



THE KILLROOMER



Hervey Bay Region Qld Australia

Chairman – Peter Goonan
Tel 07 4124 5543
email: hpgoonan@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor – Dave Barrowcliffe
Tel 07 4123 2297
dave3para@gmail.com

June 2011



The last meeting was held on Sunday 12 June 2011 at Sunday McKenzie's home at Kawungan. I wasn't at the meeting because of family commitments. I have been reliably informed that even though Sunday didn't dig up the back garden and put on a Hangi everyone was extremely well fed and watered. Unfortunately I have not been able to reproduce any photos of the gathering as the medium that I received them in was not compatible with my system and I could not reproduce them in a size that was viewable.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday 10 July 2011 at Gary and Roz Jamieson's home at 142 Kingfisher Parade Toogoom. The theme is Italian and Silvio Berlusconi is rumoured to be attending as a special guest. Ladies, if you have not already done so will you please liaise with Roz on 41280918 as to what to bring.

On Saturday 18 June 2011 a coach full of members and friends had a most enjoyable outing to Brieley Wines at Childers. After morning refreshments we sampled a range of their wines and were able to make purchases. We had a leisurely lunch in peaceful surroundings with rather large Kookaburras sitting on the vine straining posts keeping an ever watchful eye on us all. The weather was pleasant and a big improvement on the previous Saturday. Thank you, Vicki and Garry for arranging the outing. Everyone enjoyed themselves and hopefully other outings can be arranged to provide more social activity

It is on such occasions that in a relaxed atmosphere some very interesting stories are told, quite casually about past events and happenings in members police service. So much more seems to be told in a casual manner than if a person was asked directly to talk about some topic. Some of the stories are far more interesting and enlightening than any official records. Hopefully I can get some support to be able to make recordings of some of the conversations so that that they can be kept for posterity.

On Saturday 25 June 2011 the Tiaro Farming and Life Style Field Day was held at where else but Tiaro. The local constabulary were very visible and had a recruiting display. There was no Maccas there but the local service clubs were able to provide enough food and beverage for everyone. Ross and Ann Dickson were in their element selling sub tropical fruit trees and plants with unfamiliar and hard to pronounce names which they and other members of their club had grown on their properties. On a line up who would have guessed that Ross used to feel collars for a living.

The event of the last month which is at the front of every police officer and former police officers mind is the shooting and subsequent death of Detective Senior Constable Damian Leeding, during the apprehension of persons involved in an armed hold-up on 30 May. 2011

No one, unless they are the husband, wife, partner, father, mother, brother , sister, son or daughter can ever understand and feel the full extent of pain due to the loss of a loved one. No words are adequate to express the loss. For every serving police officer who is out on the streets at the sharp end of “up holding the law” and protecting the citizenry, it is a stark reminder that everyday no one can foretell what might happen during a period of duty. Next to the loss of a family member is the loss of a work colleague whom you know or work with. To some of us who have known a police officer who has been killed in the line of duty it is especially more poignant.

Every time I hear the tragic news of the death of a police officer in the line of duty I am reminded of the murder, by shooting of three unarmed police officers on 12 August 1966 at East Acton, London. They were Detective Sergeant Chris Head, Temporary Detective Constable Dave Wombwell and Police Constable Geoffrey Fox. I knew Dave Wombwell who was one of the crew of Q Car, call sign Foxtrot 11 (One One).

Nothing will bring back Damian Leeming or Chris Head, Dave Wombwell or Geoffrey Fox but there is a link of good which came out of those tragic deaths. Firstly, the community has realised that police officers are an integral part of the community and they have the job of protecting, caring and looking after the

community. The community has demonstrated and shown their feelings and thoughts by attending the funerals of the officers and have donated money to assist in the welfare of the fallen officers families.

When the three police officers were killed a fund was started, firstly by an anonymous donation of £100,000 (\$250,000 in 1966). It was later found out that Sir Billy Butlin of Butlin Holiday resorts fame was the donor. The fund quickly grew to £250,000 ((\$625,000) and then £1,000,000 (\$2,500,000). That fund became known as the Police Dependant's Trust of which Her Majesty The Queen is the Patron. That fund now has £20,000,000 for the benefit of police officers in the UK who are killed or injured in the line of duty. This is over and above any employment entitlements.

The Auspol Police Welfare Foundation was started in 1999 after consultation with, and modelled on the UK Police Dependents Trust.

Another murder of a police officer in London resulted in another trust being set up. That is the Police Memorial Trust, which was set up after the shooting death of WPC Yvonne Fletcher in 1984. Yvonne was on duty outside of the Libyan Embassy during a protest demonstration. She and 10 other persons were shot by someone from within the Embassy .Her fiancé, another police officer was by her side when she was shot. Her death caused the breaking off of diplomatic ties between the UK and Libya. Libya has admitted responsibility for the murder but as yet no one has been tried for the offence. As the result of a letter to the editor of a newspaper a Police Memorial Trust was set up where a marker is placed at or a close as possible to the scene where a police officer is killed. In 1985 the first marker was placed where Yvonne was killed.

Since 1984 38 memorials for 43 police officers have been erected in the U.K.

Nothing will ever bring back or compensate for the fallen police officers, however a tangible and permanent reminder should be considered in Australia as is now being done in the U.K.

VALE NOTICE.

Joe Laskowski on 19 June 2011 (More information next Killroomer)

BIRTHDAYS

5 July Gordon Close

7 July Roslyn Jamieson

16 July Lita Redley

18 July Hazel Hanrahan

2 August Gary Cohen

8 August Denis Hanrahan

12 August Ruth Hoeter

22 August Ann Dickson

25 August Joy Newman



UK Police Memorials



Winery Trip



More Drinkers



More than 6 bucks worth

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