

Donald Lester AVERY

08/10/2020

Donald Lester AVERY

AKA Dagwood, Bird Cage

Late of Chatswood, Avalon, Dee Why, Avalon, Kariong – NSW, &
Proserpine and finally Surfers Paradise, Qld

Father-in-law to Fiona Elizabeth Izon Avery, NSWPF # 33380

Brother to **John Edward AVERY**, NSWPF # 7975 (R.I.P.)

Police Training Centre – Redfern – **Class # 039**

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 7893

Rank: Commenced Training at Redfern Academy on 25 October
1954 (aged 23 years, 2 months, 19 days)

Probationary Constable- appointed 6 December 1954 (aged 23
years, 4 months, 1 day)

Constable – appointed 6 December 1955

Constable 1st Class – appointed 6 December 1960

Senior Constable – appointed 6 December 1965

Sergeant 3rd Class – appointed 30 May 1972

Sergeant 2nd Class – appointed 28 May 1979

Final Rank = Sergeant 2nd Class

Stations: Redfern Police Academy, 25 October 1954 – 6 December 1954,

Clarence St GDs – (1 Division, A District), 7 December 1954
– 4 January 1955,

Clarence St Pedestrian Traffic – (working the intersection of
Park & Pitt St, Sydney)(1 Division), 5 January 1955 – 23
July 1956,

Central Traffic (Probation) – (1 Division), 24 July 1956 –
23 August 1956,

Central Traffic (Permanent) – (1 Division), 24 August 1956
– 3 July 1957,

North Sydney (Traffic Duties – STP)(6 Division), 4 July
1957 – 10 October 1965,

North Sydney (GDs)(6 Division), 11 October 1965 – 16 March
196?,

North Sydney (Traffic Duties)(6 Division) 17 March 196? –
15 September 1967,

North Sydney (GDs), 16 September – 21 September 1969,

Mona Vale (GDs)(14 Division), 22 September 1969 – 9
December 1971,

Avalon (GDs)(14 Division), 10 December 1971 – 19 October
1972,

Dee Why (GDs)(14 Division), 20 October 1972 – 27 October
1979,

Frenchs Forest (GDs)(14 Division), 28 October 1979 – 19 July 1980,

Manly (GDs)(14 Division), 20 July 1980 – 14 March 1981,

Darlinghurst (GDs)(3 Division), 15 March 1981 – 7 November 1981,

Dee Why (GDs)(14 Division), 8 November 1981 – 19 December 1981,

Frenchs Forest (GDs)(14 Division), 20 December 1981 – 12 July 1985 (Retirement)

Service: From 25 October 1954 to 12 July 1985 (H.O.D.)
= 30 years, 8 months, 17 days Service

Awards: No Find on Australian Honours system, although:

National Medal – granted ? ? ?

1st Clasp to National Medal – granted ? ? ?

NSW Police Medal – granted ? ? ?

4th Clasp to NSW Police Medal – granted ? ? ?

Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal – granted 1 June 1977

Certificate of Merit by the Royal Human Society – granted 2 May 1979 (Sgt 3/c Donald Lester AVERY was awarded a Certificate of Merit for actions involving a building fire at Manly on the 10 June 1978)

Commissioner's Commendation for Courage – awarded 5 January 1979

" Commended for courage and devotion to duty at Manly on 10 June 1978 when he entered a burning boarding house and succeeded in warning the sleeping residents of their danger. Driven out by the intense smoke on one occasion while evacuating the premises, he returned to check that all persons had escaped until finally ordered out of the blazing building by firemen. "

Born: Thursday 6 August 1931 on the kitchen table, at home in Chatswood, NSW 4 of 5 children to Francis Avery & May (nee Barnes)

Died on: Monday 28 September 2020

Age: 89 years, 1 month & 22 days old

Cause: Congestive heart failure exacerbated by long-term asbestosis

Event location: Hopewell Hospice, Arundel on the Gold Coast, Qld

Event date: ?

Funeral date: Friday 2 October 2020 @ 11am

Funeral location: Southport Cemetery, 191 Melia Crt, Southport, Qld

Wendy Withers, Celebrant; Det Inspector Matthew Kehoe, Byron Bay, attended and read Don's Service History and the Police Ode.

(**click here to see Corona19 Virus Pandemic rules – this will be a limited numbers Funeral**)

FUNERAL SERVICE VIDEO

any Future Wake location: ??? TBA

any Future Wake date: ??? TBA

(Due to current Govt. restrictions on 'Gatherings' due to Corona19 Virus Pandemic, some families may wish to have a Memorial Service / Wake with friends and family at a later date)

Funeral Parlour: White Lady Funerals, 2140 Gold Coast Hwy,
Miama, Qld ph: 07 5526 6960

Buried at: Southport Cemetery, 191 Melia Crt, Southport, Qld

Grave location: Section ?, Row ?, Plot ?

GPS: ?, ?

Memorial / Plaque / Monument located at: ?

Dedication date of Memorial / Plaque / Monument: Nil – at this
time (October 2020)

Don is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance *NEED
MORE INFO

**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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AustralianPolice.com.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NSWFallenPolice/>

Australian Police YouTube Channel

Donald Lester Avery

Registered # 7893

Born 6th August 1931 at Chatswood, NSW (on the kitchen table at home), 4th of 5 children to Francis Avery and May (nee Barnes)

Attended Chatswood Primary School and Crows Nest High School, joining School Cadet Corps.

Left school at 15, worked as a cane cutter, painter/carpenter and followed his Father to work on the waterfront, loading and unloading ships.

He applied to join NSW Police as a cadet but was told he was too thin and to go away and bulk up a bit, eating bananas.

His younger brother, **John Edward Avery**, also a serving NSWPF member, was working at Police Recruitment and Don was appointed as Probationary Constable on 6 December 1954 aged 23.

Police Service attached.

Most notably, Don received the Commissioner's Commendation for Courage, in 1979, following rescuing 2 people from a burning hostel in Manly.

Newspaper report and photo attached.

Don also received the National Police Service Medal at a later date.

Don lived in Chatswood, Avalon, Dee Why, Avalon, Kariong,

Proserpine and finally Surfers Paradise.

He was medically discharged from NSWPF on 12 July 1985.

His health was adversely affected by the work on the docks and later the burning building where he suffered smoke inhalation.

Don died on 28 September 2020 at Hopewell Hospice, Arundel on the Gold Coast, Qld from congestive heart failure exacerbated by long-term asbestosis.

His wife, Margot, passed away in Proserpine in 2003, and younger brother John died in 2015.

Don is survived by his son, Scott Avery whose wife, Fiona Izon was also a serving member on the Northern Beaches 1999-2002; and his daughter Debra Stephens, who cared for Don in the last years, supported by her husband, Justin Lindon.

Don had 3 grandchildren, Christopher, Sophie and Jordon, and 3 great-grandchildren, Porshia, Halliana and Tyson, with a 4th expected.





Premiere Neville WRAN and Don AVERY



Sgt 2/c Don AVERY on far left, Sgt 2/c ?, SenCon ?, ?, Sgt 3/c ?, ?, Sgt 2/c ?, Constable ?.

This most probably was the Award Ceremony by the Royal Human Society on 2 May 1979.

Summer and winter uniforms. Old Diamond NSW

Police patch (so pre early 1980's) NOT in Order, but those who received Awards on this date are: SenCon Lloyd M. DEVER – Cert of Merit re vehicle fire at Coffs Harbour on 20 Jan 1979. Sgt 3/c Keith GABB – Cert of Merit re electrocution at Coffs Harbour on 20 Jan 1979. SenCon Eric Bruce IDDLES – Bronze Medal re vehicle fire at Coffs Harbour on 20 Jan 1979. ProCst Ian J. YOUNG – Bronze Medal re suicide rescue on Sydney Harbour Bridge on 30 Jan 1979. Sgt 3/c Donald Lester AVERY – Cert. of Merit for building fire at Manly on 10 June 1978. Sgt 3/c Donald CAMPBELL – Bronze Medal re suicide rescue at The Gap, Watsons Bay on 12 Sept 1978. Sgt 2/c Henry Derold George KUPKE – Bronze Medal (Bar) re suicide rescue at The Gap, Watsons Bay on 12 Sept 1978. Sgt 3/c John KELLY – Cert. of Merit at Narrabri Ck on 12 Aug 1978. That is eight of the eight in photo.

WHAT A LIFE BY DONALD LESTER AVERY

PERIOD 1954-1956 CITY

I joined the Police Force on the 8.12.1954. I was stationed at Clarence Street, Police Station, on General duties which comprised of walking the beat, cleaning out the womens and mens cells at Central Police Station etc. I was then transferred to Pedestrian Traffic Duty and later Traffic Duty which comprised of working Park and Pitt Streets and relieving the Town-Hall point. You worked the point all day and were relieved for one hour at lunch time. The trams were in operation in those days and it was congested with the trams and motor traffic. The Sergeant in charge of traffic in those days was the bull tosser Jack Riley, and you had to parade before starting and finishing duty. You could'nt get a transfer off traffic duty in those days and I had to send my direct without going through the Inspector so it could get through otherwise they would tear them up.

PERIOD 1956-1969 NORTH SYDNEY

I started on traffic duty at North Sydney in 1956 and worked Victoria Cross, Mount & Walker Streets, and then Crows Nest, you had to work the peak hour and then did normal traffic duty like doing accidents, and traffic enquiries. I remained on traffic duty from 1956 to about 1965 when I developed a neck injury which the Department accepted as hurt on duty, I could not work traffic anymore and the Department transferred me to General Duties which I was not happy about. As I had no station experience and they had permanent station staff in those days I worked the General Duty car which on night shift with one car parolled from Sydney Harbour Bridge to the Spit Bridge a big area. Because Neutral Bay, Mosman, and Lane Cove did'nt work night work and closed at 11pm. The Inspectors and 1/c Sergeants did'nt work night work in those days.

MONA VALE AVALON

PERIOD 1969-1972 house at Avalon and applied for a transfer to Mona Vale Police Station as the Senior Constable there had died of Luekemia anyhow my transfer was granted and started there in 1969. I travelled from North Sydney to Avalon for one year before the transfer was granted. I enjoyed working at Mona Vale Harry Ballerum was the Sergeant in charge. The Station only worked 7am - 3.30pm & 3pm - 11.30pm shifts Dee Why Police did the area on night shift. I was later transferred to Avalon where you worked one out, going everything from warrants, summons, office work (records) and any job that came in. The silly part of it was that I lived at Avalon and had to drive my car to Mona Vale to pick up the Police car and drive back to Avalon to start work. Avalon in those days was only a call box (Temporary structure). I remember two incidents (1) when an offender took an epileptic fit in the back of the Police car when I was one out. (2) when Sgt Stewy Mc Cloud and myself got involved with a timber cutter and his mate and a fight started and they were getting the better of us and a bystander called a signal one over the Police Radio. I was promoted to Sgt 1/c and then transferred to Dee Why.



Service History
Donald Lester Avery
Registered Number 7893

Date Joined: 6 December 1954

Date Retired: 12 July 1985

Promotion History:

6 December 1954 - Probationary Constable
6 December 1955 - Constable
6 December 1960 - Constable 1st Class
6 December 1965 - Senior Constable
30 May 1972 - Sergeant 3rd Class
28 May 1979 - Sergeant 2nd Class

Transfer History:

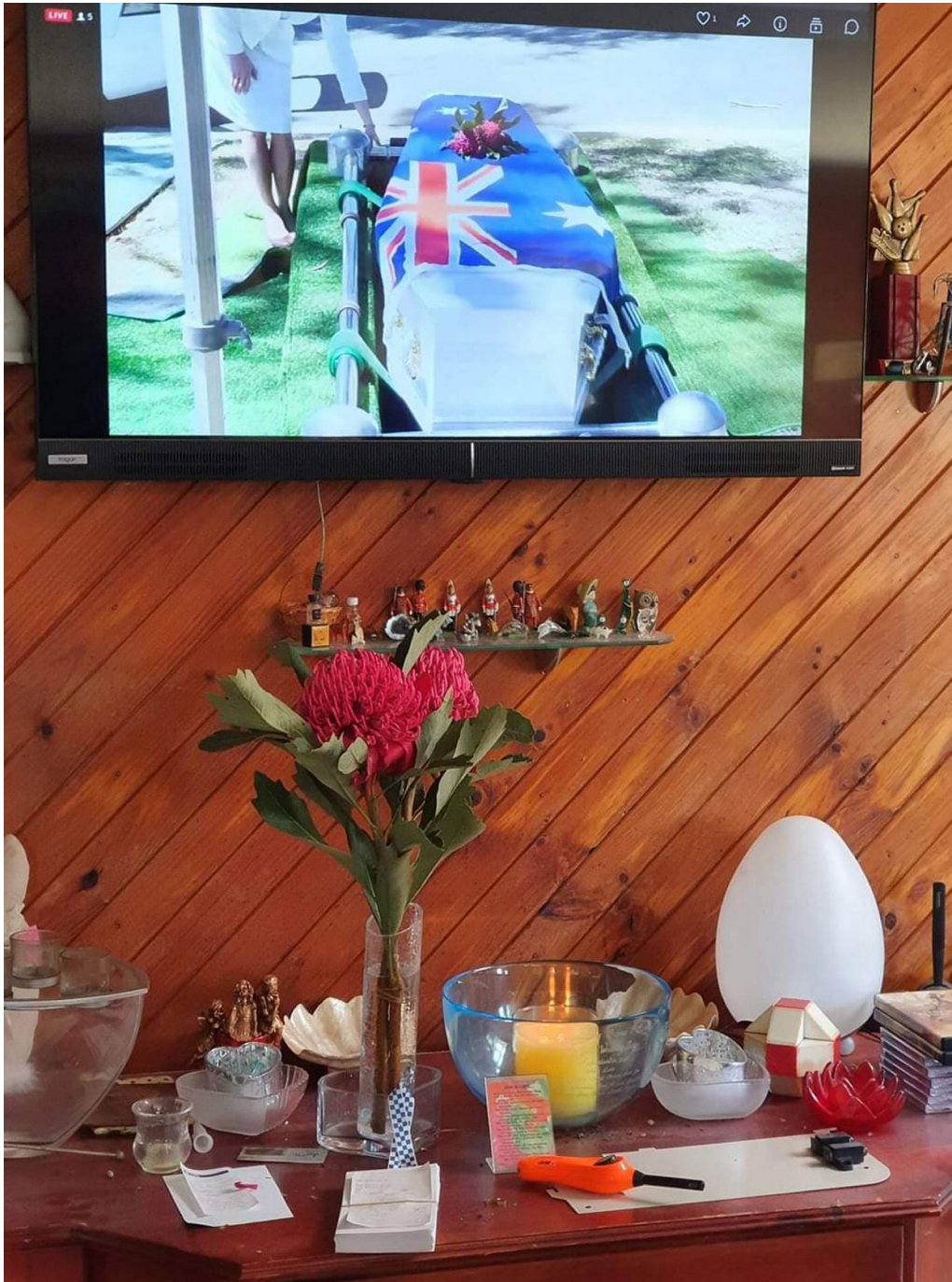
6 December 1954	-	Police Training Centre	Trainee
4 January 1955	-	Metro No. 1 Div. (Central)	General Duties
5 January 1956	-	Metro No. 1 Div. (Central)	Pedestrian Traffic
24 July 1956	-	Metro No. 1 Div. (Central)	Traffic Probation
24 August 1956	-	Metro No. 1 Div. (Central)	Traffic Permanent
4 July 1957	-	Metro No. 6 Div. (North Sydney)	Traffic Duties
11 October 1963	-	Metro No. 6 Div. (North Sydney)	General Duties
17 March 1963	-	Metro No. 6 Div. (North Sydney)	Traffic Duties
16 September 1967	-	Metro No. 6 Div. (North Sydney)	General Duties
22 September 1969	-	Metro No. 14 Div. (Mona Vale)	General Duties
10 December 1971	-	Metro No. 14 Div. (Avalon)	General Duties
20 October 1972	-	Metro No. 14 Div. (Dee Why)	General Duties
28 October 1979	-	Metro No. 14 Div. (Frenchs Forest)	General Duties
20 July 1980	-	Metro No. 14 Div. (Manly)	General Duties
15 March 1981	-	Metro No. 3 Div. (Darlinghurst)	General Duties
8 November 1981	-	Metro No. 14 Div. (Dee Why)	General Duties
20 December 1981	-	Metro No. 14 Div. (Manly)	General Duties
22 May 1983	-	Frenchs Forest	General Duties

Awards:

1 June 1977 - Awarded the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal
2 May 1979 - Awarded the Certificate of Merit by the Royal Humane Society
5 January 1979 - Awarded the Commissioner's Commendation for Courage







William Keith DOWTON

08/10/2020

William Keith DOWTON

AKA Keith

Late of Dubbo

NSW Redfern Police Academy **Class # 110**

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 12463

Rank: Commenced Training at Redfern Police Academy on Monday
20 February 1967 (aged 23 years, 5 months, 12 days)

Probationary Constable – appointed 3 April 1967 (aged 23
years, 6 months, 26 days)

Constable – appointed 3 April 1968

Detective – appointed ? ? ?

Senior Constable – appointed 3 April 1976

In the 1989 Stud Book he was still a SenCon

Final Rank = Detective Senior Constable?

Stations: ?, 'possibly' Bowral Detectives, Dubbo, Orana
Command – Retirement

Retirement / Leaving age: = 57 years, 11 months, 29 days

Time in Retirement from Police: 17 years, 9 months, 8 days

Service: From 20 February 1967 to 6 September 2001 = 34
years, 6 months, 17 days Service

Awards: National Medal – granted 22 April 1983 (Detective
SenCon)

1st Clasp to National Medal – granted 30 April 1993 (SenCon)

Born: Wednesday 8 September 1943

Died on: Friday 14 June 2019

Age: 75 years, 9 months, 6 days

Cause: Mesothelioma – undiagnosed

Event location: ?

Event date: Friday 14 June 2019

Funeral date: Friday 21 June 2019 @ 11.30am

Funeral location: (Graveside funeral) Nevertire Cemetery,
Oxley Hwy, Nevertire, NSW

Wake location: ?

Funeral Parlour: Abbey Funeral Home – 6881 8988

Buried at: Nevertire Cemetery, Warren Rd, Nevertire, NSW

Memorial located at: ?

WILLIAM KEITH DOWTON

"KEITH"

Passed away 14th June 2019

Aged 73 years.

Late of Dubbo.

Dearly loved husband of Heather.

Loving father & father-in-law of
Matthew & Angela, Alyssa & Michael,
Petrina and Edwina.

Cherished grandfather of Angus and Eliza,
Ned and Lily, Joshua and Jessica.

Dear brother and brother-in-law.

Keith's graveside funeral service will be held in
the Nevertire Cemetery commencing at 11.30am
Friday 21st June 2019.

In lieu of floral tributes donations to the Intensive
Care Unit at Dubbo Base Hospital would be
appreciated and may be left with the funeral
directors at the service.

Funeral arrangements are in the care of:



"Our family caring for your family"

02 6881 8988

www.abbeyfuneralhome.com.au

KEITH is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance

*NEED MORE INFO

Funeral 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

June 21, 2019

Rest In Peace Keith, we had lots of fishing trips together and I have many memories. I am a bit shocked to read this, may the family live and love with your memory of a fine chap.

Kind regards Des Roberts,

from Sunshine Coast Queensland

<http://www.legacy.com/guestbooks/narrominenewsonline-au/william-keith-downton-keith-condolences/193166140>

Jennifer Rich

June 18, 2019 at 2:41 PM

My brother Keith Downton formerly of Nevertire passed away on the 14/6/19. Keith grew up in Nevertire son of Keith and Kitty Downton and his 6 brothers and 2 sisters. Attended Nevertire Public School then Warren Central.

Worked on the telephone exchange in Warren before joining the Police force in 1967 and retiring in 2001 .

Commonwealth of Australia Gazette (National : 1901 – 1973),
Thursday 9 July 1964 (No.60), page 2767

AS NOTIFIED BY THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

New South Wales.

Postman, Fourth Division – William Keith DOWTON,.....

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/241033399/26000429#>

Commonwealth of Australia Gazette (National : 1901 – 1973),
Thursday 15 October 1959 (No.63), page 3653

AS NOTIFIED BY THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S

DEPARTMENT.

New South Wales.

Junior Postal Officer, Fourth Division– William Keith
DOWTON, ...

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/240887078>

Hendrik Van AKKER

08/10/2020

Hendrik van AKKER

aka Henry

Brother to Egbert van AKKER

“possible” relation in ‘the job’:

Brett Van AKKER, NSWPF # 32347 ?

Thomas Van AKKER, NSWPF # 27094 ?

New South Wales Police Force

Redfern Police Academy Class 106

Regd. # 11861

Rank: Commenced Training at Redfern Police Academy on Monday 21 February 1966 (aged 24 years, 1 month, 24 days)

Probationary Constable – appointed 4 April 1966 (aged 24 years, 3 months, 7 days)

Constable – appointed 4 April 1967

Constable 1st Class – appointed

Senior Constable – appointed 4 April 1974

Sergeant 3/c – appointed 8 February 1982

by 1989 he had passed his qualifying examination for Sgt 1/c

Stations: ?, North East District (1969), ?

Service: From 21 February 1966 to ? ? ? = ? years Service

Awards: National Medal – **granted** 18 November 1982 (Sgt 3/c)

1st Clasp to National Medal – **granted** 28 May 1992 (Sgt)

Born: Sunday 28 December 1941

Died on: Friday 22 August 2014

Age: 72 years, 7 months, 25 days

Cause: Asbestosis

Funeral date: Thursday 28 August 2014 @ noon

Funeral location: Baptist New Life Church, Corner Dalrimple Street and Ntaba Road, Jewells, NSW

Buried at: Cremated. Ashes scattered.

Memorial at: ?

HENRY 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

With regret I advise the death of Hendrik Van AKKER, 72 old, former Regd. No. 11861, not an RPA member of Valentine, NSW.

Hendrik passed away on 22/08/2014 and his funeral is proposed to be held at 12midday on Thursday 28th Instant at Baptist New Life Church, Corner Dalrimple Street and Ntaba Road, JEWELLS.

First published on 27 August 2014.

Updated on 22 February 2025 with further data.