

Gavin John FREW

23/03/2018

Gavin John EW

Late of Mt Bruno, formerly of Horsham

Victoria police force

Regd. 27893

Rank: Leading Senior Constable

Stations: Broadmeadows, Ararat, Horsham and Wangaratta HWP –
Death

Service: From ?? 1989 to 24 September 2017= ? years
Service

Awards: No find on It's An Honour

Born: 26 March 1969

Died on: Sunday 24 September 2017

Age: 48

Cause: PTSD – Suicide

Event location: ?

Event date: ?

Funeral date: 5 October 2017 @ 10.30am

Funeral location: Our Lady's Catholic Church, corner of Murdoch Road and White Street, Wangaratta

Buried at: Private Cremation

Funeral Director: Mason Park Funerals – 03 57215060

Memorial located at: ?



GAVIN is NOT mentioned on the National Police Wall of Remembrance, Canberra *NEED MORE INFO

He is NOT mentioned on the VicPol Wall of Remembrance (March 2018)

FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED ABOUT THIS PERSON, THEIR LIFE, THEIR CAREER AND THEIR DEATH.

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

May they forever Rest In Peace

Frew Gavin- Funeral Service Booklet – pdf

September 28 2017 – 7:00PM

Family mourns dedicated Wangaratta police officer, father and 'lovable idiot' Gavin Frew

• Shana Morgan

The death of Leading Senior Constable Gavin Frew has devastated his family and Wangaratta police colleagues who always found joy in his unique ways.

He had been stationed with the Wangaratta Highway Patrol in recent years after moving to the region from Horsham, but died

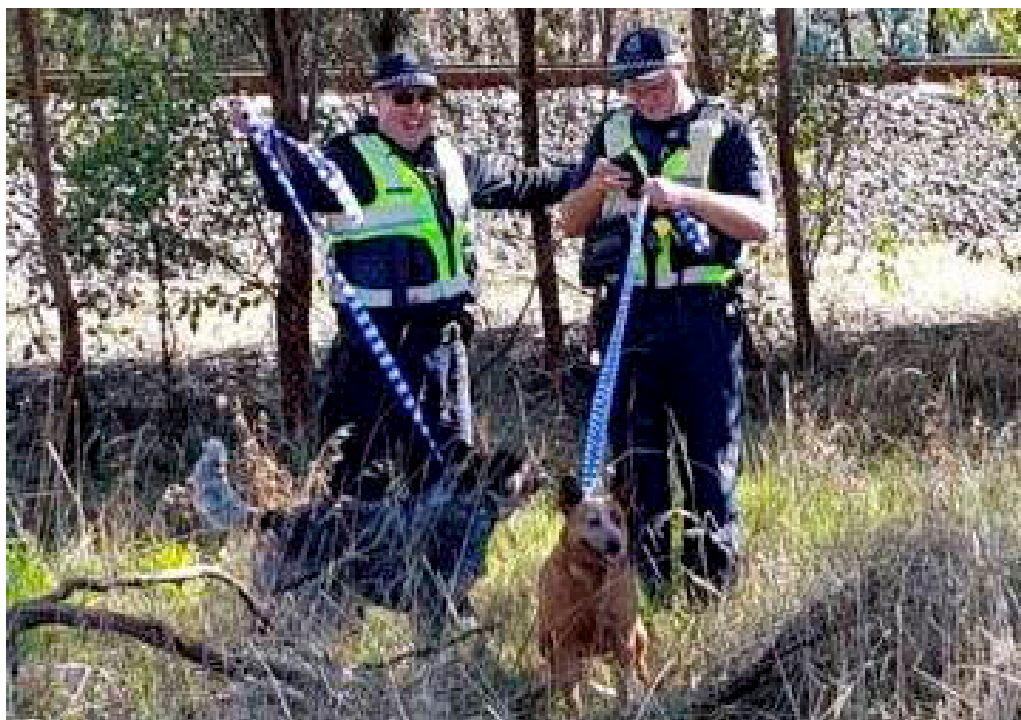
this week.



Daughter Kaycee Frew said her father was her best friend.

“He was a loving husband, an amazing father and a lovable idiot to all,” she said.

“His many years of service in the Victoria police brought joy to the people who worked with him – the hole left in our lives is deep and painful.”



Leading Senior Constable Frew was known for his dedication to the job and sense of humour, but also suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Ms Frew described him as her “sad clown” and wanted to make him the face of the disorder within Victoria Police. His death comes as Police Remembrance Day will be commemorated on September 29.

Superintendent Paul O’Halloran said messages of sympathy for the loss of Leading Senior Constable Frew had come from the Border region and from Horsham.

“He was always quite vocal around the building ... it’s had a really significant impact,” he said.

“We’re shocked and saddened. Gavin was a well-liked and very well-respected member of the Wangaratta Highway Patrol and he’s also really well known across the force.”

Horsham-based friend Michael Ryan said Leading Senior Constable Frew was loved by all.

“He was a gorgeous young man. It was very hard to not like

him, even as a copper. He was just good to people," he said.

"There was nothing about him that was evil or mean."

Mr Ryan knew Mr Frew through their mutual involvement with Horsham Saints Football Netball Club.

"Gavin came from a fantastic family – really good community-minded people," he said.

"He was really good policeman. It takes a bit of skill and nous to be good at the job and still be at peace with your community, but he was both. We could do with a lot more people like him."

A service for Leading Senior Constable Frew will be held in Wangaratta next week.

If you or anyone you know needs help, support is available by calling Lifeline on 13 11 14.

-With Carly Werner

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4955669/family-mourns-dedicated-police-officer-father-lovable-idiot/?cs=11>

Date of birth: 26 March, 1969

Date of passing: 23 September, 2017

FREW – Gavin John

(Late of Mt Bruno and formerly of Horsham)

Tragically taken too soon on Saturday September 23, 2017 aged 48 years.

Soulmate and best friend to Rebecca, Brendan, Jemma and Kaycee.

Beloved son of Neil and Maree and son-in-law to Gary and Diane.

Adored brother and brother-in-law of Jodie, Nicole, Fiona-Louise, Rodney and their families.

You left a space no-one can fill.
You were loved beyond life.

Funeral Details

Funeral Prayers for Leading Senior Constable Gavin Frew 27893 will be offered in Our Lady's Catholic Church, corner of Murdoch Road and White Street, Wangaratta on Thursday October 5, 2017 commencing at 10.30am.

A Private Cremation will follow this Service.

POLICE HONOURS

In lieu of flowers, a donation made to the Starlight Foundation for Rosie Carroll would be greatly appreciated. Donation envelopes will be available at the Church.

October 5 2017 – 4:00PM

The final salute of respect for much-loved Wangaratta police officer Gavin Frew

• **Shana Morgan**

The emotional, and at times funny, funeral for **Leading Senior Constable Gavin Frew** was a fitting tribute to the well-loved Wangaratta police officer.

His colleagues lined **White Street** after the service on **Thursday** in a **guard of honour**, saluting his casket and family

members as a final mark of respect.

Leading Senior Constable Frew's death came as a shock to those around him, and wife **Bec Frew** thanked the hundreds of people at the funeral for their support to keep her strong.

"If everybody just took on that little bit of love and happiness, and shared it with everyone around them, what a wonderful world it would be," she said

"You were my other half, my soulmate, my anchor in so many storms ... You made our world a better place, you will be forever in our hearts."

He was remembered as a proud father, larrikin big brother, devoted friend and although he was constantly making those around him laugh on and off the job, he was the ultimate professional as a police officer.

*A police procession ends what has been a lovely funeral service for Wangaratta LSC Gavin Frew today.
[@bordermailpic.twitter.com/uljCtorEol](https://bordermailpic.twitter.com/uljCtorEol)*

– Shana Morgan (@shana_morgan) October 5, 2017

Daughter **Kaycee Frew** said the day was a chance to "celebrate the life of a very loved idiot".



Kaycee Frew September 24, 2017 · It hurts my soul to inform you all that my best mate Gavin has left us too soon. I will miss you forever. Thanks for helping to make me the amazing person I am today. Miss you so much already Dad. Rest easy my Gangster. ♥☐

“My dad had the amazing ability to make people laugh in any circumstance, especially under serious ones. His cheeky smile and quirky personality is what we’ll all miss the most,” she said.

Leading Senior Constable Frew graduated the police academy in 1989, passing the final fitness test despite a broken collarbone he suffered while trying to do a stand-up somersault after winning a football final.

He served in Broadmeadows, Ararat and Horsham, before moving to Wangaratta in 2012.

Most of the speakers at the funeral recounted Leading Senior Constable Frew’s favourite piece of trivia he would constantly ask family, friends, colleagues and even people he pulled over on the road: when was the Battle of Hastings?

Wangaratta Highway Patrol Sergeant Michael Connors confirmed the legend that the officer was always looking for a motorist who knew the right answer, 1066. "If they got that correct, there was a chance of them getting a warning," he said.

Leading Senior Constable Frew's call sign "**Wangaratta 610**" has been retired as a mark of respect.

Thursday's service was also attended by **Acting Chief Commissioner Andrew Crisp** and **Acting Assistant Commissioner Clive Rust**.

Donations to the **Starlight Children's Foundation** were being collected by the family in lieu of flowers.

Police 'macho culture' needs to change

Leading Senior Constable Gavin Frew was a man of extraordinary light and good humour, but he was also one of many police officers who suffered **post-traumatic stress disorder**.

His family now want to raise awareness of the condition.

Long-time friend **Anthony Hoffmann** told Thursday's service about the many good times he had with Leading Senior Constable Frew, but said things had to change when it came to dealing with **PTSD**.

"Over the years we'd always get together and trade some war stories – some funny, some not so funny – but we'd never talk about how these moments affected us, I guess mainly because silently we did not want to appear weak," he said.

"This is wrong and we need to change this attitude.

"If there's one thing we can and should take away from this tragedy, it's that we need to change this macho culture and to learn to talk and to ask for help when we need it, otherwise we'll needlessly lose more sons, daughters, husbands, wives,

fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters – enough is enough.

“I implore you to take this message away today: life is precious and our time here short, so we owe it to our loved ones to be the best we can, but we can’t do that alone so it’s time to man up and be honest with those around you.

“Don’t wait to be asked, just please ask for help if you need it.”

Mr Hoffmann said his friend was a very courageous man, looking out for team mates on the football field and in other parts of life.

“He never took a backwards step, even when the odds were stacked against him,” he said.

If you or anyone you know needs help, support is available by calling Lifeline on 13 11 14.





SPECIAL MAN: Leading Senior Constable Gavin Frew was remembered as an “idiot to all and loved by everyone”.







GUARD OF HONOUR: Wangaratta, Horsham and police command officers along White Street after Thursday's funeral. Pictures: MARK JESSER



<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4969368/the-final-salute-of-respect-for-much-loved-police-officer-gavin-frew/#slide=9>

ST. MICHAEL'S CRICKET CLUB

C Grade Premiers 1988/89

St. Michael's 149 & 123 outright tied Jung City 82 & 189



Back Row: Gavin Frew, John Lane, Peter Avery, Michael Ryan (President), Nick Orchard, Ray Eldridge, Anthony Hoffmann
Front Row: Brendan Bush, Paul Magee, Andrew Harrington, Phil Freijah (Captain), Mike Toone, Laurie Vallance

Horsham Saints Cricket Club

Like This Page · September 26, 2017 ·

Vale Gavin Frew.

This morning I learnt of the untimely passing of Gavin Frew who by his own words couldn't bat and couldn't bowl.

Gavin played just the 20 matches for the club for 68 runs (HS 26) but he did return for our premiership reunions earlier this year as a member of the C Grade 1988/89 premiership team. Gavin was a Vicpol member here in Horsham before heading up to Wangaratta.

On behalf of the Horsham Saints (formally St. Michael's) Cricket Club we pass on our condolences to his family. – Trent King, Secretary

Remember is ok to not be ok.

It's always okay to ask for help.

If you notice mates acting strange it doesn't hurt to ask if they are okay.

□ with Mike Toone.

Ann Jane BRIMBLECOMBE

23/03/2018

Ann Jane BRIMBLECOMBE

Victorian Police Force

aka Senior Ann

Regd. # 21795

Rank: Senior Constable – appointed in ?
? 1985

Stations: Force Reserve – Russell
Street, Kew,

Russell St police women's Division (1981
) , Community Police Squad (Melbournes'
East) ,

Force Reserve – Russell St (1993) ,
Wangaratta (1995 – 16 August 2006) –

Death

Service: From ? ? 1979 to 16 August
2006 = 27 years Service

Awards: National Medal – granted 26
March 1998

April 2006 – received a Community Service
award from Wangaratta Council

Born: 8 December 1957

Died on: Wednesday 16/08/2006

Age: 49

Cause: Single Motor Vehicle Collision -
v- tree – Driver – Non Urgent Duty in fog

Event location: Omeo Hwy (Larsens
Cutting) about 2.5 kms south of Eskdale

Funeral date: 21 August 2006

Funeral location: Holy Trinity
Cathedral, Wangaratta

Buried at: Eldorado Cemetery, Eldorado,
Victoria

Memorial: 1/ Ann Brimblecombe Memorial
Award – School Road Safety

2/ Ann Brimblecombe paediatric rooms at
Wangaratta Hospital's paediatric unit

Memorial at: Wangaratta Police station,
21 Handley St – Commemorative plaque





[alert_green]ANN IS mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance[/alert_green]

Grave Location:

[codepeople-post-map]

FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED ABOUT THIS PERSON, THEIR LIFE, THEIR CAREER AND THEIR DEATH.

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

May they forever Rest In Peace

Ann Brimblecombe's life was one well spent with almost 1000 mourners turning out to Wangaratta's Holy Trinity Cathedral yesterday to bid the Victorian policewoman farewell. Killed in a car accident at Larsens Cutting near Eskdale, last Wednesday, Sen-Constable Brimblecombe was known about the North East for her work in schools as a bicycle education officer. The service, conducted with full police honours, reflected her jovial nature, her sense of community and voluntaryism and

most of all, her strong relationship with the region's children.

Her older brother, Peter Brimblecombe spoke of her love for sport, the Geelong Football Club, her idol Gary Ablett and of the North East as her "spiritual home".

"After graduating from Chadstone College, she attended teachers' college at Bendigo and after getting her degree there were no primary teaching jobs available," he said.

"It was then she made the decision to join the Victoria Police."

Mr Brimblecombe said his sister had eight nephews and nieces and remembered all their birthdays, was highly active in the Wangaratta bowls club, and taught adult literacy.

"Her other great loves were dogs and chocolate," he said.

"She was old fashioned, quirky, bright and bubbly, she had a daggy sense of humour.

"Ann was a one and only."

The service was attended by Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police Christine Nixon and Victorian Police Minister Tim Holding.

Most knew her as Senior Ann, and pupils of Wangaratta West, Chisholm St Primary, Wangaratta Primary, Cathedral College, St Monica's Primary in Wodonga, St Patrick's at Wangaratta, Moyhu Primary, Everton Primary, Wangaratta West, Yarrunga, Appin Park Primary and Bright P-12 College formed a guard of honour. Wangaratta Primary teacher David Capper paid tribute.

"She had a terrific sense of humour, she used to make the kids do her Prince Philip walk and make them say 'just like Senior Ann' whenever she taught them anything," he said.

Beth Hutchinson, of Beechworth, said her daughter India-Rose, 11, taught by Senior Ann, had asked to attend the service.

"She really got through to the kids, we were ever so grateful – she's such a loss to the community," Ms Hutchinson said.

– By Riccarda Burley, August 22, 2006



Police form honor guard at Senior Constable Ann Brimblecombe's funeral.



In memory of our friend and colleague Ann Brimblecombe Senior Constable 21795
`Senior Ann`
Tragically killed performing road safety in active duty

August 16, 2006

Member of the Wangaratta Police complex

Commemorates Senior Constable Ann Brimblecombe placed in the Wangaratta Paediatric Unit. The memorial plaque was officially dedicated at Batchelor's Green on the 10th May 2012.

Senior Constable Brimblecombe was a Wangaratta Highway Patrol member who was killed in a car crash in August 2006 while travelling from Wangaratta to Mitta Mitta to give a bicycle safety lecture. She was affectionately known as "Senior Ann" by children as she ran bicycle education programs throughout the North East.

Address of plaque:

21 Handley Street, Wangaratta Police Complex,
Wangaratta, 3677, Victoria, Australia



BRIMBLECOMBE

SEN.CON. ANN JANE

"SENIOR ANN"

'Safety – Think It .. Do It' to win \$2,000 for your school

A message about safety at your school or in the community could win your school \$2,000 and also have them receive the Ann Brimblecombe Memorial Award. The 'Caring About Regional Safety' (CARS) program, which is now in its eighth year, is a primary school based competition that gets kids thinking about safety.

CARS began as a way to both commemorate the valuable work that Senior Constable Ann Brimblecombe did with primary school children and also help ensure her messages about safety are ongoing. Tragically 'Senior Ann' as she was affectionately known by hundreds of school children, died as the result of a motor vehicle accident in August 2006.

Get Your Class Involved

The competition is open to all local primary schools in NE Victoria and Southern New South Wales and asks children to actively think about safety and create a promotional poster. It could be safety at home, in the school yard or even when they are travelling.

Teachers may like to encourage students to think about a safety message that they are individually interested in or have the class decide on a safety theme that everyone can concentrate on.

Teachers should collate all their students' posters (ensuring that each students name, class and school are written on the

back) and send to the CARS Action Team before the competition closes each year.

To help stimulate the students, a representative of the police force will be available to visit every school to talk to students about safety. If your school would like to organise a visit or if you would like to find out more about CARS contact:

CARS Action Team – Senior Sergeant Michael Connors
Wangaratta Police Station
1 Handley Street, Wangaratta VIC 3677
Phone: 0357 230 830

Safety Sam – Think It .. Do It

‘Safety Sam’ is our mascot to help promote the ‘Safety- Think It .. Do It’ message. If the winning poster has the image of Safety Sam included in it, the students who created it will (pending parental approval) win a ride in a police car as well as a ride in a police boat. Download an image of Safety Sam [here](#).

<https://www.wawcu.com.au/IN-THE-COMMUNITY/Events-Promotions/CARS-School-Safety-Initiative.aspx>

Canberra United Twitter Account

10 December 2016



Canberra United? Verified account
@CanberraUnited 10 Dec 2016
Congratulations @ashsykes91, winner of the **Ann
Brimblecombe Memorial Medal** for Player of the
Match! #BlueRibbonCup #MCYvCBR
pic.twitter.com/HZjAC00M5c

The Blue Ribbon Cup – Melbourne City v Canberra United

Friday, 9 December 2016 –

Canberra United

Melbourne City & Canberra United will play for the Blue Ribbon Cup on Saturday in their second meeting of the 2016/17 Westfield W-League season.

The Blue Ribbon Cup is held in partnership with the Victoria

Police Blue Ribbon Foundation, which perpetuates the memory of members of the Victorian Police Force killed in the line of duty, by supporting worthwhile community projects within the State.

This will be the first edition of the W-League Blue Ribbon Cup, with the player of the match to be awarded the Ann Brimblecombe Memorial Medal.

Senior Constable Ann Brimblecombe passed away on duty in 2006 when her vehicle ran off the road while travelling from Wangaratta to Mitta Mitta.

Senior Constable Brimblecombe was a serving member of the Victorian Police Force for over 26 years, and was promoted to Senior Constable in 1985 after six years in the force.

Canberra United Head Coach Rae Dower, a former member of the Queensland Police Force for over 20 years, said that the occasion adds something of a personal feel to the matchday.

“It’s a lovely initiative from Melbourne City, the Blue Ribbon Cup, played for between the two teams,” she said.

“And with nearly 21 years in the Police service I’ve lost a lot of friends on the job, unfortunately, but also with some illnesses; a lot of emergency services personnel commit suicide after they retire, or whilst they’re still on the job.”

“So it certainly will be a more personal touch, and probably gives us a little more incentive to go on and win that as well.”

More information on the Blue Ribbon Foundation can be found at <http://www.remember.org.au/>, including information on the projects managed by the organisation, and an honour roll of those who have served.

– See more at:

<http://www.canberraunited.com.au/article/the-blue-ribbon-cup-melbourne-city-v-canberra-united/camla3n5avhj1y2g4ax87nq9a#sthash.9P5iK5hl.dpuf>

2016

Brimblecombe, Senior Constable Ann Jane

08/12/57 – 16/08/06

To those involved in keeping 'Senior Ann's' work and memory alive for ten years. Thank you with pride and gratitude from her family.

Published in The Border Mail o – See more at:
<http://tributes.bordermail.com.au/obituaries/bordermail-au/obituary.aspx?pid=181073547#sthash.1Mi0dvMF.dpuf>

Tribute for a special sister

Rosemary bushes for Ann Brimblecombe

Leah Tindill

ltindill@nedia.com.au

Monday, August 15, 2016



NEVER FORGOTTEN: Claire Lewis with the pink rosemary to be planted in memory of her sister, policewoman Ann Brimblecombe who died 10 years ago. PHOTO: Wendy Stephens

TWO rosemary bushes will be planted next to an existing commemorative plaque for Senior Constable Ann Brimblecombe.

The plants will be installed at Wangaratta Police station by Ann's sister, Claire Lewis, on Tuesday on the 10th anniversary of Ann's death.

The former Wangaratta police officer, affectionately known as 'Senior Ann', was tragically killed in a car accident at age 49 in 2006, on her way from Wangaratta to Mitta Mitta to present a bike safety session.

Victoria Police Facebook page

Rod Johns I attended and took charge at this collision a very sad day and one I reflect on often, a lovely lady who put so much energy into the children at the schools she attended. A great community loss and to her family.

Like · Reply · 30 · August 1, 2014 at 5:23pm



Bev Nolen We also knew Ann, she was a beautiful person, sadly missed

Like · Reply · 5 · August 1, 2014 at 6:52pm



Werner Mehl Keep re-inforcing/re-informing about awareness of road safety

Like · Reply · 7 · August 1, 2014 at 4:51pm



Nicole Shortis I was a member at the Wangaratta bowls club with Anne and her family when this tragedy happened. It was nice to see her face come up on Facebook. Great to see such a good project come from a sad tragedy.

Like · Reply · 3 · August 1, 2014 at 9:39pm



Tahn Lawler I remember Senior Ann being at my school in Chiltern. The Prince Phillip Walk definitely confirms it.

Like · Reply · 3 · August 1, 2014 at 5:22pm · Edited



Greg Doherty Anne was always on the look out for teaching aids I managed to get hold of the bicycle helmet that my sons mate was wearing when he was hit by a car the inner helmet was shattered saving the boys life it made a great teaching aid for her . Anne was always pleasant to talk to despite her illness she just kept on going. She was a very dedicated person and her sudden demise came as one hell of a shock to the T.M.U office at wangaratta. Vale Annie Brimblecombe.,

Like · Reply · 1 · August 1, 2014 at 9:57pm · Edited



Tara Emily Prince Philip walk!

Like · Reply · 1 · August 1, 2014 at 4:39pm



Gillian O'Hara R.I.P. Sorry to hear this news.

Like · Reply · 1 · August 1, 2014 at 10:38pm



Pam O'Sullivan RIP Ann. I hope those school kids get the message you were on your way to deliver. You've shown by example how quickly and without warning death can take the life of a road user. My condolences to your family and colleagues..

Like · Reply · August 3, 2014 at 10:39am



Courtney Morgan Meg Rickard

Like · Reply · August 2, 2014 at 7:44am



Christine Thomas 🙄 ☐

Like · Reply · August 1, 2014 at 8:04pm



Amanda Champion Emily Roberts

Like · Reply · August 1, 2014 at 4:37pm



Address: Wangaratta Police
Complex. 21 Handley Street,
Wangaratta Police Complex,
Wangaratta, Victoria.

Ann Brimblecombe's students teach police a thing or two

NATALIE KOTSIOS
17 Jul 2013



Winners are grinners:
Sgt Michael Connors and
WAW Credit Union's Peter
Challis gave Wooragee
pupils their prize
yesterday. Picture:
MATTHEW SMITHWICK

A COMPETITION designed to give children safety awareness is teaching Victoria Police a thing or two, too.

This year's Ann Brimblecombe Memorial Award was launched yesterday at Wooragee Primary School, the winner of last year's safety awareness competition.

The award, in its 7th year, commemorates Sen-Constable Ann Brimblecombe, the North East's road safety in schools officer, killed in a car accident in 2006.

She was the state's only such officer and there hasn't been another in the North East since.

Her memory lives on through this competition, which involves North East and Albury pupils creating posters with safety messages.

Sgt Michael Connors, of Wangaratta highway patrol, encouraged children to talk about all aspects of safety.

He said their observations gave police greater insights and were often "completely different to what the police are thinking".

"I can't stress enough how important that is. You couldn't gauge how many kids have been saved by Ann Brimblecombe's message," he said.

Wooragee's winning entry focused on stranger danger. Other themes were cyber-bullying, kitchen safety and phoning while driving.

The winning school receives \$2000 from WAW Credit Union.

Wooragee Primary School principal Christine Varker said the children were already brain-storming ideas.

She said the competition had changed how pupils thought about safety and they "now talk about much broader issues than just road safety."

The school will spend its prize money on building a chicken coop.

"They've even considered the safety of the chickens," Ms Varker said.

"They've ensured it will be fox and wedge-tail eagle-proof."

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/1643056/ann-brimblecombes-students-teach-police-a-thing-or-too/>

Ann's presence still being felt

ASHLEY ARGOON

11 May 2012



North East Health chief Margaret Bennett, Ann Brimblecombe's parents Alex and Jennifer Brimblecombe, and Deputy Commissioner Kieran Walshe at the presentation. Picture: KYLIE ESLER

THERE couldn't be a more appropriate way of paying tribute to Sen-Constable Ann Brimblecombe than what was unveiled yesterday.

The Wangaratta police officer died in 2006 while on duty after her car veered off the road when travelling to Mitta to give school children a bicycle safety lecture.

Children's safety was close to her heart and it's because of her that the Wangaratta Hospital's paediatric unit has now become a safer place.

In tribute to Sen-Constable Brimblecombe, the unit received a

\$30,000 donation from the police **Blue Ribbon Foundation** for **security doors** and a refurbishment to their **baby room**.

Jennifer Brimblecombe said her daughter didn't like a fuss being made over her.

"She'd be thrilled to bits for the honour but she was just very happy doing her work, hoping it would stick with all the children as they grew up," she said.

"You can't get around the fact she's not here but at least her work is being carried on."

Sen-Constable Brimblecombe's passion for educating stemmed from her original ambition to become a schoolteacher.

"She actually couldn't get a job when she finished a teaching course. She tried very hard for a while then the next thing we knew she applied for the police force," Mrs Brimblecombe said.

Soon after she was offered a position to teach, but instead chose the police force.

"She was a very dedicated girl. When she decided she wanted to do something that was her focus completely," Mrs Brimblecombe said.

Unveiling the plaques to commemorate the memorial was one of the last tasks for deputy police commissioner Kieran Walshe, who will retire after 44 years of service on July 1.

He said the Victorian police force was often described as having "a ringside seat at the greatest show on earth" but it still had its lows.

"When you are in a position of authority and leadership and you hear of these things, like what happened to Ann Brimblecombe and others, they're lowlights in the organisation," he said.

“But when you think of the **Ann Brimblecombe paediatric rooms**, it just really epitomises what Ann was about.”

Funding for the urgent care unit at Benalla Hospital was also revealed in memory of Sen-Constable Simon De Winne, who died in 1998 after colliding with a tree while trying to pull a car over for a traffic offence.

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/6387/anns-presence-still-being-felt/>

2006 – SENIOR CONSTABLE ANN BRIMBLECOMBE

Senior Constable Ann Brimblecombe was a passionate bicycle education officer who travelled the state giving lectures on the importance of road safety. Ironically, it would be a road collision that claimed her life.



On 16 August, 2006 Sen Const Brimblecombe was travelling from Wangaratta to Mitta Mitta Primary School when her vehicle ran off the Omeo Highway and slammed into a tree.

Due to the remote location, her vehicle was not found until a local farmer noticed the scene a few hours later. Sen Const Brimblecombe had died at the scene.

The circumstances surrounding the collision remain unknown, but it is certain Sen Const Brimblecombe died travelling to do a job she loved.

Police Life **December 2010**

Traffic award honours memory of

Local officer

Release date: Tue **17 July 2007**

Last updated: Tue 17 July 2007

The Wangaratta community joined forces to honour one of their most beloved police officers and continue her dedication to road safety with the launch of the **Ann Brimblecombe Memorial Award** today at Yarrunga Primary School.

Senior Constable Ann Brimblecombe was **Victoria's only dedicated Road Safety in Schools officer**, making her "truly one of a kind" according to her colleagues.

Tragically, S/C Brimblecombe was killed in a vehicle collision in **August 2006** on her way to **Mitta Mitta Primary School**.

Assistant Commissioner (Region 4) **Bob Hastings** said the award was a fitting tribute to S/C Brimblecombe.

"One of Ann's strengths was her commitment to road safety and the impact she had on hundreds of young lives in the area," A/C Hastings said.

"I'm very proud to launch the **Ann Brimblecombe Memorial Award** and I strongly believe it will continue her work in road safety.

"Victoria Police is grateful for the support of WAW Credit Union and local schools in this initiative, which allows the community to be actively involved in promoting and developing the road safety message."

The award was the idea of a number of Wangaratta police members after Region 4 Division 5 Superintendent Jock Menzel suggested they look at a way of honouring S/C Brimblecombe's memory.

It invites schools to '**Care About Road Safety**' (CARS) by

identifying a road safety issue and developing an action plan to combat it.

The school that submits the entry judged to deliver the most benefit to their school community will also receive \$2000 from WAW Credit Union.

A/C Hastings spoke at today's launch about the impact S/C Brimblecombe had on the community.

"Ann had her own way of passing on the road safety message, trying to make it as fun as possible and as a result her messages would be remembered," A/C Hastings said.

"There would be many occasions where Ann would purchase small toys or action figures on her own initiative, in an effort to show kids a message she was trying to get across, such as toy rollerblades and the correct way to lace them up.

"If you went to her class, you would probably remember the big board game of safety she invented so children could remember the rules of road safety. The message at number 100 was 'You made it to school safely – well done!'"

A/C Hastings also reflected on S/C Brimblecombe's generous nature and her ability to make everyone feel special.

"Ann was awarded prize money at one point by the Wangaratta Council Youth Representatives and approached Senior Sergeant Bill Gore to check she was allowed to keep it, then spent it on prizes for the kids at schools," he said.

"She had a way of making sure nobody missed out and when there were kids who maybe needed a helmet for riding their bike to school but perhaps couldn't afford it, Ann always made sure they had the right equipment.

"She also received money from the North East Community Road Safety Council each year to communicate the road safety message through schools and Ann always spent this money on

equipment to ensure 'her' kids were on safe bikes."

In an effort to promote road safety, WAW Credit Union has also lent their support to the award.

"As part of our Community Support policy, WAW Credit Union actively looks for ways to support worthwhile projects in the areas our service centres operate," said WAW spokesperson Linda Butler.

"The work S/C Ann Brimblecombe did within our region's schools was invaluable and so we were very excited to be asked to be part of the Caring About Road Safety initiative.

"WAW knows that these sort of activities are certain to keep the memory of Ann and the work she did ongoing for many years to come and we applaud Victoria Police and the Blue Ribbon Foundation for their work in this area."

A/C Hastings urged all students to think about how they could best make a positive impact on their school.

"This competition is about the school community so think about the ways you can improve road safety around it," he said.

"A safer bus shelter, a fence around your school crossing to ensure children don't spill out on to the roadway, road signs, anything else that you can think of that will make your school safer – put it together in a submission and send it in.

"We'll never know how many young people are alive today because of Ann's work over the years and Victoria Police and its partners in this competition hope to see this work continue."

Natalie Webster
Media Office

http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?Document_ID=11671

Dedicated policewoman killed in crash

Andrea Petrie

August 17, 2006

THICK fog is believed to have caused a single-vehicle crash that killed a country policewoman dedicated to teaching children about road safety.

Senior Constable Ann Brimblecombe, 49, was on duty and travelling from Wangaratta to Mitta Mitta yesterday when her vehicle ran off the Omeo Highway about 2½ kilometres south of Eskdale and struck a tree.

Senior Constable Brimblecombe, a bicycle education officer, was on her way to give a lecture at the time.

Police believe she left Wangaratta at 7.30am and at some stage her car left the road in foggy conditions. It was discovered by a farmer about 11am.

She had been a police officer for 27 years and had worked at force reserve in Russell Street before being stationed at Kew.

In 1981 she was stationed at the Russell Street policewomen's division and also served in the community police squad in Melbourne's east. She was promoted to senior constable in 1985 and while she returned to force reserve in 1993, she transferred to Wangaratta in 1995 where she had worked ever since.

Yackandandah Primary School, where Senior Constable Brimblecombe had spent the two days before her death teaching road safety, was in shock after learning of the tragedy.

Principal Kathy Petzke said the pupils looked forward to Senior Constable Brimblecombe's annual visit.

"It was quite an interactive program she provided with a lot of home-made props ... We're all very shocked about what has happened yet grateful for the important role she played."

Wangaratta police acting Inspector David Ryan said her death was a great loss not only to Victoria Police, but also to the general school community.

Assistant Commissioner Bob Hastings said Senior Constable Brimblecombe regularly travelled long distances as part of her job. "She was always a very cautious and safe driver ... she was well prepared and knew the country and the terrain," he said.

"I went to visit Ann's parents and spoke with her mum and dad and brother and sister there and they are handling it as well as can be expected."

Police Association secretary Paul Mullett said Senior Constable Brimblecombe was a well-respected member who would be sadly missed.

Police Minister Tim Holding yesterday expressed sympathy to Senior Constable Brimblecombe's family. "Our thoughts also go out to her friends and fellow officers," he said. "We honour her service and are greatly saddened by the tragic circumstances of her passing."

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/dedicated-policewoman-killed-in-crash/2006/08/16/1155407884303.html>

Catherine Margaret MURTAGH nee McVeigh

23/03/2018

Catherine Margaret MURTAGH nee McVeigh

Victorian Police Force

At retirement, McVeigh held the rank of Chief Superintendent – the first woman in Australia to hold this rank.

Regd. # 12428

Rank: Probationary Constable – appointed
? ? 1956

Chief Superintendent – Retirement

Stations: ?, Airlie, Womens' Police
Department – Russell St, Melbourne.
Policewomens' Division – East Bentleigh,

Service: From ? ? 1955 to ? ? ? = ?
years Service

Awards: No find on It's An Honour

Born: ? ? 1931

Died on: Thursday 16 February 2017

Age: 85

Cause: ?

Funeral date: Monday 27 February 2017 @
noon

Funeral location: Our Lady of Perpetual
Help Catholic Church, 7 Foote Street
Dromana, Vic.

Buried at: ?

Memorial at: ?



[alert_yellow]CATHERINE is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance[/alert_yellow] ***NEED MORE INFO**

Funeral location: ?

**FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED ABOUT THIS PERSON, THEIR LIFE,
THEIR CAREER AND THEIR DEATH.**

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

May they forever Rest In Peace

MURTAGH. (nee McVeigh) Catherine Margaret
Passed away Feb. 16, 2017 aged 85.
Loved daughter of Mary and Arthur (both dec.).
Wife of Jim (dec.) loving sister of Betty (dec.) and Arthur.
Sister-in-law of Nanette and Aunt to Helen, Michelle, John,
Joanne and Paul and their families.
Rest in Peace
Obituaries
Published in Herald Sun on 21/02/2017

Supporting Notices

MURTAGH. (nee McVeigh). Catherine Margaret Passed away suddenly on Feb. 16, 2017 Aged 86 Years

Loved sister of Betty (dec.) and sister-in-law of Mick (dec.).

Much respected and loved aunt of Louise, Christine and Peter.

Rest In Peace

Obituaries

Published in Herald Sun on 21/02/2017

Victoria Police

Page Liked · March 2, 2017

Today we celebrate the life and career of former police member, Catherine Margaret McVeigh who passed away on 17 February. Born in 1931, McVeigh joined the police force at the age of 24 after serving in the RAAF. One of the first duties she was required to perform after graduating in 1956 was crowd control at the Melbourne Olympic Games. McVeigh was known as a trailblazer for women in policing, rising meteorically through the ranks. At retirement, McVeigh held the rank of Chief Superintendent – the first woman in Australia to hold this rank. Our thoughts are with her family at this time.

Warren John McKINNON

23/03/2018

Warren John McKINNON

New South Wales Police Force

“possible” relations in ‘The Job’: Henry Maxwell McKINNON,
NSWPF # 11919

Redfern Police Academy Class # 086

Regd. # 9971

Rank: Commenced Training at Redfern Police Academy on Monday
27 February 1961 (aged 20 years, 10 months, 26 days)

Probationary Constable – appointed Monday 27 March 1961 (aged
20 years, 11 months, 26 days)

Constable – appointed ? ? ?

Constable 1st Class – appointed 27 February 1967

Senior Constable – appointed 27 February 1971

Leading Senior Constable – appointed (N/A)

Sergeant 3rd Class – appointed 21 July 1977

Sergeant 2nd Class – appointed 31 March 1984

Stations: ?, North East District (1967), Abermain,
Pooncarie, Forbes, Leeton, Bas Hill , Newtown, ?

Service: From ? ? pre February 1961? to ? ? ? = ? years
Service

Awards: National Medal – **granted** 11 December 1980 (Sgt 3/c)
1st Clasp to National Medal – **granted** 8 June 1988 (SenSgt)

Born: Monday 1/04/1940

Died on: Saturday 3/2/2001

Age: 60 years, 10 months, 2 days

Cause: Cancer

Funeral date: ?

Funeral location: ?

Buried at: ?

Memorial at: ?

WARREN is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance

***NEED MORE INFO**

Funeral location: ?

**FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED ABOUT THIS PERSON, THEIR LIFE,
THEIR CAREER AND THEIR DEATH.**

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

May they forever Rest In Peace

Nothing further is known about this man at the time of publication (24 February 2017) and No Find on a Google search (12 May 2021).

Cal

24 February 2017

Updated 21 June 2023
