the Detective Sergeant who died in a road accident in 2006.

'Having the moustache on there is wonderful, too, because he was known for that,' Evelyn said. 'It is an honour.'

**"The Stewart Kerlin 2 has a moustache painted on its bridge awning, a tribute to the Detective Sergeant."**

Sea trials and crew training have been completed and these two boats are now based at Redlands. They provide support across southern Moreton Bay.



*Breaking champagne.*

'It is really positive the families are speaking so highly of the Police Service and the Police Union in remembering their loved ones,' General President Leavers said. 'We will never forget. We will ensure that Police Remembrance Day continues and that we will never forget those who've gone before us. That is the least we can possibly do.'

Reliability, ability to navigate tough times, and agility: all qualities these four officers displayed in their careers, now symbolically represented in these four new police vessels.

## 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)

# Back on the job after being run down

By Darren Curtis

**Walking down the path to Goodna station, west of Brisbane, Constable Peter McAulay couldn't help but smile. He was returning to duty 18 months after he was run down and critically injured by a juvenile driver trying to avoid road spikes. It was a day many colleagues and friends thought may never happen.**

**'It's** been tough,' Const McAulay said. 'I was reminiscing before: I was bedridden for the first couple of months, then in a wheelchair and on crutches. So I had to go through all those processes, rehabilitation, and all the hard yards and pain, but we're coming out the other end.'

Initially, Const McAulay won't be wearing a uniform, and his transition back to work will be non-operational. He will be undertaking property audits and risk management studies, and will potentially later expand to a role with the intelligence section profiling offenders.

'It's good to be back with everyone and sharing the camaraderie again,' he said. 'It gives me a bit more purpose and meaning in my life.'

The workplace self-distancing rules in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic meant there were no handshakes, hugs, or back pats when Constable McAulay walked around the station, but colleagues still showed their happiness through laughter and good-natured banter.

Goodna OIC Senior Sergeant Greg Shaw said, 'We've looked forward to this day for a long time and we got our mate back. In the early days we didn't think that would be a possibility, so to have Pete here and basically still have a



**"One of the first tasks Snr Sgt Shaw gave Const McAulay was to cut off the braided wristband he was wearing. He told Pete he would not take it off until he returned to work."**

good career in the QPS is a huge credit to him'.

One of the first tasks Snr Sgt Shaw gave Const McAulay was to cut off the braided wristband he was wearing.

'It represents the thin blue line and was set up as a fundraiser in the first days after Peter's accident,' Snr Sgt Shaw said. 'I told Pete I would not take it off until he returned to work, and I'm glad here's here today to do it.'

A few weeks before Const McAulay's return to work, the Court of Appeal ruled

the original three-year sentence for the offender convicted of injuring him was manifestly inadequate and extended the sentence to five years.

The review came after the QPU campaigned until the Government agreed to challenge the initial sentence.

'The Police Minister and Attorney General responded to our lobbying and supported the appeal,' General President Ian Leavers said. 'It shows police really do matter. It was really imperative we lobbied for a review. I'm glad we did that and we will do it again if we have



to, on each and every occasion it's required.'

In the first few days after the accident in 2018, General President Leavers worked to influence the Premier and senior Government Minister to ensure Peter McAulay would have a job for life.

'It was really important to secure that for Pete,' he said. 'We know now that meant a lot to him, but at the time I just wanted to do what was right for Pete and for any other police officer who suffers harm. It is important we do whatever we can to look after them, not only for their future but the future of their families, because they put their bodies on the line, and we owe it to them to protect them.'

**"I wouldn't be where I am today without the Union. They've had my back."**

Const McAulay, now 26, says he looks forward to a rewarding career.

'I wouldn't be where I am today without the Union,' he said. 'They've had my back as far as numerous problems and solutions are concerned.'

'Pete's positive attitude and his outlook on life can only be commended,'



**"I'd work with him any day of the week because he's a man who is so positive and has so much courage. That's what we need in Queensland."**



General President Leavers said. 'I'm glad he is back at work; I'd work with him any day of the week because he's a man who is so positive and has so much courage. That's what we need in Queensland.'

'Peter McAulay is one officer who has stood up and gone above and beyond what was required,' General President Leavers continued. 'You will be welcomed back into the workplace by your colleagues. Good on you, Pete.'

# Lights on Emergency Vehicles

By Greg Early, former Assistant Commissioner

**Since 2000, police, fire, and ambulance vehicles in Queensland have been fitted with blue and red lights. However, this has not always been the case.**

**Blue** has always been the colour of emergency lights used on police vehicles in Australia and other parts of the world. Even nowadays, you often see police vehicles in England and some parts of the USA with only blue lights on display.

I know from my time in the Commissioner's Office that the colour blue has always been reserved for police vehicles, and the only organisations I recall being given permission to use blue lights were military and air force police.

A change from straight blue to blue and red lights came about after research conducted by the National Police Research Unit. I asked former Senior Sergeant Ian Gordon, APM, for his views about the change. He is the current Service Manager of the PSBA Fleet Assets at Alderley. Ian has responded as follows:

*I can recall information which originated in America and came through the then National Police Research Unit, which had a rep from every state Police Force on the Unit.*

*The advice given was that on a flat surface well away in the distance, one could approach a police vehicle that had red on the left and blue on the right of the roof bar, and natural eyesight would identify red before blue.*

*As one came closer, the full ID of red and blue would be evident. This thinking has held up to the current day.*



**“There is always someone in the field complaining about equipment. They should have been with us back in the '60s and '70s!”**

*I don't think there was much support for the idea of red lights in Queensland in the late '70s and early '80s. I recall using some old round red Hella lights from Triumph motorcycles accompanied by a blue version that we had to purchase, and mounting them on the outer extremities of the roof bar, which only carried the revolving blue light and siren in later times. There were certainly no flash LED systems in those days.*

*Former Senior Sergeant Denis McGrath and I set up a couple of cars—one at Landsborough and one with Sergeant Arthur Frohmuller at Cooroy—followed by a few others when we could find suitable parts. The parts were wired to a flashing unit which allowed them to flash on and off.*

*The red and blue combination came in from the mid '90s, whereby the roof bar was purchased with red and blue revolving lights, alley and take down lights, and in some cases the siren all being built into the roof bar.*

*The visual test has stood the test of time. We currently have a wide assortment of warning equipment, and roof bars in various configurations to suit all applications. The current LED lighting is super effective but there is always someone in the field complaining about equipment. They should have been with us back in the '60s and '70s!*

*I know that in Jim O'Sullivan's time as Commissioner, the idea of red and blue lights on anything other than QPS vehicles did not stand a chance.*

However, early in the administration of Commissioner Bob Atkinson, the total emergency fleet quickly became decked out with red and blue lights.

I recall that when this occurred, there were some mumblings about motorists not knowing which service vehicle might be trying to make its way through traffic. Ian's view on this is that after the change occurred, any person expecting the arrival of police would have no idea who the first responder was, but these days that feeling does not seem to attract much attention.

**THE FIRST 'POLICE' LIGHT ON QUEENSLAND POLICE VEHICLES**

Former Commissioner Bob Atkinson reminded Ian and I of the first 'POLICE' light on Queensland police vehicles.

Ian recalls that the first light—known as a taxi hail light—was made of plastic and spelled out 'POLICE' in red letters. Later on, the red letters were changed to blue. They were fitted to all traffic vehicles and limited suburban cars. This was in the early '70s in the Whitrod era.

According to Ian, the first light had four single contact indicator bulbs (approximately 40 watts) and a flasher unit. When activated, they simply flashed all four bulbs on and off.

While still a cadet, he remembers driving an XP Falcon with the first roof light mounted on it down Roma Street:

**"Is this a taxi?  
No, a police car."**

A male person came from the kerb as I had stopped in traffic. He jumped in and said, 'Take me to the Valley'. I replied, 'Are you in the job?' He looked a bit startled and said, 'Is this a taxi?', to which I replied, 'No, a police car'. He alighted at the next stop, looked at the roof sign closely, and said, 'Sorry mate, I thought you were a taxi.'



The only indication this car was a police vehicle in the early 1970s was the first 'POLICE' light with red letters fixed atop (that and the police riding inside).



Constable Noela Holman drives a police vehicle with the red lettered 'POLICE' light in the early 1970s. Note 'pineapple' badge on door.



The first 'POLICE' sign and blue light on a vehicle in 1974 (during the Brisbane floods).



Current red and blue lights and number recognition camera.

# If you're a police officer it pays to learn what you can claim at tax time



## To claim a deduction for work-related expenses

- you must have spent the money yourself and weren't reimbursed
- it must be directly related to earning your income
- you must have a record to prove it.\*

You can only claim the work-related part of expenses. You can't claim a deduction for any part of the expense that relates to personal use.

\* You can use the ATO app myDeductions tool to keep track of your expenses and receipts throughout the year.

## Phone and internet expenses



- ✓ **You can claim** phone and internet usage if your employer needs you to use your own personal devices for work. You can only claim the work-related portion of the use of your personal device.

## Car expenses



- ✓ **You can claim** a deduction when you:
  - drive between separate jobs on the same day – eg travelling from your job as a police officer to a second job as a security guard
  - drive to and from an alternate workplace for the same employer on the same day – eg travelling to a crime scene.
- ✗ **You generally can't claim** the cost of trips between home and work, even if you live a long way from your usual workplace or have to work outside normal business hours – eg night or public holiday shifts.

There are limited circumstances where you can claim the cost of trips between home and work, such as where you carry bulky tools or equipment for work – eg a police diver carrying scuba diving equipment. The cost of these trips is deductible only if:

- your employer requires you to transport the equipment for work
- the equipment was essential to earning your income
- there was no secure area to store the equipment at the work location, and
- the equipment is bulky – at least 20kg or cumbersome to transport.

If you claim car expenses, you need to keep a logbook to determine the work-related percentage, or be able to demonstrate to the ATO a reasonable calculation if you use the cents per kilometre method to claim.

## Self-education expenses



- ✓ **You can claim** a deduction for self-education expenses if your course relates directly to your current job – eg defensive driving course.
- ✗ **You can't claim** a deduction if your study is only related in a general way or is designed to help get you a new job outside of the police force.

## Other common deductible work-related expenses



- ✓ As long as the expense relates to your employment, **you can claim** a deduction for the work-related portion of the cost of:
  - union and professional association fees
  - technical or professional publications.
- ✗ **You can't claim** a deduction for the cost of:
  - haircuts, grooming, weight loss programs or supplies even though there may be specific regulations
  - attending social functions
  - fitness expenses except if your role requires a level of fitness well above ordinary police standards, such as special operations.



## Clothing expenses



- ✓ **You can claim** a deduction for the cost of mending or cleaning your police uniform.
- ✗ **You can't claim** a deduction for the cost of buying or cleaning plain clothing worn at work, even if your employer tells you to wear it, and even if you only wear it for work.

This is a general summary only. For more information, go to [ato.gov.au/occupations](http://ato.gov.au/occupations)



Australian Government  
Australian Taxation Office

# Union Dues

## Union Dues for 2020/2021 Ticket Year

Rank	Yearly	Yearly Discount 10%	Half Yearly	Half Yearly Discount 5%	Quarter	Quarter Discount 5%	Direct Debit, Credit Card Payroll
Sworn	\$1038.20	\$934.40	\$519.10	\$493.15	\$259.55	\$246.55	\$39.80
Recruits	\$519.10	\$467.20	\$259.55	\$246.55	\$129.80	\$123.30	\$19.90
PLOs/Pipe Band & Watchhouse Officers	\$726.75	\$654.10	\$363.40	\$345.25	\$181.70	\$172.60	\$27.85
PLOs/Pipe Band & Watchhouse Officers P/Time	\$523.25	\$470.95	\$261.65	\$248.55	\$130.80	\$124.25	\$20.05
Part Time 2 – 64	\$747.50	\$672.75	\$373.75	\$355.05	\$186.85	\$177.50	\$28.65

The 2020/2021 Membership year runs 1/7/2020 to 30/6/2021.

- Union dues are GST inclusive.
- To receive the Yearly discount (10%), the dues must be paid in full by 1 July 2020.
- To receive the Half Yearly discount (5%), the dues are paid prior to 1 July 2020 and 1 January 2021.
- To receive the Quarter discount (5%), the dues are to be paid in advance before the start of the Quarter: 1 July 2020, 30 September 2020, 1 January 2021, and 1 April 2021.

If a member wishes to change their payment method to take advantage of a discount, please contact Kaye, Carly, or Melissa at the Union Office prior to 30 June 2020, or e-mail [membership@qpu.asn.au](mailto:membership@qpu.asn.au)





## Media release

7 April 2020

### New working from home shortcut

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is announcing special arrangements this year due to COVID-19 to make it easier for people to claim deductions for working from home.

The new arrangement will allow people to claim a rate of 80 cents per hour for all their running expenses, rather than needing to calculate costs for specific running expenses.

Multiple people living in the same house can claim this new rate. For example, a couple living together could each individually claim the 80 cents per hour rate. The requirement to have a dedicated work from home area has also been removed.

Assistant Commissioner Karen Foat said the new shortcut method will make it easier for those who are working from home for the first time.

“The shortcut method provides a rate of 80 cents per hour and will only require you to keep a record of the number of hours worked from home,” Ms Foat said,

“This recognises that many taxpayers are working from home for the first time and makes claiming a deduction much easier.

“If you choose to use this shortcut method, all you need to do is keep a record of the hours you worked from home as evidence of your claim.”

This new shortcut arrangement does not prohibit people from making a working from home claim under existing arrangements, where you calculate all or part of your running expenses.

Claims for working from home expenses prior to 1 March 2020 cannot be calculated using the shortcut method, and must use the pre-existing working from home approach and requirements.

The ATO will review the special arrangement for the next financial year as the COVID-19 situation progresses.

#### Example

Bianca is an employee who works as a copy writer and editor. Bianca starts working from home on 16 March as a result of COVID-19 and replaces her face-to-face meetings with online video conferencing.

Bianca has just bought a new laptop, desk, chair and stationery. She also wants to claim some additional gas, electricity, phone and internet costs due to working from home.

Under the shortcut method, Bianca can now claim all her expenses under a rate of 80 cents per hour. All she needs is her timesheets.

Bianca can also decide to claim using existing working from home calculations. Under that method, Bianca can claim the desk, chair, gas and electricity under the 52 cents per hour, but would need to

work out the decline in value of the laptop, and calculate the work-related portion of the laptop, stationery, phone and internet.

### Working from home claims for 1 March to 30 June:

There are three ways that you can choose to calculate your additional running expenses for the 1 March – 30 June period:

- claim a rate of 80 cents per work hour for all additional running expenses.
- claim a rate of 52 cents per work hour for heating, cooling, lighting, cleaning and the decline in value of office furniture, plus calculate the work-related portion of your phone and internet expenses, computer consumables, stationery and the decline in value of a computer, laptop or similar device
- claim the actual work-related portion of all your running expenses, which you need to calculate on a reasonable basis.

The ATO is also reminding people that the three golden rules for deductions still apply. Taxpayers must have spent the money themselves and not have been reimbursed, the claim must be directly related to earning income, and there must be a record to substantiate the claim.

### Working from home before 1 March 2020

Claims for working from home expenses prior to 1 March 2020 should be calculated using the existing approaches and are subject to the existing requirements.

### Additional information

Anyone affected by COVID-19 should visit our website [ato.gov.au](https://www.ato.gov.au), where you will find answers to commonly asked questions. If you require urgent assistance, you can contact our Emergency Support Infoline 1800 806 218

More information about working from home is available at <https://www.ato.gov.au/General/COVID-19/Support-for-individuals-and-employees/Employees-working-from-home/> or on our working from home fact sheet included below.



# Employees working from home

## Advice for employees working from home due to COVID-19

As the situation around COVID-19 continues to develop, we understand you may now be working from home and you may incur expenses that you can claim at tax time.

To claim a deduction for working from home, all of the following must apply:

- You must have spent the money.
- The expense must be directly related to earning your income.
- You must have a record to prove it.

This means you **cannot** claim a deduction for items provided by your employer or if you have been reimbursed for the expense.

If you are not reimbursed by your employer, but instead receive an allowance from them to cover your expenses when you work from home, you:

- must include this allowance as income in your tax return.
- can claim a deduction as outlined in this fact sheet.

### Expenses you can claim

If you work from home, you will be able to claim a deduction for the additional running expenses you incur.

These include:

- electricity expenses associated with heating, cooling and lighting the area from which you are working and running items you are using for work
- cleaning costs for a dedicated work area
- phone and internet expenses
- computer consumables (for example, printer paper and ink) and stationery
- home office equipment, including computers, printers, phones, furniture and furnishings - you can claim either the:
  - full cost of items up to \$300
  - decline in value for items over \$300.

We understand that tracking all of these expenses can be challenging at this time. So we will accept a temporary simplified method (or shortcut method) of calculating additional running expenses for the period starting 1 March 2020 until at least 30 June 2020. We may extend this method, depending on when work patterns start to return to normal.

### Expenses you can't claim

If you are working from home only due to COVID-19, you:

- cannot claim occupancy expenses such as mortgage interest, rent and rates
- cannot claim the cost of coffee, tea, milk and other general household items your employer may otherwise have provided you with at work.

### Calculating running expenses

There are three ways you can choose to calculate your additional running expenses:

- shortcut method – claim a rate of 80 cents per work hour for all additional running expenses
- fixed rate method – claim all of these:
  - a rate of 52 cents per work hour for heating, cooling, lighting, cleaning and the decline in value of office furniture,
  - the work-related portion of your actual costs of phone and internet expenses, computer consumables, stationery, and
  - the work-related portion of the decline in value of a computer, laptop or similar device
- actual cost method – claim the actual work-related portion of all your running expenses, which you need to calculate on a reasonable basis.

For more information on how to calculate and claim a deduction under the actual cost method or fixed rate method see [Home office expenses](#).

### Shortcut method

You can claim a deduction of 80 cents for each hour you work from home due to COVID-19 as long as you are:

- working from home to fulfil your employment duties and not just carrying out minimal tasks such as occasionally checking emails or taking calls,
- incurring additional deductible running expenses as a result of working from home.

You do not have to have a separate or dedicated area of your home set aside for working, such as a private study. The shortcut method rate covers all deductible running expenses, including:

- electricity for lighting, cooling or heating and running electronic items used for work (for example your computer) and gas heating expenses

- the decline in value and repair of capital items such as home office furniture and furnishings
- cleaning expenses
- your phone costs, including the decline in value of the handset
- your internet costs
- computer consumables, such as printer ink
- stationery
- the decline in value of a computer, laptop or similar device.

You do not have to incur all of these expenses, but you must have incurred additional expenses in some of those categories as a result of working from home due to COVID-19.

If you use the shortcut method to claim a deduction for your additional running expenses, you cannot claim a further deduction for any of the expenses listed above.

You must keep a record of the number of hours you have worked from home as a result of COVID-19. Examples are timesheets, diary notes or rosters.

If you use the shortcut method to claim a deduction and you lodge your 2019-20 tax return through myGov or a tax agent, you must include the note '**COVID-hourly rate**' in your tax return.

## Records you must keep

If you use the shortcut method, you only need to keep a record of the hours you worked at home, for example timesheets or diary notes.

If you use the other methods, you must also keep a record of the number of hours you worked from home along with records of your expenses. For more information on what those records are see [Home office expenses](#).

## More information

For more information, visit [ato.gov.au/home](https://ato.gov.au/home) or speak to a registered tax professional.

**This is a general summary only.**

For more information, visit [ato.gov.au/home](https://ato.gov.au/home) or speak to a registered tax professional.

# Avoiding costs on dismissal in the Magistrates Court

By Natalie Smith, Lawyer, Gilshenan & Luton

## THE LEGISLATION

**Costs can be awarded in the Magistrates Court where a charge is dismissed by the Magistrate and the Magistrate considers it proper for a costs order to be made. The discretion to award costs on dismissal is found in sections 158, 158A, and 158B of the *Justices Act 1886*.**

**Section 158A** states that the Magistrate ‘must take into account all relevant circumstances’ in deciding whether it is proper that a costs order be made and then provides a list of examples of relevant circumstances:

- (a) whether the proceeding was brought and continued in good faith
- (b) whether there was a failure to take appropriate steps to investigate a matter coming to, or within, the knowledge of a person responsible for bringing or continuing the proceeding
- (c) whether the investigation into the offence was conducted in an appropriate way

- (f) whether the defendant unreasonably declined an opportunity before a charge was laid—
  - (i) to explain the defendant’s version of the events, or
  - (ii) to produce evidence likely to exonerate the defendant, and the explanation or evidence could have avoided a prosecution
- (g) whether there was a failure to comply with a direction given under section 83A
- (h) whether the defendant conducted the defence in a way that prolonged the proceeding unreasonably

**“If there is ‘special difficulty, complexity, or importance of the case’, then costs above the scale amount can be awarded.”**

- (d) whether the order of dismissal was made on technical grounds and not on a finding that there was insufficient evidence to convict or make an order against the defendant
- (e) whether the defendant brought suspicion on himself or herself by conduct engaged in after the events constituting the commission of the offence

- (i) whether the defendant was acquitted on a charge, but convicted on another.

The general rule is that if costs are awarded then the costs are in accordance with the scale in the *Justices Regulation 2014*. If, however, there is ‘special difficulty, complexity, or importance of the case’, then costs above the scale amount can be awarded.



### CASE LAW EXAMPLES WHERE COSTS HAVE BEEN AWARDED

#### *Maier v Commission of Police [2020] QDC 45*

In this case, the District Court considered the issue of when a successful party should be awarded costs and ‘above scale’ costs in summary matters. The appellant (a solicitor) was charged with assault occasioning bodily harm (a punch) arising out of a disagreement at a party.

He spoke to police on the night and later provided a statement to the effect that while he admitted punching the complainant, he acted in self defence. He was not charged until two years after the incident.

Before his summary hearing, the appellant’s lawyers requested that police obtain a statement from an eyewitness, Mr Kyle, however the first hearing had to be adjourned because it was not done in time. Mr Kyle gave evidence at the hearing which corroborated the appellant’s version and was considered by the Magistrate to be of some force in dismissing the complaint.

It was held by the Court that for some factors in section 158A, the absence of a negative factor did not mean that the factor was irrelevant, but rather, could be considered in favour of the defendant. The Court considered that the following circumstances meant that there should be a costs order for the appellant:

- The prompt explanation offered by the appellant, in the context of his frank admission that he struck the complainant in self defence
- The failure of the prosecution to obtain a statement from Mr Kyle in a timely way
- The unexplained delay in charging the appellant, and
- The lack of success of the prosecution for reasons which should have been obvious, or at least easily discoverable, to the prosecuting authorities from the beginning. That is, the prosecuting authorities had clear notice from the outset that it would be necessary to disprove self defence beyond reasonable doubt and their failure to obtain the statement from Mr Kyle in a timely way and properly consider its contents meant that a poor assessment of the prospects of success was apparently made.

The Court did decide, however, that the factors in subsections (e) and (f) of section 158A were considered 'disqualifying factors', however, and therefore neutral to the costs argument in this case.

The case was also held to be of 'special importance' because Mr Maher was a solicitor, and therefore had to report that he had been charged to the Law Society.

***Bortic v Queensland Police Service [2018] QDC 22***

On 7 July 2017, Acting Magistrate Wilkinson dismissed a charge against the applicant of contravening a direction pursuant to section 791(2) of the *Police Powers and other Responsibilities Act* (2000). The dismissal came after a voir

dire about whether the arresting officer had complied with section 633 of the PPRA as set out in *Rowe v Kemper*.

The Magistrate at first instance refused costs on the basis that the dismissal was due to a mere 'slip up' on the part of the officer involved.

However, Judge Robertson on appeal held that dismissing the charge because the arrest had not complied with the safeguards imposed upon police officers under the Act (such as s633) was not a dismissal on technical grounds and as such, costs were able to be awarded.

***Dean v Turner [2010] QDC 489***

The defendant was charged with trespassing onto the property of his neighbours, in circumstances where one of the appellant's children and one of his neighbour's children were having an argument. The neighbours came out of their house during the confrontation and confronted the appellant's child. The appellant heard the commotion and came across the road. Whether the appellant entered the neighbour's property was the issue at the hearing before the learned Magistrate.

After a hearing, the appellant was acquitted on the evidence of another neighbour, who was not involved. He did not, however, award costs because the defence had not provided the independent neighbour's statement to police. He considered that if they had, the prosecution may have reviewed their file as to whether or not they would proceed.

On appeal, Judge Samios considered that:

*There are two matters that stand out in the appellant's favour. One is that a routine canvassing of neighbours to the dispute would have led the police to Ms Davis. It was her evidence that was ultimately decisive. In addition, the appellant could have been asked if there was any witness who could support his version of events and by 25 June*

*2008 when he was charged he may have been aware of Ms Davis. In these respects in my opinion there has been a failure to take appropriate steps in investigating the matter.*

**EXAMPLES WHERE COSTS HAVE NOT BEEN AWARDED**

***Shaw v Dunham [2014] QDC 44***

The appellant was convicted in the Magistrates Court of common assault. At trial, the appellant ran the defences of prevention of repetition of insult and provocation. While the Magistrate dismissed those defences, Judge Smith found that they were open to the appellant and an acquittal was ordered.

In respect of costs, however, Judge Smith found that the police could not be criticised for bringing the matter before the court because the appellant declined an interview and there was no submission provided by defence to seek to have the charges discontinued.

***"If there is a delay in charging an offender, police should ensure prosecution know why there was a delay and whether the delay has any impact on the investigation."***

**CONCLUSION**

Investigating police should be sure to thoroughly canvass the versions of neighbours (in neighbour disputes) and all known attendees (in assaults at parties). If there is a delay in charging an offender, police should ensure prosecution know why there was a delay and whether the delay has any impact on the investigation and charge(s) brought against the defendant.

Prosecutors should actively review their prosecutions set down for hearing as further statements or submissions are provided and ensure there remains sufficient evidence.

# Police Recipes

## MACADAMIA BLISS BALLS

Eating through the grind of shiftwork can create challenges when trying to stay clear of high fat and unhealthy options. As an alternative, try these macadamia bliss balls: they're protein rich, which helps to keep your blood sugar stable between meals. They also make for an energising and sustaining pre-workout snack without being too heavy on your stomach.

Essentially, they are a simple, guilt free, energy hit, perfectly portioned and capable of being frozen.

Bonus: no cooking or baking required!

This recipe will make around 20 tablespoon-size balls.

### What do I need?

- 3 cups of roasted macadamias
- 3 tablespoons chocolate or vanilla protein powder
- 2 tablespoons cocoa powder (Cadbury's produces excellent results)
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon natural vanilla extract
- 16 medjool pitted dates
- Desiccated coconut, Cadbury drinking chocolate (for rolling finished balls)

### What do I do?

- In a food processor combine macadamias, protein powder, cocoa powder, and cinnamon.
- Once blitzed, add vanilla extract and dates, and then blitz again



until the mix starts to come together.

- Add 1-2 teaspoons of water if needed so that the mixture forms a soft ball.
- Remove from food processor and form into tablespoon-size balls.
- Roll in desiccated coconut and drinking chocolate mix.



- They will last up to 4 weeks stored in the fridge or are suitable to be frozen.

*Recipe source: Adapted from [australian-macadamias.org](http://australian-macadamias.org)*

**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)**

# Book Review

# The Testaments

By Andrea Appleton

**Margaret Atwood faced a very tough task: delivering the sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale*, a dystopian novel she wrote in 1985 that has acquired cult status, and that recently captured a whole new generation of fans thanks to the hugely successful television series of the same name.**

**The** rise of conservative Christianity in the States coupled with Atwood's assertion that all troubling occurrences in her fictional Gilead had actually happened somewhere around the globe incensed many who were already reeling from the revelations of the #MeToo movement and the underlying pervasiveness of latent misogyny.

Still, Atwood did not disappoint. After 35 years, *The Testaments* finally continued the story of Gilead, and claimed the Booker prize in doing so. But it was not necessarily the sequel (or prequel) readers may have expected.

For a start, *The Testaments* does not continue the story of Offred, the protagonist of *The Handmaid's Tale* who at the end of the novel is bundled into a van, heading off to an uncertain fate. Instead, *The Testaments* picks up 15 years after this frantic escape (allowing an ample timeframe for possible further instalments of the television series).

*The Testaments* is told from the point of view of three women: Aunt Lydia and Agnes in Gilead, and Daisy in Canada. We know of the formidable Aunt Lydia from *The Handmaid's Tale*, and her illicit account in *The Testaments* provides a kind of prequel:

a chilling insight into how she secured her position at the very beginning of the regime.

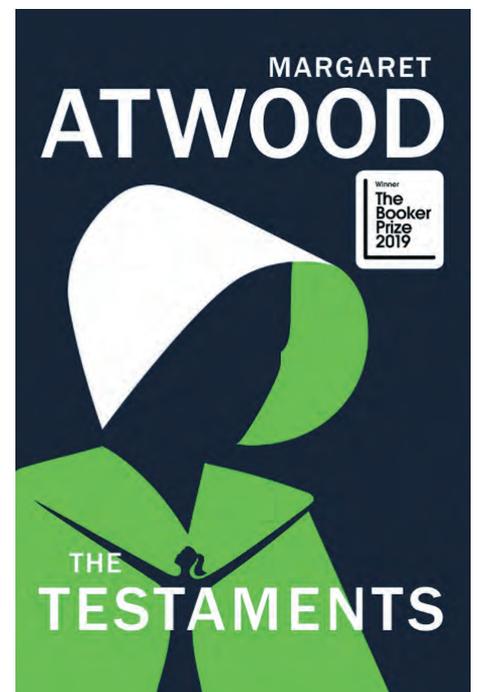
Throughout the second book, Aunt Lydia maintains her authority and offers an insider's insight into the workings of Gilead, including her collusion with the all-powerful men who run the show.

However, all is not as it seems with Aunt Lydia, and she comes to be intimately connected to Agnes and Daisy in a plot that could prove explosive.

Agnes and Daisy are younger characters who have grown up in the Gilead era. They are new to readers, yet oddly familiar, and it is compelling to try and figure out whether their true identities are obscured.

Agnes is a timid, prayerful product of her closeted upbringing and life in Ardua Hall in Gilead, whereas Daisy is largely the opposite, having grown up in the relative freedom of Canada. Yet who are Daisy's parents, and why does she feel like 'a prize cat they (are) cat-sitting'?

While *The Handmaid's Tale* outlines the success of the frog-in-boiling-water coup of Gilead, *The Testaments* portrays the cracks beginning to show in the regime. Although



Margaret Atwood  
Chatto & Windus  
London, 2019  
RRP: \$24.95

there is much riding on Agnes and Daisy's swashbuckling mission, aptly orchestrated by Aunt Lydia, it seems inevitable that change is afoot regardless.

*The Testaments* is a call to arms to act on injustice. It's an acknowledgement that #YouToo can, and should, act on injustice, refuse oppression, and stand up for what you know is right.

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# Don't break the safety chain

Report all health  
and safety hazards



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**Safety & Wellbeing**



QUEENSLAND POLICE UNION OF EMPLOYEES

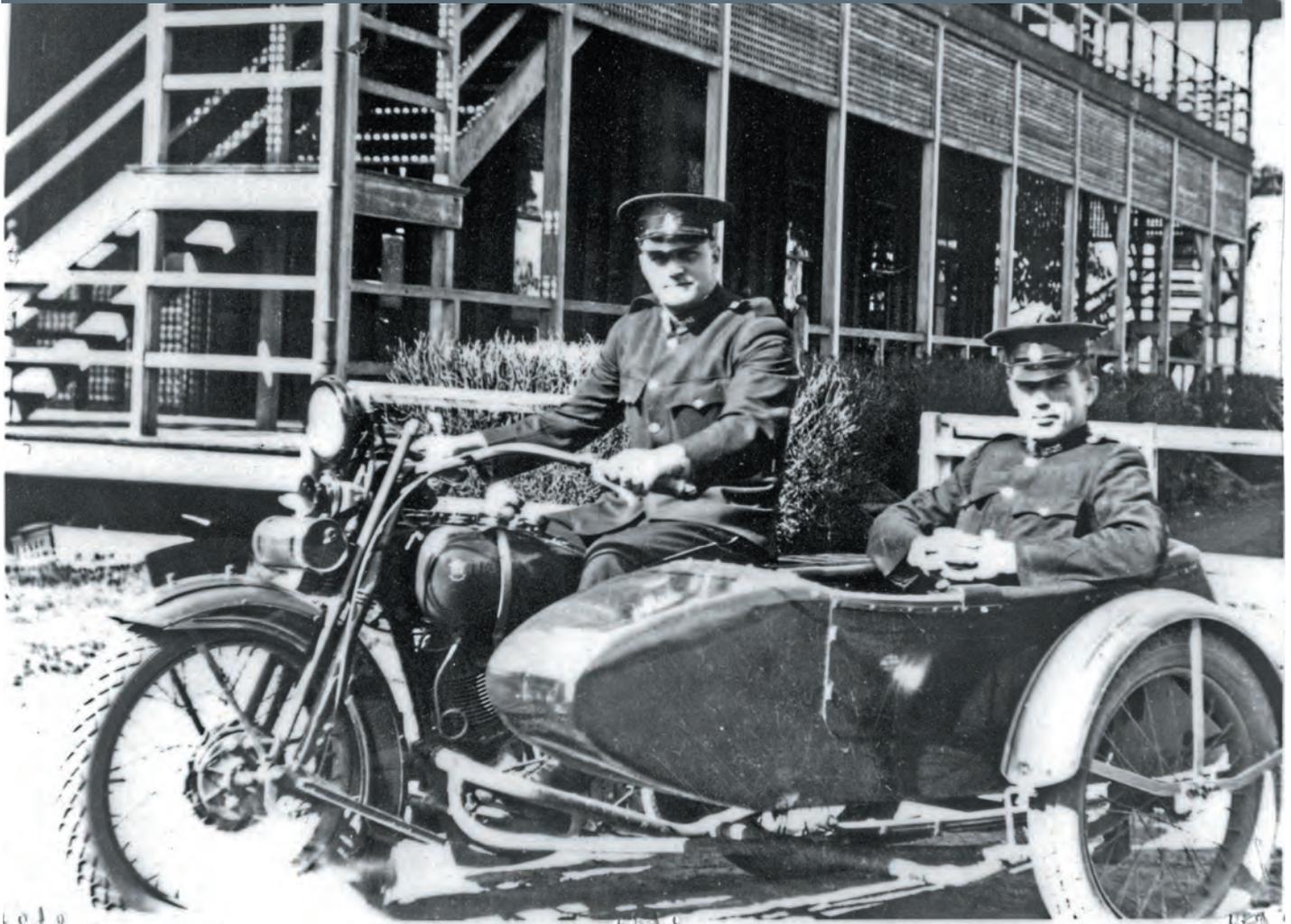
Workplace Health and Safety Representative

Name

Phone number

# From the Archives

## ONE OF THE FIRST POLICE MOTORCYCLES, 1925



Harley Davidsons were the original motorcycle of choice for the state's police. In 1925, Queensland's sixth Police Commissioner William Ryan purchased three Harleys with sidecars, and it wasn't long before detectives saw the value in their rapid ability to reach crime scenes away from established public transport routes.

Fingerprint specialists also embraced the early rumble of the Harley to ferry themselves and basic equipment out into the suburbs. Commissioner Ryan was so impressed with the efficiency of the motorcycles and the crews using them he extended the fleet to 13 before his retirement in 1934. It wasn't until 1957 that police motorcyclists were required to wear helmets.

*Courtesy of the Queensland Police Museum, Image PM 0013*

**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.**

# Police Living

## NEXTECH SMART PADLOCK

Never lose a key or forget a combination again with this new generation padlock that uses your own biometrics or smart phone to control the locking mechanism. The Nextech Smart Padlock is perfect for securing a gym locker, pushbike, gate, or any situation where you want to restrict access with a lock. 'It can record up to 15 fingerprints. Perfect for families who want everyone in the house to have access to a security gate,' says Chris Jones from Jaycar Electronics.

Downloading the free app from Google Play and placing a fingerprint on file can also provide authorisation and unlock the stainless steel shackle when a smart phone is placed near the padlock screen. 'This padlock has the ability to log up to 1,000 times when unauthorised people have attempted to open it, recording the date and time so you can work out if there's a pattern or who it may be,' Mr Jones says.



The padlock takes 90 minutes to charge through a USB port and stays active for up to four months. The makers claim it is designed to unlock 2,800 times before it needs a recharge, and if it does go flat, the smart padlock stays locked until it is powered up again. The aluminium body has a waterproof rating of IPX7 (that means it can be one metre underwater for 30 minutes and still function), making it suitable for all indoor or outdoor use.

'We've never had anybody bring a Nextech smart padlock back with complaints or issues,' Mr Jones says. 'In fact, we've had to store them in a secure display case as they became one of the most shoplifted items!'

The Nextech Smart Padlock retails for \$69.95.

Got a picture of you and your police mates catching up now that ISO restrictions have relaxed somewhat? We have a BCF voucher up for grabs for our favourite 'been looking forward to this!' shot, so send them through to us and you might just see yourself in the next Journal.

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1 Doctors, Hospitals and Service Providers must be recognised by us. 2 2019 MHFA/hirraa Satisfaction Research. 3 Rollover Benefit available after 12 months (2 years for major dental). 4 Waiting periods and other conditions apply.

# Police Health



## FAMOUS LAST WORDS

When thinking of a police officer, many traits come to mind. Courageous. Diligent. Hardworking. *But clairvoyant isn't one of them.*

The ability of foresight would be handy on the job. You could stop the perp before they commit the crime and prevent tragedies before they have the chance to become one. But that's not realistic. Life happens. Accidents occur. People make mistakes. No two jobs are the same for police officers.

When it comes to your health, the same convention stands. Police officers can't foresee when they'll next be in hospital, or peg when an accident will happen, the same way they can't predict each emergency call.

Humans have the ability to detach: to simply hear about bad things and think, *'that won't happen to me'*. No one wakes up expecting to have a heart attack that day, or to be diagnosed with an illness before dinner. As a police officer, you know all too well that unfair things happen to regular people every day.

Yet when it comes to cost-cutting, the first place many Aussies choose to skimp is on their health. It's odd, isn't it? Most would think it absurd to remove a car's airbags just because you've never had an accident. And that same mindset should apply to your health insurance.

## FAMOUS LAST WORDS: "I NEVER USE MY HOSPITAL COVER. I DON'T NEED IT."

**We say:** Not having had a hospital admission is a *good thing!* It should mean you're healthy and well. We don't take out car insurance with the intention of reversing into a letterbox, so you shouldn't expect to have monthly visits to hospital.

A car battery doesn't go flat every day, but when it does, you fix it. A lightbulb doesn't blow each time you switch it on, but when they do, you replace them. If your body is functioning well now, that's something to appreciate. But if, or when, the time comes that your body does need some kind of medical 'tune up', your health insurance policy will be ready and waiting to get you back on your feet.

## FAMOUS LAST WORDS: "I DON'T NEED PRIVATE WHEN I HAVE PUBLIC."

**We say:** For most Aussies, having car and home insurance is a no brainer because there's no public system to fall back on. With health insurance there is an option, but it's important to choose wisely.

We have access to a globally admired healthcare system. In saying that, our highly regarded public health system is somewhat viable by homage to private health insurance (PHI). Without private hospitals, public hospital waiting lists and waiting times would increase even more drastically and put unnecessary pressure on the public system.

In 2018-2019, 893,000 patients were added to the public hospital elective surgery waiting list, and of those patients only 758,000 were admitted for surgery. That left 135,000 waiting. Public hospital elective surgery waiting lists are not only growing, but those on the list are waiting longer for treatment.<sup>1</sup>

Patients with PHI are able to nominate their doctor and skip the hospital waiting lists, minimising time away from work and loss of income, and alleviating stress from the public system.

## FAMOUS LAST WORDS: "I CAN HAVE BASIC HOSPITAL COVER. I'M YOUNG AND FIT."

**We say:** By opting to have exclusions, you're essentially neglecting parts of your body, which is a gamble for someone without foresight. There are conditions and diseases exclusive to genders and age groups that we don't all have to worry about. But there are also those health situations that we, as humans, assume won't ever affect us.

As a police officer, you're often the bearer of bad news. It's your job to handle the initial reaction of a parent or family member after knocking on their door late at night to inform them of a fatal accident involving their loved one. Many will express their emotion through tears, and others will withdraw into silence. Then there are those in denial: the ones who can't believe it because they never thought it could happen to *them*.

Ask any cancer sufferer, rehabilitation patient, or the person holding the unconscious hand of their loved one. They'll tell you something similar.

It's time to get over the *"I don't use it, so I don't need it"* mentality.

We take out home insurance, car insurance, and life insurance, not with the intention of using it, but for the peace of mind of knowing it's there. So if your television is worth it, shouldn't your health be worth it, too?

Don't leave your health up to premonition or chance. If you don't want these famous last words to be yours, get in touch with Police Health to discover the benefits that will have you covered, no matter the circumstance.

You've got our backs, so let us prove we have yours.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/myhospitals/sectors/elective-surgery>



# QUEENSLAND RETIRED POLICE ASSOCIATION

## QRPA NEWS – Winter Edition 2020

### 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)

E-mail: [qldretiredpolice@gmail.com](mailto:qldretiredpolice@gmail.com)

**Courtesy of the QPS, a 24/7 confidential psychological support service is available to retired Queensland police officers – 1800 277 478**

**IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE DOING IT TOUGH, PLEASE URGE THEM TO USE THIS FREE SERVICE**



### MESSAGE FROM GREG EARLY, STATE PRESIDENT

#### WELFARE

The welfare of our 1,343 members is more important today than ever. The State Management Committee has four Welfare Officers and most of the 17 branches have one or more Welfare Officers. Where a branch

does not have a Welfare Officer, any assistance to members is usually given by a member of the branch's Executive. I believe all Welfare Officers do a good job but in all cases rely on a member seeking their assistance or someone advising them of the need to assist a member.

For almost three years now, members of the Association have been able to ring **1800 277 478** to seek external, confidential psychological support. This service has been made possible through liaison with the Safety and Wellbeing branch of the QPS.

Just recently, a flyer headed 'Queensland Retired Police Association – Wellbeing Support Options' was sent by e-mail to the over 930 members on e-mail. It has also been sent to all members who have received the March quarterly newsletter.

This flyer indicates the contact phone numbers of five other organisations which can assist our members in time of need. It also includes advice from the Queensland Health website about the opportunity for members to seek a mental health care plan with your doctor, and the entitlement for a Medicare rebate on up to ten individual sessions or group appointments in a calendar year with a psychologist, social worker, or occupational therapist.

The QPS is in the process of developing a website for members both past and present and their families which will contain a lot of information about mental health and wellbeing, the support

available, and how to access that support. The website will be linked to the QRPA website.

While it has been suggested that the QRPA consider being involved in the formation of a not-for-profit organisation like Police Veterans Support Victoria, which provides a peer support program through Veteran Peer Support Officers and which brings with it a Veteran Benefit Card which entitles members to a range of discounts and benefits for various mental health and wellbeing services across Australia, the State Management Committee considers that such a move is not warranted when we consider what is already in place for our members.

### FUTURE MEETINGS

Due to the coronavirus, most, if not all, branch meetings in the foreseeable future have been cancelled. The State Management Committee is making arrangements to keep the management of the Association going by whatever means are possible.

### AN OPPORTUNITY TO STAY IN TOUCH

To assist QRPA members to stay in contact during the virus isolation period and in the future, we are promoting the Member Forum under Community on the QRPA website. The State Management Committee has commenced with a topic for discussion. It is hoped each branch will create a topic over the isolation period.

### LUNCHEON ATTENDED

On 25 February I attended the Redlands Luncheon which was held at the Redlands Sporting Club. I was accompanied by Senior State Vice President Bob Pease, State Treasurer Jillian Steinkamp, and State Secretary Patricia Holden.

### FUTURE LUNCHEONS AND DINNER WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN CANCELLED AT THIS STAGE

**16 June – Hervey Bay** – Hervey Bay RSL Club – Ian Anderson 0457 686 108

**27 June – Van Diemen's Land** – Tamar Valley Resort – Andy Beasant 0409 030 142

**25 July – Gladstone** – Chinatown Restaurant – Darryl Saw – 0447 417 746

**14 September – State Annual lunch – Geebung RSL Club** – Bob Pease 0401 399 839

**16 November – Rockhampton** – Frenchville Club – Dennis Smith 4928 3245

### NEW MEMBERS

Former Constable Kenneth John Burgess, Far North Queensland; former Detective Superintendent AFP Bradley Joseph Eaton, Far North Queensland; former Senior Sergeant Michael James Pearson, Logan Beenleigh; former Sergeant Ian Maple Browne, Sunshine Coast; former Constable 1st Class

Donna Dancer, Sunshine Coast; former Constable Michelle Eleanor Gittoes, Sunshine Coast; former Senior Constable Andrew Charles Burns, Sunshine Coast; former Senior Sergeant Michael Rowlands, Sunshine Coast; and former Sergeant David Trelour, Townsville.

## QRPA CERTIFICATES

**Veteran Member** (over 75 years and 10 years continuous financial membership)

- Domenico Cacciola, State
- Margaret Ann Kussrow, Logan-Beenleigh
- Ronald Francis Lidgard, State
- George David Pugh, State
- Dennis Edwin Rayner, Near North Coast

## 90 and over:

- Keith Frederick Chandler, Townsville, 94 on 18 March
- Spencer Moray Hale, State, 94 on 31 March
- Evan Arthur Reason, Far North Queensland, 90 on 31 March
- Kevin Thomas Weise, Darling Downs, 93 on 30 March

## OBITUARIES

**Members:** Senior Associate Member Dieter Walter Rausch, 4.2.20, 69 years; Veteran Associate Member Ruth Beatrice Kirkpatrick, 4.2.20; Veteran Member and retired Detective Superintendent Gordon David Cogill, 15.2.20, 79 years; Member and former Sergeant Ian John Morris, 22.2.20, 66 years; Associate Member Stanislaw (Stan) Joseph Janas, 21.2.20, 73 years; Veteran Associate Member Catherine Mary Finter, 25.12.19, 83 years; Veteran Associate Member Theresa Maureen Bickhoff, 10.12.19, 83 years; Veteran Member former Inspector Henry James (Jim) Collins, 8.3.20, 89 years; Member former Senior Constable Patrick John Bocking, 13.3.20, 68 years; and Veteran Member former Detective Inspector Ross Marlin Beer, 19.03.20, 76 years.

**Non-members:** Former Detective Sergeant David Mervyn Hazelwood, 10.2.20, 72 years; former Constable Judith Anne Treasure (Mawn), 14.2.20; former Sergeant Patrick John Armstrong, 25.2.20; Former Detective Sergeant 1/C Kerry Bruce David La Praik, 24.2.20; former Constable Gayle Christina Gilchrist (Bean), 28.2.20, 66 years; Former QPS officer Lester Henry Noble, 29.2.20; former Police Tracker, Barry Port, 4.3.20, 74 years; former Senior Sergeant Robert James (Bobbo) Lewis, 25.3.20, 63 years; and former Sergeant James Franklin (Jim) Murphy, 24.3.20.

**Family:** Jack Noyes Turpin, father of former QPS officers Marty and Rick Turpin and grandfather to current serving members, 2.2.20, 94 years; Joy Mamantow, wife of the late Senior Constable Stu Mamantow; Pam Braithwaite, wife of Veteran Member Don Braithwaite, 28.3.20; and Margaret Horgan, widow of former Queensland Police officer, Cornelius William (Con) Horgan, 7.3.20.

## AROUND THE BRANCHES

### BUNDABERG

Meeting held on 31 January. Welfare: Gordon Storer is little changed, having good and bad days. President Grannie Pearce mentioned that Bargara Bowls Club, the venue of the Police Legacy Bowls Day held each year on Labour Day, was undergoing major renovations and hopefully will be ready in time for the day to be held there. The Retired Police bowls team has been quiet of late but they bounced back into action again on 1 March when they played at Burnett Bowls Club. John Lewis has been really getting into the bowls sport of late. Meeting held on 28 February. The Club is looking into the possibility of hiring a bus so that members can attend the Gympie, Hervey Bay, and Gladstone Annual Luncheons. Newsletter Editor Bill Larkman is looking for old time police-related photos for inclusion in a 'memory lane' section of the Club's newsletter. Welfare: Ken Strohfeldt is now living permanently in Toowoomba. Welfare Officer Mary Waugh will undergo surgery in Bundaberg soon. Bob Hayes's leg has healed but unfortunately he is having trouble with one of his toes. Bruce Jensen has fitted into the welfare role well and is assisting Mary Waugh.

### GOLD COAST

Meeting held on 4 February at the Currumbin RSL Club. Sixty-one guests and two police widows attended the Annual Christmas Luncheon held at the Quality Inn Hotel. Neil Raward is retiring at the AGM from being Treasurer and Social Treasurer for many years. The last social meeting was held at the Nerang RSL Club on 27 February. Welfare: John Wilson's wife Lorraine is recovering from a lung operation and Danny Black was having a few health concerns. Guest speaker: Inspector Bruce Kuhn, who gave an interesting talk about policing in the past, present, and future. Meeting held at the Southport RSL Club on 3 March. Neil Raward gave an update on his treatment for throat cancer, Bill Lane was recovering after a recent toe amputation, and Russell Robertson was still dealing with balance problems.

### GYMPIE

Meeting held at the Country Club, Tin Can Bay on 5 February. President Laurie Pointing spoke of the passing of former Sergeant First Class Brian James Norris. He mentioned that his lengthy and interesting life story features in volume three of *Keeping the Peace*. Brian had been in care at Oz Care, Port Douglas, for many years. Veteran member Gary Lyons is in care in Cairns and his health is deteriorating. Welfare Report by Norm Breen and Annabell Andrews: Peter Eiby is mobile and going to his medical appointments. John Gordon was in the Sunshine Coast University Hospital undergoing tests. Gary Cotterill is feeling much better after a few health problems. Rex and Marion Allison and Colin and Mary King are steady. Veronica Kane received support for a trip on the Mary Valley Rattler.

### LOGAN-BEENLEIGH

Meeting held on 20 February. With the new year, the branch passed a milestone on 11 February with 10 years of operation and still going strong with over 90 members. At the January

meeting, Max Moloney resigned as Welfare Officer due to family commitments and we thank Max for his work in the branch both as Foundation President and in later years in welfare. Eileen Riley has stepped into the position of Welfare Officer for the branch and we welcome her in her new role. A reminder to members who have any welfare issues or know of a member needing assistance to contact Eileen. Eileen has put forward some ideas and future plans to cultivate more interest within the branch. Members will be aware that I recently sent out a list of memberships to all members with a contact e-mail to facilitate members making contact with old mates within our branch, to renew old friendships. We have finally completed the Tradies List, which lists recommended trades people for members to use and know that the trade person comes with a recommendation. Regarding ID cards, members are advised that the International Police Association provides a card to members which can be used to identify retired police. It costs \$50 to join and thereafter \$20 yearly. Keep well and remember: With Honour We Served. (Terry Ahearn, Secretary.)

### SUNSHINE COAST

Meeting held on 25 February. President John Walker presented Dave Durham with his Senior Member Certificate. Applications to join the QRPA by the following were recommended for approval: Ian Maple Browne, Donna Dancer, Michelle Eleanor Gittoes, Andrew Charles Burns, and Michael Rowlands. Guest speaker: Rex Eggmoleese is a proud descendant of the 'Blackbirded Kanakas' who were brought to Australia from Vanuata, and he has led a most interesting life. He is a wonderful singer and he played his guitar and sang his own rendition of Harry Bellafonte's song 'Island in the Sun', for which he received a standing ovation. His address about his Kanaka ancestors and his ups and downs in life was delivered with honesty and compassion, and without doubt he is one of the best speakers the branch has had.

### SOUTHERN DOWNS AND GRANITE BELT

On 6 March a combined meeting with the New England branch of the NSW RPA was held at the Tenterfield Golf Club. Twenty-four members attended. Advice had been received concerning the passing of Nancy Middleton, wife of the late Hugh Middleton. Welfare: President Laurie Bell had hip surgery recently. Secretary Monica O'Mara spoke about access to the QRPA website. The meeting which was to be held on 1 May at Hidden Creek Winery, Ballandean, was cancelled.



Members attending the combined meeting at Tenterfield Golf Club.



Members attending the combined meeting at Tenterfield Golf Club.

### ROCKHAMPTON

Meeting held on 5 February. Bob Fitzsimmons has transferred to the Far North Queensland branch. The Annual Dinner will be held on 16 November at the Frenchville Club. Welfare: Member Brendan Jones is back on deck after a long recovery and hospitalisation as a result of a white tailed spider bite. Meeting held on 4 March. Guest speakers Herb Elliot and Bob Holmes addressed the meeting on their project at Cockscombe Retreat, Camms Road, Cawarral. It is basically a bush setting originally set up as a retreat for serving and ex-military personnel, but is now catering for all who put themselves in harm's way, ie. military, police, fire, ambulance, SES, and nurses. The site has a recreation hall, powered sites for motor homes, caravans, and camping, as well as two units and a five room donga. Membership is available for a fee of a once-only payment of \$10. Questions were fielded and both were thanked by President Barry Self for their address. Discussion was held to finetune the BBQ at the Beach which was to have been held on 15 March. Members were reminded of the QPS Wellbeing Support available to members.

### MACKAY-WHITSUNDAY

Meeting held on 15 February. Welfare: Barry Downs had been in contact with Tony Wynne and Col Duncan. He has extended his appreciation to the Townsville branch Welfare Officers who visited member Ray Hodgson while he had a stay in Townsville Hospital. Dave Gray and Dennis Hansen both had minor surgery and are in good health. Doug Sologinkin also underwent surgery and a short stay in the Mater Hospital. Barry reports that his wife, Thele, has not been well but is expected to recover following his TLC. Nineteen members enjoyed a meal and get together at Northern Beaches Bowls Club on 17 January. Tony Wynne celebrated his 80th birthday on 21 January and a few members shared his cake when they visited him at the nursing home. An application for associate membership was received from Lesley Nichols and was recommended for acceptance.



Barry Downs, Dennis Hansen, and Jean Hammond with Tony Wynne celebrating his 80th birthday.

## IPSWICH

Meeting held on 13 February. Welfare: Ken Morris underwent surgery for carpal tunnel. Bill Hayden was in hospital and was recovering slowly. Guest speakers: Ian Leavers, President of the Queensland Police Union of Employees, and Col Muller, Southern Region Union Representative. Ian gave a very open and interesting talk and came across as being very astute and knowledgeable. He left those present in no doubt about his passion and commitment to his position. While giving an open and relaxed talk, Ian had to be circumspect but still gave a good insight on recent and current police, union, judiciary, government, and public interaction. His talk kept those present very absorbed. Ian was optimistic that Commissioner Carroll would be a good Commissioner and felt confident that he will have a good working relationship with her. He spoke about his thoughts on her approach to the position and considered her to be very practical and down to earth. Ian summed up that overall, the public supports police and he expects the new Commissioner will be good for the Service, and the Union. Meeting held 12 March: A special welcome was given to former New South Wales police officer Simon Manchee. Welfare report by John Hawkins and Len Yarrow: Di McCrae informed Ken Martin that John now has complete renal failure. He attends the Wesley Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for treatment. Once it is decided that enough is enough, he will move into palliative care at the Wesley. He wishes to be cremated at Centennial Gardens followed by a wake at Brothers. The Police Chaplain and Keith McDonald have been in touch with John. John Hawkins advised he had been in touch with Vince Beutel, Ted Hogan, and Ken Farquharson. John believes Peter Cunningham is travelling okay. Margie Kussrow intends transferring to the branch from Logan-Beenleigh branch. Guest speaker: Ipswich Hospice Director of Nursing, Carol Hope. Carol gave an interesting overview on the workings of the hospice. President Ken Morris presented a cheque to Carol for the Hospice in the sum of \$300.



President Ken Morris presented Carol Hope, Director of Nursing Services, Ipswich Hospice, with a cheque for \$300.

## TOWNSVILLE

Meeting held on 5 February. Welfare Officer Gordon Thomas informed that he and John Cran had visited Ray Hodgson from the Mackay branch who had been in the Mater Hospital to have an operation on his lung. He welcomed Jenny Urquhart to the meeting after she had been ill with the flu, and Bob Loveridge who had done some damage to his hand. Peter

Hardy had some more cancers cut out. The \$200 donated to the SES by Gladstone and Townsville branches was spent on replacing equipment lost in the recent floods. It appears that the Townsville RSL Club will not be up and running until the end of the year. Carlyle Gardens Restaurant will be booked for the rest of the year. The special Christmas raffle raised \$165. The branch put \$135 with that amount and donated the \$300 to the Queensland Police Legacy Scheme. Trevor Errington, Bob Loveridge, and John Cran attended the recent induction at the Townsville Academy. Warren Butterworth spoke on a proposed trip to have a combined meeting with the Mackay-Whitsunday branch at Brisk Bay, Bowen. Guest speaker: Former Superintendent and Life Member Brian Bensley gave a very interesting talk on his career in the QPS from the date of being sworn in to his retirement. An application to join was received from former Sergeant Dave Trelour and it was recommended for approval. Meeting held on 4 March. Welfare Officer Gordon Thomas informed the meeting that Ray Hodgson from the Mackay branch was again in the Mater Hospital; also he had visited Brian and Margaret Hooper. John Urquhart said that Fred Angus had contacted him and Laura is progressing slowly but is still having problems with walking (she fell over on Christmas Eve and broke her knee). An application for membership was received from retired Sergeant Rodney Derrick Tibbey and recommended for approval. On 22 March Vince and Beryl Bye will be celebrating their 73rd wedding anniversary.



Secretary John Urquhart, wife Jenny, and new grandson Ruben.



Guest speaker: Former Superintendent and Life Member Brian Bensley.

## GLADSTONE

Meeting held at the Queens Hotel, Gladstone, on 5 February. The Annual Luncheon this year will be held at the Chinatown Restaurant on 25 July. Several members attended the funeral of Pat Kelly, mother of member Kevin. Meeting held at McDonalds Family Restaurant, Kin Kora, on 4 March. The branch made a donation to bushfire victims whose homes were destroyed in the Rosedale, Lowmead, and Mt Maria

area. Welfare: Keith McCann advised there was no change with Val Caterson. Michelle Caterson has finished her cancer radiation treatment and is hoping for a positive outcome. Graham Cousins was at the meeting and reported progress with his leg healing. President Darryl Saw reported that Denis Connolly had come down with shingles, was in much pain, and was unable to attend the meeting. Several members attended Stan Janas's funeral service and Chris Lette recited The Ode to an Associate Member of QRPA at Stan's wake.

**DARLING DOWNS**

Meeting held 13 February. President John Sullivan is to make approaches to the Police Union to push for a return of the title of the Queensland Police Service to Police Force as achieved in New South Wales. John presented Boyd Wilson with his Veteran Member Certificate. Meeting held 12 March. Graham Hohenhaus is now a permanent resident in Bupa Nursing Home. At the meeting, members were advised that a QRPA plaque had been presented to his wife Faye and daughter Jenny in recognition of and appreciation for his long and distinguished service to the QRPA. Welfare: It was mentioned that the Buddy Sheet system was not being used sufficiently and that if any member became ill or needed assistance they should let their 'buddy' from the branch know. Bob Scarff is in possession of the archive DVDs and anyone needing them should get in touch with him. Consideration is being given to the purchase of a small public address system due to the poor acoustics within the meeting area at the Stock Exchange Hotel.



President John Sullivan presenting Boyd Wilson with his Veteran Member Certificate.



Graham Hohenhaus receiving a QRPA plaque in the presence of his wife Faye and daughter Jenny.

**NEAR NORTH COAST**

Meeting held 17 February at the Caboolture Sports Club. An application for membership by Paul Lawrence Doyle was recommended for acceptance. Welfare: Allan Hawkins reported that Rick Losberg was looking good but still undergoing treatment. The ladies indicated they were happy to continue to provide BBQ lunches at meetings and suggested five be held this year. These meetings are always well attended and provide a good venue for fellowship. Meeting held 16 March at Woody Point. President John O'Gorman welcomed new member Paul Doyle. Secretary Merv Melling was an apology due to him being involved in shifting house. Paddy Higgins acted as Secretary. It was resolved that future meetings would be held outdoors where no doubt the ladies will put on the usual BBQ lunch.

**REDLANDS**

The Annual Luncheon was held on 25 February at the Redlands Sporting Club. Seventy-eight members and guests attended. Special guests were Deputy Commissioner Steve Gollschewski, QBank Director Dan Keating, Redlands MP Kim Richards, Redlands Mayor Karen Williams, Redlands Deputy Mayor Lance Hewlett, Councillors Paul Golle, Wendy Boglary, Paul Bishop, Julie Talty, and Peter Mitchell, and Ms Kathy Huf and Ms Betty Goleby of Crime Stoppers Brisbane Bayside Volunteer Area Committee. Members from Logan-Beenleigh, Near North Coast, Southern Downs and Granite Belt, and Hervey Bay branches also attended the luncheon. There were numerous prizes in the multi draw raffles. Paul Oates (who had that day applied to join the Redlands branch of QRPA) won the lucky door prize of a money tree which was donated by Pete and Liza from SELL Realty. The second lucky door prize (two nights at Coolum Dreams Bed and Breakfast, which was donated by member Narelle Walker of the Sunshine Coast branch) was won by the oldest member, Barry Ingham. Allan Nicol could not attend the luncheon because he was undergoing surgery, which is understood to have been successful. Allan seems to be well on the road to recovery. Another apology was Dudley Orchard who likewise underwent some surgery, after which he was discharged back to his nursing home. All round, another well organised and enjoyed luncheon.



Redlands Mayor Karen Williams addressing the Annual Luncheon.



Deputy Commissioner Steve Gollschewski addressing the Annual Luncheon.

## FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

The 28 February meeting was held at the Gateway Hotel, Mareeba. Vice President Mal McKaskill chaired the meeting. Special guests were Inspector Russell Rhodes and Tablelands Chaplain Allan Sharpe. Members expressed condolences on the passing of members Brian Norris, Cath Finter, and Maureen Bickhoff. Mention was made of the availability of Laurie Pointing's three volumes of *Keeping the Peace*, and also that the Queensland Police Legacy Scheme has received over \$3,000 from sales of the books. The service history of Graham Vickers, who turned 80 on 22 February, was outlined. Guest speaker: John Hartwell spoke on the topic 'Cairns Airport Security'. He indicated that 115 staff cover all aspects of airport security, passenger screening, checked bag screening, inspection points, and kerbside officers. He stated all checked bags are x-rayed before being placed on aircraft. He gave examples of what is located by screeners, namely imitation hand grenades, bullets, pepper spray, credit card knives, and knives etc. He also spoke on the next generation CT equipment that will be introduced towards the end of the year. This equipment will take the place of x-rays and is similar to CT equipment used in medical imaging. Welfare: Brigitte McKaskill advised the meeting of wellbeing support options available to members. Allan Dredge provided information concerning Ashley Snook and Bob Adamson. The Far North Queensland Police Reunion will be held at the Lilo Bar and Deck, Rydges Plaza, Cairns, on 13 June.

## HERVEY BAY

Meeting held 17 March. President Ian Anderson thanked all members who attended the funeral of veteran member Jim Collins. Welfare: Dorrell Healy's knee replacement has gone well and she is mobile. Ross Skyring has injured his shoulder and has treatment scheduled. Member Bob Summers was meant to speak to the meeting in relation to his experiences on board the Ovation of the Seas vessel during a trip to New Zealand when a volcano caused

the deaths of a number of passengers on an excursion, however Bob was unwell and his address will wait until another meeting.

## VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

Meeting held 22 March at Bracknell, which is near Longford. Attendance: Andy and Karen Beasant, Jim and Geraldine Byrne, Greg and Maggie McPherson, Brad and Cheryl Hafner, Craig and Helen Robertson, and Phil and Colleen Sharpe. Guests: Goldie Byrne and Julie Burgess. Hosts for an excellent morning tea and lunch were Brad and Cheryl Hafner of the Bracknell Hotel. President/Secretary Andy Beasant presented Craig and Helen Robertson with a Certificate of Appreciation for their help in arranging a meeting last year. Appreciation was shown for the QBank diaries which had been received by post.

If travelling to Tasmania, please support our members:

**Gretna Green Hotel** – Lyall Highway, Gretna,  
Phil and Colleen Sharpe, 03 6286 1332  
sharpet401@bigpond.com

**Wilderness Hotel** - Lyall Highway, Derwent Bridge,  
Dave and Carol Fitzgibbon, 03 6289 1144  
derwentbridgewildernesshotel@bigpond.com

**Stone Cottage** – Main Road, Ross,  
Steve and Val Kummerow, 03 6381 5444  
svkummerow@hotmail.com

**Touchwood** – 31 Church Street, Stanley,  
Chris and Greta Blom, 03 64581348  
enquiries@touchwoodstanley.com.au

# THERE COULD BE A CRITICAL INCIDENT AHEAD!

If it happens, protect yourself and your family  
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They will steer you in the right direction.

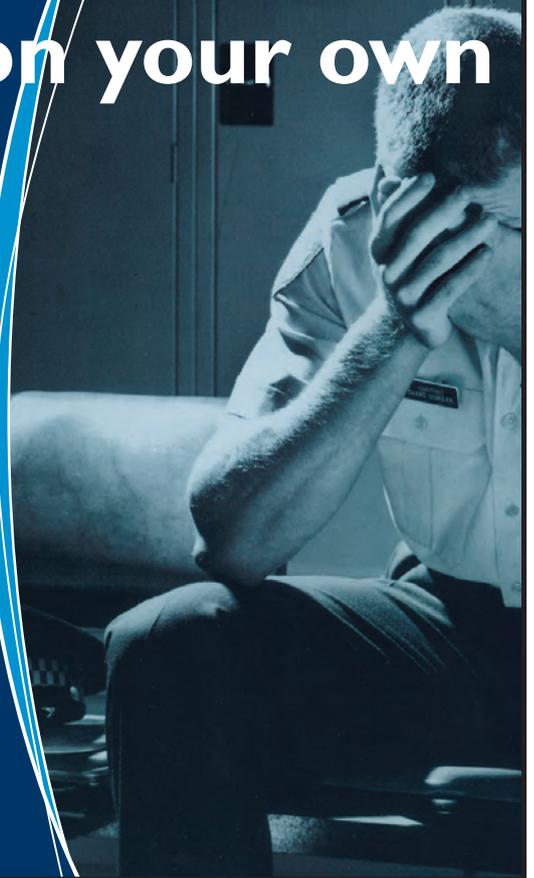


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