

# Alan Leonard BECKE

03/11/2021

**Alan Leonard BECKE      APM**

AKA ?

Late of Tumbarumba, NSW

Father to former Constable **Samuel James Alan BECKE # 40238**

NSW Goulburn Police Academy – **Class # 107**

New South Wales Police Force

**Regd. # 12001**

**Service:** From 16 May 1966 to 10 September 2004 = 38  
years, 3 months, 25 days Service

**Rank:** Commenced Training at Redfern Police Academy on Monday  
16 May 1966 ( aged 21 years, 8 months, 6 days )

Probationary Constable- appointed Monday 27 June 1966 ( aged  
21 years, 9 months, 17 days )

Constable – appointed 27 June 1967

Constable 1st Class – appointed ? ? ?

Detective – appointed ? ? ? ( YES )

Senior Constable – appointed 27 June 1975

Leading Senior Constable – appointed ? ? ? ( N/A )

Detective Sergeant 3rd Class – appointed 1 May 1982

Sergeant 2nd Class – appointed ? ? ?

Sergeant 1st Class – appointed ? ? ?

Inspector – appointed 30 March 1988

Chief Inspector – appointed ? ? ?

Superintendent – appointed ? ? ? ( YES )

Chief Superintendent – appointed ? ? ?

**Final Rank** = Chief Superintendent

**Stations:** ?, Walgett ( 1970s ), ?, Dubbo, ?, Moree, ?, Armidale ( Det SenCon )( 1980s ), ?, Moss Vale ( Det Sgt )( 1980s ), ?, Lismore ( District Staff Officer – Operations )( Inspector )( 1988 ), Coffs Harbour ( Det Insp )( early 1990s ), Penrith, Windsor ( Patrol Commander )( C/Insp )( 1995 ), Quakers Hill ( Supt. )( 1990s ), Cabramatta PAC ( 34 Division )( Commander )( Supt. )( early 2000s – 10 Sept. 2004 ) – Retirement 10 Sept. 2004

**Retirement / Leaving age:** = 60 years, 0 months, 0 days

**Time in Retirement from Police:** 17 years, 1 month, 19 days

After Retirement, Alan became an Independent Councillor with Tumbarumba Council before their amalgamation with Tumut Council

**Awards:** National Medal – **granted** 15 November 1982 ( Det SenCon )

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

2nd Clasp to National Medal – **granted** 19 December 2001 ( Supt )

Australian Police Medal ( **APM** ) – **granted** 9 June 2003 ( Supt )

**Born:** Sunday 10 September 1944

**Died on:** Friday 29 October 2021

**Age:** 77 years, 1 month, 19 days

**Cause:** Stroke

**Event location:** Wagga Wagga Base Hospital, NSW

**Event date:** Friday 29 October 2021

**Funeral date:** Friday 12 November 2021 @ 11am

**Funeral location:** RSL Memorial Hall, 58 Winton St,  
Tumbarumba, NSW

**LIVE STREAM**

( **click here to see Corona19 Virus Pandemic rules – this will**

**be a limited numbers Funeral )**

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: Lyons Funeral Home,  
3 Albury St, Tumbarumba, NSW 02 6948 2195

Buried at: ?

Memorial / Plaque / Monument located at: ?

Dedication date of Memorial / Plaque / Monument: Nil – at this time ( **November 2021** )



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

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

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

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**May they forever Rest In Peace**

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

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

### Australian Police YouTube Channel

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#### **BECKE**

Alan Leonard

**BECKE**, Alan Leonard Of Tumbarumba.

Passed away peacefully at the Wagga Base Hospital on Friday, 29th October 2021.

Loved husband of Ingrid.

Adored father and father-in-law of Sara & Alan, Andrew & Niamh, Heidi & Aaron and Sam & Suzanne.

Cherished Farm Poppy of Tom, Makai, Bel, Natalie, Lucas, Tyler, Oliver, and Ryan. Brother of John (dec'd) and Patricia.

He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Aged 77 years.

A Service of Thanksgiving & Celebration for the Life of Alan will be held at the RSL Memorial Hall, 58 Winton Street Tumbarumba on Friday 12th November 2021 commencing at 11am.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

For those unable to attend are respectfully invited to view the service via livestream at:

<https://www.thestreamingguys.com.au/production/funeral-service-alan-becke/>

\*Due to COVID-19 mandatory regulations, physical distancing will be in place and proof of double vaccinations for persons 16+ will be required.

Alan Leonard BECKE Death Notice – | The Armidale Express

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## **Man shot in head in Cabramatta ambush**

**May 27, 2004** – 5.25pm

A man ambushed in his car and shot in the head in western Sydney remained in a critical condition today.

The man was driving his car along **Hughes Street, Cabramatta**, at 2.45pm (AEST) yesterday when a person ran up to the car and fired shots at him, police said.

The 30-year-old was shot a number of times, including in the head.

A woman in the car was uninjured, **Cabramatta Police Superintendent Alan Becke** said.

The man was treated at the scene by ambulance officers before being taken to an undisclosed hospital where he underwent surgery.

He was still in a critical condition today.

Police had spoken to witnesses and canvassed the area in search of the offender.

Investigators appealed for anyone who was in the vicinity of Hughes Street, or who might have witnessed the incident, to contact Cabramatta Police or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

## Man shot in head in Cabramatta ambush

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Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 – 1995),

**Wednesday 9 September 1987**, page 10

### **Paroled man charged over strangle death**

**BOWRAL:** A man on parole after serving a jail term for malicious assault was charged in Bowral Local Court yesterday with the murder of a 43-year old woman.

Mr **Gregory Ronald Keaton**, 32, of Moss Vale, is charged with murdering Ms Patricia Ann Murray at Moss Vale on Saturday.

**Detective Sergeant Alan Becke** told the court that Mr Keaton went to a hotel last Friday and, after midnight, followed the woman to her home.

An argument developed between the two because he believed Ms Murray was going to report him and his de-facto wife to the Housing Commission and Department of Social Security.

**Sergeant Becke** said that during the argument Mr Keaton strangled Ms Murray.

It was understood Ms Murray had said that Mr Keaton, though employed, was receiving unemployment benefits and that his de-facto wife was receiving a single-parent benefit.

Mr Keaton was remanded in custody to appear in **Moss Vale Local Court** on Monday.

The court had been told that Mr Keaton was on parole, having been convicted in 1982 of malicious assault inflicting actual bodily harm to have sexual intercourse.

His de-facto wife and two of her five children were in court.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/122120997>

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Nothing further, than what is recorded above, is known about this person at the time of publication and further information and photos would be appreciated.

Cal

3 November 2021

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**Kevin Frederick SHIEL**

03/11/2021

**Kevin Frederick SHIEL**

AKA ?

Late of ?

NSW Redfern Police Academy Class # 036 – 046

**NSW Police Cadet # 1092**

New South Wales Police Force

**Regd. # 8491**

**Rank:** Commenced Training at Redfern Academy as Police Cadet on 3 June 1954 ( Aged 16 years, 9 mths, 25 days )

Probationary Constable- appointed 9 August 1956 ( Aged 19 years )

Constable – appointed 9 August 1957

Constable 1st Class – appointed 9 August 1962

Senior Constable – appointed 9 August 1967

Sergeant 3rd Class – appointed 22 January 1973

Sergeant 2nd Class – appointed 1 November 1979

Sergeant 1st Class – appointed 1 January 1983

**Final Rank = Sergeant First Class**

**Stations:** **M.O. Unit** ( Method of Operation ), **Darlinghurst** ( 3 Division ) & **Kogarah** ( 12 Division ) – as a Cadet,

After being 'Sworn In' – **Kogarah** ( 12 Division ) – Solo Cyclist, member of **NSW Police Pipe Band** in 1956 and given Rank of Lance Corporal, ?,

**Supervisor – Metropolitan Traffic Branch** ( 1973 ), **Sutherland HWP** ( 24 Division )( 1975 ),

**North Sydney HWP** ( 6 Division ), **Kogarah – HWP** ( 12 Division ), **Central** ( 1 Division ) GDs ( 1976 ), **Hurstville** ( 31

Division )( 1983 ), **Sutherland** ( 24 Division )( 1989 ) –  
Retirement

Dept. records indicate he was attached to Hurstville at the  
time of Retirement. Other records indicate Sutherland.

**Service:** From 3 June 1954 to 28 October 1989 = 35  
years, 4 months, 25 days Service

**Awards:** No Find on Australian Honours – **although**

NSW Police Imperial Service & Good Conduct medal – **granted ?**  
May 1971

NSW Police Long Service & Good Conduct Medal – granted 25 June  
1980

Police Medal – with 35 year Clasp – granted 29 October 2008

National Police Service Medal – **granted** 22 December 2016

**Born:** Monday 9 August 1937 at Waverley, NSW

**Died on:** Tuesday 9 June 2020 at Sutherland, NSW

**Age:** 82 years, 10 months

**Cause:** Complained of headaches but wouldn't go to Hospital  
until he suffered a Stroke where he suffered another Stroke.  
He had been diagnosed with Stage 4 Lung Cancer 2 months  
earlier.

**Event location:** Sutherland Hospital, NSW

**Event date:** ?

Funeral date: 17 June 2020

Funeral location: Woronora Memorial Park, Sutherland, NSW

( Due to current Govt. restrictions of 20 – 50 persons at a Funeral due to the Corona19 Virus Pandemic – this will be a Private Funeral )

Future Wake location: ??? **Unknown**

( Due to current Govt. restrictions of 50 persons only at 'Gatherings', there won't be an immediate Wake )

Future Wake date: ???

( 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: Olsens Funerals, Sutherland, NSW

Buried at: Cremated

Memorial / Plaque / Monument located at: Nil

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

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

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

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

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**May they forever Rest In Peace**

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

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

**Australian Police YouTube Channel**

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Kev is remembered, by his many work mates, as having NSW Number plates KEV-000 displayed on his vehicle(s) – an old yellow Chrysler then a gold Holden Statesman at Hurstville.

He is also remembered as being a great bloke by his work mates.

He has been highly respect by all that have worked with him and is being greatly missed by his wife, children, grand children, sister & brother-in-law.

If everyone had Kevin's integrity and loved and cared for their family and friends as Kevin did, the world would be a much better place.

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# Russell Joseph PERKINS

03/11/2021

## Russell Joseph PERKINS

AKA Russ

Late of Woongarra, NSW

ACT Academy Class # 3/1974

**ACT Police Force**

**Regd. # 740**

Rank: Commenced Training with Class 3/1974 on 3 June 1974

Probationary Constable – appointed 29 November 1974

**Foundation member of AFP – Commencing 19 October 1979**

**AFP Regd. # 968**

**Final Rank** = Senior Constable – Retired – HOD ( Injuries )

**Stations:** City, Belconnen, Woden, Process Section, Water  
Police & Operations, GDs & CIB

Informally recognised for his skills on the radio & managing  
in a crisis

**Service:** From 3 June 1974 ( ACT) & 1979 ( AFP – Foundation

Day ) to 19 July 1983 ( Retired HOD ) = 9+ years Service

**Awards:** National Medal – **granted** 5 February 1999 ( Senior Deputy Captain )

1st Clasp to National Medal – **granted** 24 October 2000 ( Volunteer Fire Fighter )

National Police Service Medal – granted 15 October 2015

**Born:** Tuesday 27 March 1951 at Parkes Hospital, NSW

**Died on:** Tuesday 29 October 2019 @ 11.45am in Gosford Hospital, NSW

**Age:** 68yrs 7mths 2days

**Cause:** Stroke ( on 121019 ) & Brain Haemorrhage ( on 251019 )

**Event location:** Wyong Hospital, NSW

**Event date:** Tuesday 29 October 2019 @ 9.30am

**Funeral date:** Monday 4 November 2019 @ 3pm

**Funeral location:** Lakes Anglican Church, 274 Wallarah Rd, Kanwal, NSW

**Wake location:** Lakes Anglican Church

**Funeral Parlour:** Bowden Family Funerals,

**Buried at:** Cremated ( final resting place to be determined )

**Memorial located at:** ?



Robyn Perkins & Russell Joseph PERKINS National  
Police Service Medal – 15 November 2015

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

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

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**May they forever Rest In Peace**

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Our deepest condolences to Wife – Robyn, their two adult daughters and four grandchildren.

May Russell forever Rest In Peace.

Cal



Robyn Perkins & Russell Joseph PERKINS Together  
42 years





Russell Joseph PERKINS



Photos courtesy of Robyn Perkins





Russell with his daughters – Deb & Karen ( 1974 )



Graduation Day – Class 3/1974



Russ & Robyn with Deb & Karen ( 2019 )





Robyn & Russ – Engagement – 1976



Robyn & Russ – Wedding – August 1976

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Russell was also one of the Foundation Members of the AFP Former Members Association and a foundation member of the ex AFP facebook Group.

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# Vincent GISSANE

03/11/2021

## Vincent GISSANE

AKA ?

Late of ?

NSW Penrith Police Academy Class # ? ? ?

New South Wales Police Force

**Regd. # 7179**

Rank: Probationary Constable – appointed 21 January 1952

Detective Sergeant 3rd Class – appointed 1 January 1968

Detective Sergeant 2nd Class – appointed 11 August 1975 ( Seniority date = 12 April 1975 – lost 4 months )

Does appear in the 1979 'Stud Book' but NOT the 1879 – 1979 CIB Centenary book

Does NOT appear in the 1988 'Stud Book'

**Final Rank = ?**

Stations: ?, Phillip St ( 4 Division – 1970's ), 'possibly' the Motor Squad ( C.I.B. )

Service: From ? ? pre Jan 1952? to ? ? 1982? = 30 years Service

Awards: No find on It's An Honour

Born: Monday 14 May 1928, NSW

Died on: Saturday 3 July 1999, NSW

Age: 71 yrs 1 mth 19 days

Cause: Stroke

Event location: ?

Event date: ?

Funeral date: ? ? ?

Funeral location: ?

Wake location: ?

Funeral Parlour: ?

Buried at: Woronora Cemetery, Linden St, Sutherland, NSW

General Monumental Lawn, Jacaranda Monumental Lawn, **130**

Lat: -34.031662 Long: 151.047867









Vincent GISSANE being presented with a gift at his Send Off



Grave Location: [codepeople-post-map]

Memorial located at: ?

[alert\_yellow] **VINCENT** is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance[/alert\_yellow] \*NEED MORE INFO

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

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**May they forever Rest In Peace**

Family Tree:

<https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/K2YJ-63L/sheila-agnes-t-gissane-1924-2001>

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Nothing further, at the time of publication, can be found on this man, his life or career.

Cal

9 Aug 2019

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**Raymond JONES**

03/11/2021

**Raymond JONES**

AKA RAY, JONESY

Late of Thirroul, NSW

**Northern Territory Police Force**

**Regd. # ??????**

Rank:

Stations:

Service: From ?? 1958 to ? December 1966 ( \* Medical discharge ) = 8 years Service

Awards: Presented a Silver Spoon by the Queens representative for being part of her March 1963 Royal Escort ( Police Cyclist )

\* Ray was involved in an On-Duty MVA whereby he was riding his Police Motor Cycle when he was hit by a drunk driver. This MVA, in March 1963, caused Ray significant injuries to his eye sight ( which resulted in him having a wok eye, and pelvic injuries which resulted in one leg being shorter than the other which required him to wear special shoes because of the length difference. Ray, at some stage, then moved to Fairy Meadow, NSW and then Thirroul where the family home was.

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**New South Wales Police Force**

**Regd. # ???????**

**NSW Parking Patrol Officer**

# ( Brown Bomber then Grey Ghost )

Rank: Parking Patrol Officer

Stations: Wollongong

Service: From ? ? ? to ? August 1991 = ? years Service

Awards: ?



Born:    ? ? ?

Died on:  12 January 2019

Age:    85

Cause:    Effects of a Stroke

Event location:    ?

Event date:    6 January 2019

Funeral date:    Thursday  17 January 2019 @ noon

Funeral location:    H. Parsons, 278 Princes Hwy, Bulli

Wake location:    ?

Funeral Parlour:    H. Parsons, 4284 3163

Buried at:    ?

Memorial located at:    ?

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

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**May they forever Rest In Peace**

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JONES ' JONESY ' RAYMOND 'RAY' of Thirroul

Passed away peacefully surrounded by loving family on January 12, 2019.

Beloved husband of Sheila (dec).

Dearly loved father and father in law of Leanne and Scott, Melissa and Richard.

Much loved Grandpa of Lachlan, Mitchel, and Makayla.

Loved brother and brother in law of Alan, Barry, Denise, Edward and their families.

Will be missed by his dog 'Freddie'.

Aged 85 Years

Forever in our Hearts

Always Loved and Sadly Missed

Reunited with Sheila

Relatives and friends are invited to attend Ray's funeral service to be held in the chapel, Parsons Funeral Home, 278 Princes Highway Bulli on Thursday January 17, 2019 at 12noon.

In lieu of flowers donations to Dementia Australia Research Foundation would be appreciated.

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After leaving the Northern Territory Police Force, due to injuries sustained from a Police Motor Cycle MVA, Ray moved to Fairy Meadow and later moved to Thirroul where he and his wife

made their family home.

Ray had, at some stage, joined the 'Brown Bombers', who were employed by the NSWPF as Parking Patrol Officers.

A change of uniform in the 1980's saw Parking Patrol Officers, known by the nickname of 'Brown Bombers' ( because of the colour of their uniform ), become known as 'Grey Ghosts' because the colour was changed from Brown to a light Grey.

Ray was Stationed at Wollongong ( N.S.W. ) and during his stint at Wollongong, was known far and wide as a nice bloke who wasn't too hard on those parking offenders ( if you happened to be at your car at the right time of course ).

Ray was seriously assaulted by an irate parking offender in Corrimal St, Wollongong, one day. So much so that Ray ended up in Wollongong Hospital due to his injuries.

Ray was a practical joker too. He just loved putting a Parking envelope under your wiper blade ( with nothing inside the envelope ) just because he knew it was your car.

Ray stay at Wollongong Police Station until he retired in August 1991 – mainly due to the fact that at this time in the NSW Police History, local councils were attempting ( and were successful ) as taking over the duties of Parking Patrol Officers.

Some left the employ of NSWPF and went over to the Councils whereas others, like Ray, were old enough to take Retirement.

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## **Harold Ross LAWSON**

03/11/2021

**Harold Ross LAWSON**

**Late of Northern Territory**

AKA Roscoe & Ross, Ross LAWSON

NSW Police Cadet # 2358

NSW Redfern Police Academy Class # 123

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 14269

Rank: NSW Police Cadet – commenced 13 May 1968 ( aged 16  
years, 8 months, 2 days )

Probationary Constable – appointed 11 September 1970 ( aged 19  
years, 0 months, 0 days )

Constable – appointed 11 September 1971

Detective – appointed ? ? ? ( YES )

Constable 1st Class – appointed 21 November 1975 ( Seniority  
date = 11 Sept. 1975 )

Senior Constable – appointed 11 September 1979

Sergeant – appointed 21 February 1986

Chief Inspector – appointed ???

Final Rank = Chief Inspector

Stations: ?, Academy, Consorting Squad, Major Crimes Squad –  
South West, Hurstville Dets ( 1983 – 85 ), Bass Hill ( 19  
Division )( early 1990's ), Instructor at Detectives Course,

Wagga Wagga Dets ( O.I.C. ), Lake Macquarie LAC – Retirement

Service: From 13 May 1968 to 23 September 2006 = 38 years,  
4 months, 10 days Service

Age at Retirement: 55 years, 0 months, 12 days

Time in Retirement: 11 years, 10 months, 9 days

Awards: National Medal – granted 8 June 1988

1st Clasp to National Medal – granted 27 September 1996

Born: Tuesday 11 September 1951

Died on: Wednesday 1 August 2018

Age: 66 years, 10 months, 21 days

Cause: Stroke

Event location: Darwin, N.T.

Event date: Wednesday 1 August 2018

Funeral date: Thursday 9 August 2018 @ 10am

Funeral location: Wauchope Uniting Church, Hastings St,  
Wauchope

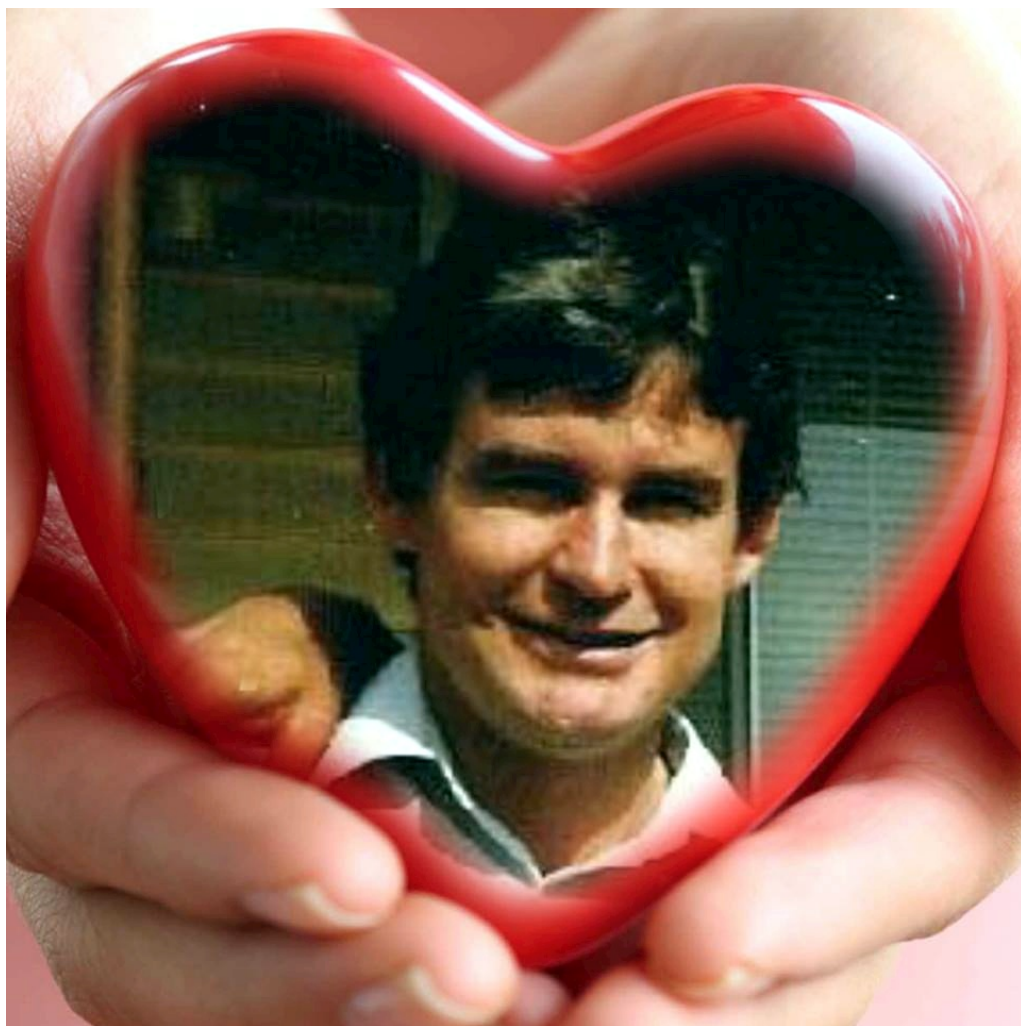
Funeral Parlour: ?

Buried at: Comboyne General Cemetery, O'Sullivan's Lane,  
Comboyne, NSW

Grave location: ?

Memorial located at: ?





**HAROLD is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance \*  
NOT JOB RELATED**

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**Funeral location: [codepeople-post-map]**

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

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

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**May they forever Rest In Peace**

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Nothing further is known about this man or his career at the time of publication.

Cal

First published on 6 August 2018.

Updated 3 August 2025.

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# Lance Ian FERRIS

03/11/2021

**Lance Ian FERRIS**

**aka The Pelican Man**

**( late of Ballina )**

**New South Wales Police Force**

**Regd. # 11835**

**Rank:** Commenced Training at Redfern Police Academy on Monday  
21 February 1966 ( aged 19 years, 2 months, 9 days )

Probationary Constable – appointed 4 April 1966 ( aged 19  
years, 3 months, 10 days )

Constable – appointed 4 April 1967

Constable 1st Class – appointed ? ? ?

Senior Constable – appointed 4 April 1975

( Appears in the 1975 Stud Book but not the 1979 issue )

**Final Rank:** Senior Constable?

**Stations:** ?, Casino

Service: From 21 February 1966 to ?1982?

Awards: National Medal – granted 18 November 1982 ( SenCon )

Born: Thursday 12 December 1946

Event date: Suffered Stroke on Saturday 13 October 2007

Died on: Sunday 14 October 2007

Cause: Stroke

Death location: Lismore Base Hospital, NSW

Age: 60 years, 10 months, 2 days

Funeral date: ?

Funeral location: ?

Buried at: Cremated Lismore. Seabird Rescue Centre

Memorial at: Lance Ferris Wharf, Fawcett Park, Ballina, NSW

**LANCE is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance \* NOT  
JOB RELATED**

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**Funeral location: ?**

## **LH 370**

<http://www.richhistory.org.au/RRHS%20Index%20D-G.pdf>

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

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

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15 October, 2007 10:47AM AEDT

### **If pelicans could cry – the passing of the pelican man**

By Justine Frazier and Jonathan Atkins

Sixty year old Lance Ferris died on Sunday the 14th of  
October, 2007 at Lismore base Hospital after suffering a  
stroke on Saturday.



Lance Ferris from Australian Seabird Rescue collects dead birds from the beach areas of Evans Head. It is thought the birds died from botulism after eating dead fish.



The man many of us fondly knew as the **“Pelican Man”** has passed away leaving a massive whole in the community. Sixty year old Lance Ferris died on Sunday the 14th of October, 2007 at Lismore base Hospital after suffering a stroke on Saturday.

Lance dedicated his life to the rescue, rehabilitation and preservation of seabirds, turtles, and in particular the magnificent pelican and it was through his many years as a dedicated volunteer, using his own money and whatever donations he could find that Australian Seabird Rescue (ASR)

came into existence in Ballina, New South Wales in 1992.

Close friend Marny Bonner said, "We're receiving emails and phone calls from all over Australia from people who are so deeply saddened and shocked."

Marny Bonner says, "Lance has always had huge compassion for Australia wildlife, his entire life has been rescuing and rehabilitating wildlife. It wasn't until he noticed not one but two pelicans with hooks in their legs, on the same day, that he realised that there was a problem out there. So he borrowed a boat and had a look around the Richmond River and found that 37 out of 100 pelicans were injured."

After surveying other estuaries, Lance Ferris realised that what was needed was a huge education program campaign and the passion began.

"We got good support from the North Coast community and some important sponsorship. Over the last 15 years we've managed to reach 20,000 children, so there will be a lot of children upset about losing the Pelican man."

Since that time, ASR volunteers have been involved in the rescue and rehabilitation of seabirds and shorebirds, marine turtles and to date, have rescued over 1000 Australian Pelicans.

Lance Ferris never lost his passion the rescuing injured seabirds.

Marny Bonner believes, "Ultimately that's what claimed him, his passion for wildlife led to him not looking after himself as well as he might have. It led to many, many hours in loss of sleep trying to save those little lives."

"I would like to absolutely commend the staff at Lismore base Hospital who worked so hard with Lance. It was a very upsetting time for everybody because everybody knew who he was

and knew how hard he'd worked to save so many lives and yet there was nothing we could do to save this most important life," says Marney Bonner.

In 2004 as president of Australian Seabird Rescue, Lance led the volunteer organisation to win the inaugural National Coastcare Community award.

In an earlier life Lance worked a police officer based in Casino and was a member of APEX. He also worked as a teachers aid for children with disabilities, was a well respected musician and a member of the Sonset Orchestra and could be found at any given weekend at the Lismore Car Boot Markets. Ballina Mayor, Phillip Silver says the death of Lance Ferris is a huge loss for the community.

"I guess in many ways he was ahead of his time in terms of the recognition of that vulnerability of the environment and the water animals. Because he was doing it 20 years ago when it was certainly happening but people weren't thinking about it," said mayor Silver.

ASR is always looking for more volunteers and as Marny Booner says "the pelicans have lost their best friend, if pelicans could cry, there would be a wailing around the nation that could not be ignored. It will take an army of volunteers to replace Lance Ferris".

Jason Ferris believes his Dad would never really let on if he was feeling unwell.

Jason recalls, "At 3am on Saturday morning he sent out a bunch of emails with instructions regarding seabird rescue, so we suspect over the last week or so, he was aware something was going on."

"My Dad's always run pretty close to the edge. Dad lived and breathed seabird rescue 24/7. I would often find him sleeping in all sorts of places in the back cars, on seats... his focus

was never on his own health, more on the animals in care," said Jason.

A passion that Jason and Lance shared was music.

"I developed an interest in music as a result of Dad. Dad was really an amazing musician and beautiful singer. In my 20's he and I started playing music together around the North Coast. Definitely some of my most treasured memories of Dad," said Jason.

As much as it can be...it will be business as usual for Australian Seabird Rescue.

According to Jason, "Dad's put 13 or 14 years into this organisation, you can't just pull the plug. He would be most unhappy with me if that happened."

In 2003, ABC TV's Australian Story took a look at a Ballina based former police officer called **Lance Ferris**, who's dedicated his life to fixing the plight of the pelicans... read more

ABC North Coast reported when Lance Ferris and his team of seabird rescuers headed to Victoria for a series of training sessions with wildlife carers... read more

**A public memorial service will be held for Lance Ferris.**

Marny Bonner wrote this in the ABC North Coast guestbook.

*"Thank you to the ABC crew for your lovely, sincere tribute to Lance, and thanks to all who phoned to share the ways in which Lance touched their lives. Lance's life and work will be commemorated at the WildlifeLink Sanctuary in Ballina this Friday 19/10 at 11am. All are welcome to join us. The centre will be open from 10am. It is located at the end of North Creek Rd, which runs off the Pacific H'way as it heads out of Ballina towards Bangalow. On behalf of Jason's family and Australian Seabird Rescue volunteers, thank you for your*

*condolences and support... Marny."*

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2007/10/15/2059504.htm>

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## Wharf named after Lance

10th Dec 2009 1:01 AM



LANCE FERRIS WHARF: Ballina's mayor, Cr Phillip Silver, (right) with acting general manager of Australian Seabird Rescue, Keith Williams, announcing the naming of the wharf at Fawcett Park as the Lance Ferris Wharf.

IT'S official.

The wharf at Fawcett Park is now the **Lance Ferris Wharf**, named after the late Lance Ferris – the Pelican Man – who founded Ballina-based organisation **Australian Seabird Rescue**.

And work is currently being undertaken on the design for a **statue** of a bronze pelican to be perched **on the jetty in Ballina's CBD**.

Ballina's mayor, Cr Phillip Silver, was due to make the official announcement on the naming of the wharf at the inaugural **Lance Ferris Memorial Dinner** scheduled for December 12.

But with last week's decision by Australian Seabird Rescue to postpone the dinner, the announcement was made early.

He said council wanted to recognise the work of Mr Ferris, who died in October 2007, aged 60.

After Mr Ferris' death, council resolved to **rename Fawcett Park** as **Lance Ferris Park**. But that move was **knocked back** by the NSW Geographical Names Board following objections.

There won't be any problem with the naming of the wharf, Cr Silver said, as it is a piece of council-owned infrastructure.

Keith Williams, acting general manager of **ASR** and partner of Mr Ferris' daughter, Rochelle Ferris, welcomed the decision to name the wharf after Lance.

He said the move not only acknowledged the work of Mr Ferris but also the Richmond River which Mr Ferris was so passionate about.

"This is a fantastic," he said on behalf of the family and the broader family of ASR volunteers.

He is the father of **Finn, Lance's grandson**, who was born just over a month ago.

Mr Williams said he enjoys taking Finn to the wharf.

"This (naming the wharf) is to say '**your granddad was someone really special**'. And much of the respect (for Lance) comes from the community – you can't manufacture that," he said.

A local artist has been commissioned to create the **life-size bronze statue of a pelican** which will be installed on the

wharf early **next year**.

Cr Silver said the council had budgeted **\$10,000** for the statue, which had come from the staff operational budget.

He said he hoped the pelican would become an icon for Ballina now that nothing stood in the way of the demolition of the Big Prawn at the southern entrance to the town.

“Whether it (the pelican statute) evolves to be an icon of the town is a function of the community,” he said.

Cr Silver has already suggested Ballina could rebrand itself, replacing the seahorse, so the shire can be Ballina bypass-ready. Work on the new highway route is expected to be finished by 2012.

He said a rebranding of the shire wouldn't be expensive, as things like stationery stocks would be used up in time.

Meanwhile, the Lance Ferris Memorial Dinner will be held on June 5 next year, World Environment Day.

Mr Williams said anybody who had purchased a ticket would receive a full refund.

<http://www.ballinaadvocate.com.au/news/wharf-named-after-lance/424175/>

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## **Lance Ferris sculpture to be unveiled**

This Friday, **24 September, 2010**, Mayor Phillip Silver will unveil a sculpture at Fawcett Park, Ballina, to commemorate and acknowledge the work of the late **Lance Ferris**.

The sculpture is dedicated to the coastal conservation work carried out by Mr Ferris, affectionately known as '**the Pelican**

**Man' .**

“In fostering and supporting local art, council commissioned a local artist to create a unique bronze sculpture that is befitting of the animal conservation work carried out by Lance. The artist behind the sculpture is Wollongbar-based sculptor Frank Miles,” Cr Silver said.

As part of the commemoration Cr Silver will also be officially name the wharf in Fawcett Park ‘**Lance Ferris Wharf**’.

“It is an appropriate place to acknowledge Lance’s work which started in earnest in 1992 on the sand spit opposite the Fawcett Park wharf after he noticed pelicans were injured by fishing line and hooks,” Cr Silver said.

“The pelicans were rescued, rehabilitated and released. The work soon extended from pelicans to other coastal birds as well as marine turtles.

“Lance was passionate about educating the community in preserving and protecting the coastal environment and all marine wildlife, and it’s fitting that we not only acknowledge his work but also raise awareness for the continued operation of the organisation he founded, the Australian Seabird Rescue.

“Based in Ballina, the volunteer organisation continues to operate around Australia to protect and rescue seabirds and shorebirds.

“This is also largely due to the continued dedication of the Ferris family and the support they receive from volunteers and the community in enduring Lance’s legacy.”

Lance Ferris family members representing the Australian Seabird Rescue service will be present at the unveiling ceremony which will take place at 11am at the wharf in Fawcett Park.

All members of the public are welcome to attend.

<http://www.ballina.info/blog/2010/09/20/lance-ferris-sculpture-to-be-unveiled/>

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## Steptoe Unveiling



## Steptoe

A recent unveiling on 24th September of Frank Miles life-size bronze pelican "Steptoe", (pictured left) commissioned by the Ballina Shire Council, at the Fawcett Park Wharf. This wharf was renamed on the day to the "Lance Ferris Wharf" in honour of the late Lance Ferris the towns' famed 'Pelican Man'. This was a very exciting moment for Frank as well the Australian Seabird Rescue Service and Lance's family members.

– September 2010

## **Australian Story – ABC**

**23/06/2003**

If there's one Australian bird that we've all watched with awe it's the pelican.

But as we've admired this bird we are mostly oblivious to the tragedy that the nation's most popular hobby, fishing, is visiting upon our feathered friends.

Accidental hooking by recreational fishing, discarded hooks and fishing line have become the birds' most lethal enemy. Bills, legs and wings are being hooked or entangled. The result, all too often, is a painful death.

Tonight's Australian Story is about one man, a Ballina based former police officer called Lance Ferris, who's dedicated his life to fixing the plight of the pelicans.

With spectacular physical agility, he "bribes" the pelicans with fish and then dives to catch injured animals so they can be treated and saved.

Over the past 12 years, often living well below the poverty line, he has rescued and rehabilitated hundreds of birds and conducted educational workshops in schools and fishing clubs up and down Australia's east coast.

Featuring stunning wildlife images, Australian Story retraces the rough, tough and exciting life of Lance Ferris.

We see first hand his unconventional but effective pelican catching methods and the extent of this problem along with the solutions he has employed.

## PROGRAM EXTRAS

### Related Links:

A Bird in the Hand Archived Forum

Browse comments posted to the online forum that followed A Bird in the Hand.

<http://www.abc.net.au/austory/content/2003/s923580.htm>

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## A Bird in the Hand

PROGRAM TRANSCRIPT: Monday, 23 June , 2003

REX HUNT: Hello. I'm Rex Hunt. Tonight's Australian Story is about a man who has dedicated his life to solving the problems sometimes unwittingly created by us anglers. He is Lance Ferris – known as 'The Pelican Man' for his incredible work in saving these magnificent birds from terrible injuries. And his efforts are changing attitudes on the water. This is Lance's story.

EVAN KOSACK – VET: Lance and the fishermen in the area started out being at loggerheads a little bit.

LANCE FERRIS: I don't think they believed that the problem was as bad as it was. Pelicans torn to pieces, basically, by fishing tackle.

EVAN KOSACK – VET: Lance was telling people, basically, that their beloved hobby was causing a lot of damage and that they were acting irresponsibly. Lance is not the norm.

ANTHONY MUYT: He's very independent, he's very focused, he

thinks outside of the square. He's a bit of a mad scientist. He was just some joker who rolled up and was jumping off boats into pelicans. They thought he was nuts at first – thought he was a madman. He is extremely professional. He likes perfection. He'll work at something until he has it.

DEBBI DEVINE – SAM'S MUM :I look at him sometimes and I think, "Wow. This grown man – the way he is with these animals." It's amazing. It's like they're his children.

LANCE FERRIS: We were on an excursion with the children from the special school. I noticed a pelican in a park that had a hook buried in its leg. So, I grabbed some fish from a bait shop and the bird came up to me and I grabbed it, held it and looked down at it, and I thought, "The hook's in the left leg. "I'm sure the bird that I saw "before I got the bait had a hook in the right leg." I was absolutely positive of it. I made up some posters to hang in shop windows – "Wanted, a pelican with a hook in its leg." I thought, "There's another bird out there. I know there's another one."

MARNY BONNER: There are many, many people that would go, "Oh, gee. "Gee, fancy seeing two pelicans in one day, you know, "both with hook injuries," and continue about their business. But the interesting thing is that it engaged Lance's curiosity such that he went out and searched to see if there was an even bigger problem.

LANCE FERRIS: That led us into going out on the island to see if there were other pelicans out there. 108 birds on the island, there were, with 37 tangled up in fishing line on our first visit.

MARNY BONNER: For Lance, standing there with binoculars in hand observing bird after bird after bird coming into his vision with crippling, cruel injuries would be very overwhelming.

LANCE FERRIS: I was in shock and horror. I couldn't believe

how bad the situation was. I went back to the boat and cried for half an hour. I just couldn't believe... I'm no bronze Anzac hero. I might have been in the police force, but that doesn't mean to say you don't get cut up when you see so much damage. There were some with amputated wings and gangrene in their legs. It was a horrible thing. Being a wildlife carer for some years, at that stage, I was just amazed that I wasn't aware of it and nor had it been brought to our attention by any member of the public or any other wildlife people.

ROCHELLE FERRIS: He was so devastated by that, but he was also looking at the bigger picture, and he sat back and thought, "You know, how many estuaries are there in Australia "that are so populated by humans? "And I'm only looking at this one." And the problem just blew out in his head.

LANCE FERRIS: I knew we had a major problem on our hands. I had caught a couple and I'd caught them, I suppose, relatively easily, but when I saw so many I just got back to the boat and thought, "How do I cope with so many injured? "How can I catch that many? "They're everywhere."

MARNY BONNER: Lance fell asleep that night surrounded by crippled and injured birds and woke up and he was still surrounded by crippled and injured birds, and was compelled to do something – to start action right there and then.

LANCE FERRIS: It was three months and I had that 37, but as I was getting that 37, more became entangled as I went.

ROCHELLE FERRIS: The focus on getting out there and attending to all these sick pelicans really did take over his life.

MARNY BONNER: That was the dawning of the obsession and the birth of Australian Seabird Rescue.

LANCE FERRIS: I didn't really think about it changing my life at that time.

MARNY: In the early days, some of these injuries were quite old. They had had longstanding chronic injuries and they did require a lot of treatment. And to his amazement, the local vets were extremely interested and extremely supportive.

LANCE FERRIS: I had to look closely at the pelicans to see a line trailing under a wing, or a hook somewhere.

MARNY BONNER: Because it's difficult to see injuries on pelicans, people don't notice. I believe pelicans don't look sick when they are injured. Pelicans can't cry.

LANCE FERRIS: Everybody believed that the hook would rust away in two or three days. We've done some tests on all different sorts of hooks and it's at least six months before the hooks rusted away. So there were lots of things that make people not sort of bother.

ROCHELLE FERRIS: He was so concerned and frustrated by the lack of interest from the community that these birds were just all being tangled and no-one seemed to care.

LANCE FERRIS: But it's not all bad out there. There are some people who really have the right concept. If the bird's quiet and fairly well under control, we give everyone that opportunity to, say, pat a pelican or to have a close contact with it.

MARNY BONNER: Lance experienced quite a lot of loneliness in his childhood. He didn't have a lot of affection in it. He is essentially a shy person and a bit of a loner.

LANCE FERRIS: I can remember vividly as a boy, after I'd found a little frog with a broken leg, I think we taped it up with a matchstick, and for the life of me I can't remember whether it survived or not.

MARNY BONNER: That's what I saw in Lance when I first met him, was this uncanny ability to really spend a lot of time

thinking about how he could improve life generally for a particularly severely disabled child. Lance had his fairly demanding job of teacher's aide with disabled children. The realisation of the enormity of the problem on Pelican Island did change Lance's life, but I don't think he was conscious of that at that time. He was merely solving the problem on the day.

LANCE FERRIS: But then there were cutbacks with the school and then came the word that said, There's no more work. I'm sorry, we have to put you off. There's no more funding. We don't have enough children. And I had to drive away from the place. And I...I won't forget that day.

I wept all the way home. I was at a little cattle dairy, a converted place. The very next day the landlord drove down the paddock and I went up and I said, "About the rent..." He said, Oh, yeah. He said, I was gonna tell you about that. He said, I really like what you're doing with the pelicans and things. That's fantastic, that's a really good thing. And he said, And you've rescued my cattle out of the bogs here from time to time, "and I've decided not to charge rent anymore. Oh. You know, sort of looking around waiting for lightning to strike and pinching myself to see if I was awake. I was just ecstatic.

MARNY BONNER: Days rolled into weeks, and weeks rolled into months, and he was spending more and more time doing everything he possibly could to catch all the birds. And so it just became increasingly consuming of his time and his resources – all his resources. So it became a situation for Lance where if there was a choice of providing food for himself or getting fish to catch an injured pelican, the fish for catching the injured pelican always came first.

LANCE FERRIS: And I thought, "Oh, no, what am I doing?" And I thought, This is absolutely crazy. No-one would ever believe this, for starters, and this is just madness. I looked at the

pelicans in the cage and they were eating, you know, the best fish at 10 a box and I just thought, I don't think I can do this anymore. But then I took my shoes off and plodded round in the grass under the tree and found a bowl of bush nuts, macadamia nuts. I pigged out till I just couldn't eat another macadamia and I'm sitting there going, Yes. Yes, I'm right. I looked at the pelicans. It's alright, fellas. Everything's under control.

MARNY BONNER: When I first met Lance he was living very, very frugally. And if he was unable to pay his electricity bill or his gas bill he would simply accept that and go scrummage around the tip or something and come out with some ingenious way of getting hot water for himself. Or he would just not eat cooked food.

LANCE FERRIS: And I thought, Well, I've got no power. And the answering machine – it was the biggest problem, because it was the mainstay of Seabird Rescue when I wasn't there. I had some electronic knowledge and I had a little solar panel. And I had an old battery. It worked like a dream. Nobody knew my predicament. Nobody knew how we were running the show. It still looked OK on the surface. You know, if we sort of still had some credibility – I had an answering service – Oh, well, they must be alright. You know, so it gave me a feeling of, I suppose, wellbeing.

That first one, as I held it in my arms, I was awe-struck by the majesty of it. I think the immense size of the bird, no-one would realise that a pelican is as gentle as it is.

MARNY BONNER: A beautiful, benign creature that doesn't deserve the treatment that it gets. If pelicans could cry, there would be a wailing across the nation that could not be ignored. We could open a tackle shop on the hooks and line and sinkers and traces and lures that we have extracted from the pelicans we've caught to date, easily.

LANCE FERRIS: Everyone loves Percy Pelican, and they don't want to see anything injured irrespective of what species it is.

ROCHELLE FERRIS: And pelicans were dying and, you know, no-one really counted and knew how vast the problem was. The people from one estuary don't really communicate with the people from the next estuary what they've seen.

In a small percentage of cases, there are people who deliberately hook pelicans. But again, it's never an approach of accusing or retribution – always a case of education. And for him to do something about that, he needed money to do it. You know, it's not... He was broke as it was. So he needed to get that information out there to make them aware.

MARNY BONNER: Lance's move from the dairy to the house on the same property was quite timely in a way because Seabird Rescue really required a bit more space to accommodate volunteers. But clearly there's no point continuing to rescue birds if you don't do something about the cause of it. How do you start re-educating millions of fisherfolk and hundreds and hundreds of waterside residents in such a way that they stay on your side, that they will work with you and not be offended? There is no room for blame or guilt or anything else.

LANCE FERRIS: I had to get volunteers and I had to get public support to address the whole of the coastline, and I knew that media was the way to go. So I hammered every media outlet – television, newspaper – everything that I could get my hands into. A lot of it was rejected. Then one of the local papers said, Would you like to do a column? So I got the column going and things just took off from there. Quite often we were getting phone calls from the TV stations locally, and saying, Can we do a story on this?

ROCHELLE FERRIS: After Dad's first media exposure and the call backs he got from that, and people recognising him in the

street and patting him on the back and saying, Good job, he twigged. He said, I'm onto something here, and this is going to make the difference. From that day on, every time there was a really badly injured pelican, he would be on the phone to them so quick. So this media coverage that went to all those communities was priceless in being part of the solution and making them open their eyes and, yeah, pick up their tackle.

LANCE FERRIS: I could see that educating the children was really important.

MARNY BONNER: Kids these days are growing up with the environmental message. Getting to the kids and educating the kids is one of the most important activities that we do. They're the ones that will carry that message. On many an occasion we see them run off and tug on Dad's shirt or Mum's shirt and say, You mustn't drop that, Mum. Mustn't drop that, Dad. Have to pick this up now. And...the parents are kind of shamed into being more environmentally responsible than they might otherwise have been.

ROCHELLE FERRIS: I guess when Dad started to realise that the problem was so national, he knew he needed volunteers. He couldn't pay them – he can't pay himself. Once word got out, it definitely made a difference. There was some real dedicated people.

LANCE FERRIS: The volunteers come from all walks of life. They all have their own areas of expertise, if you like. We've got Jenny, who's just absolutely marvellous. She's got a lovely, lovely rapport with the birds.

MARNY BONNER: Young Sam in particular was a fairly troubled child when Lance first met him – so much so that Lance thought that he was even beyond his ability to rescue him, if you like.

SAM DEVINE: I was just playing up in class, then he just started doing talks at the school about Seabird Rescue. I

could talk to him and he would help me with my work... ..when I was having trouble.

MARNY BONNER: He's turned around from a child who did not want to cooperate or be involved in school work or achieve anything.

SAM DEVINE: If it wasn't for Lance I probably would be in a behavioural class.

LANCE FERRIS: Anthony was a person that came up here to study science with a background of being a member of the police SWAT team.

MARNY BONNER: He was a very quick learner, but more importantly, he was most definitely an action man. He's almost a younger, more energetic Lance, if you like.

It's very important to have volunteers that won't be too offended if we're not always as socially adept as we ought to be. We both suffer from burnout, from exhaustion, and in so doing, Lance in particular might sometimes forget to pay attention to his manners or be as thoughtful of that person or as considerate of that person as he...as he might be.

He is consumed by this calling. The unfortunate consequence of that kind of dedication is that Lance can neglect important relationships in his life.

ROCHELLE FERRIS: Having Marny in Dad's life has been his Rock of Gibraltar. And, you know, they've had their quarrels, and people do. If Marny wasn't in his life – God, I would have so much on my hands.

MARNY BONNER: It's been very difficult for everyone that's close to Lance. Even acquaintances frequently become offended, um, by his lack of presence.

ROCHELLE FERRIS: I wanted to throw a tantrum and get so angry because he'd missed my birthday or he'd forgotten Mother's Day

or, you know, just everything else in his life seemed to fade out.

MARNY BONNER: Those of us that are close to Lance can really joke that, you know, maybe if we pierced our ears and hung a jag hook in one and a lure in the other, he might look at us intensely and say, How are you?

LANCE FERRIS: We started recording all the problems that happened to the pelicans. It was very difficult for us to convince National Parks or Fisheries or anyone in the first few years that there was a problem.

ROCHELLE FERRIS: He gathered so much information over time about pelican behaviour, but he needed that notoriety from the scientific community to understand what he was talking about and for him to be able to approach them on their terms, academically.

LANCE FERRIS: Marny's got the letters after her name, so too has my daughter, being a marine biologist, and that was a blessing to me. I had the information. They basically put it together and shaped it.

ROCHELLE FERRIS: It was really good for our relationship, writing that paper together, to get a bit of recognition from him from what I'd studied and learnt. And I wasn't this little girl anymore who was wide-eyed and looking at everything he did, and I...I had something to give him.

LANCE FERRIS: When the report on the impact of fishing was accepted, or when they called for more copies at NSW Fisheries, I was just overjoyed. I thought, Finally! We're gonna have to start working fairly quickly. As fast as we catch 'em, they're getting entangled now. RecFish Australia included some of our concepts in their code of conduct for fishermen, and NSW Fisheries handed us one of their ex-service boats. Petrol companies offered fuel for the vehicle. A telephone company offered us a mobile phone. The council

offered us free ferry journey. And the Coastcare, under the Natural Heritage Trust, gave us two grants so far of 26,000, which has enabled me to get to the schools and teach the children. I look back at the road we've travelled and people are taking more care. Well, I mean, some fishermen who used to say, Shoot the bastards... ..come up to me in the pub and say, You owe me a beer, mate. I caught one of your bloody pelicans. And don't tell anybody about it either. I gave him a fish too after I took the hook out.

MARNY BONNER: People began to call us when they noticed other things on the beach. Well done. And so the turtles were added to the repertoire of pelicans, seabirds.

LANCE FERRIS: To see trained personnel at strategic locations all around the coast of Australia – that would be the ultimate goal. In July we have to vacate the premises we're in at the moment. We were in big trouble. It was very, very heart-warming to realise the strength of the support we got from the council. The council has offered us some land for free and also a second-hand house. It's been a fairly hard road. I guess Marny and I will have to start really getting on really, really well together, and not fighting on occasions.

MARNY BONNER: I do have grave concerns about his emotional and physical health because there is so little balance in his life. He does not take the time to rescue himself, I suppose. But I can't live that life for him. The best thing that I can do is be his best friend.

LANCE FERRIS: I couldn't have done this without her – there's no doubt about that – irrespective of the rocky road that we've been along.

MARNY BONNER: He's extremely important to me. He sets a fine example constantly of what can be achieved with patience, sheer determination, a great deal of tolerance and, above all, extraordinary compassion for creatures that can do nothing to

alleviate their own suffering.

CAPTION: Lance and SeaBird Rescue are currently homeless while they wait for clearance of the council owned land and rebuilding. The latest injured pelican tally is 595.

<http://www.abc.net.au/austory/content/2003/s923592.htm>

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**Donald BRATTAN**

03/11/2021

**Donald BRATTAN**

**AKA Don**

**Late of:**

**NSW Police Academy, Redfern Class #  
'possibly' 059**

# New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 9228

**Rank:** Probationary Constable – appointed  
on 2 March 1959

Constable 1st Class – appointed 2 March  
1965

Senior Constable – appointed 2 March 1969

Sergeant 3/C – appointed on 3 April 1974

Senior Sergeant – appointed 4 September  
1984

**Final Rank:** Senior Sergeant

**Stations:** ?, Western District, Euabalong  
( approx 1968/ 70 ), Raymond Terrace,  
Ashford, Narrabri, Broken Hill –  
Tactician – retirement around 1989

Retired to Tenterfield, NSW

**Service:** From probably 19 January 1959  
to 18 December 1989 = 30+ years Service

**Awards:** 3 Commendations

National Medal – **granted** 15 September  
1980 ( Sgt 3/c )

1st Clasp to National Medal – **granted** 15  
May 1986 ( Sgt 1/c )

**Born**: Tuesday 11 October 1932

**Died on**: Tuesday 8 December 2015

**Cause**: Stroke

**Age**: 83yrs 1mth 27days

**Funeral date**: Friday 11 December 2015 @  
10am

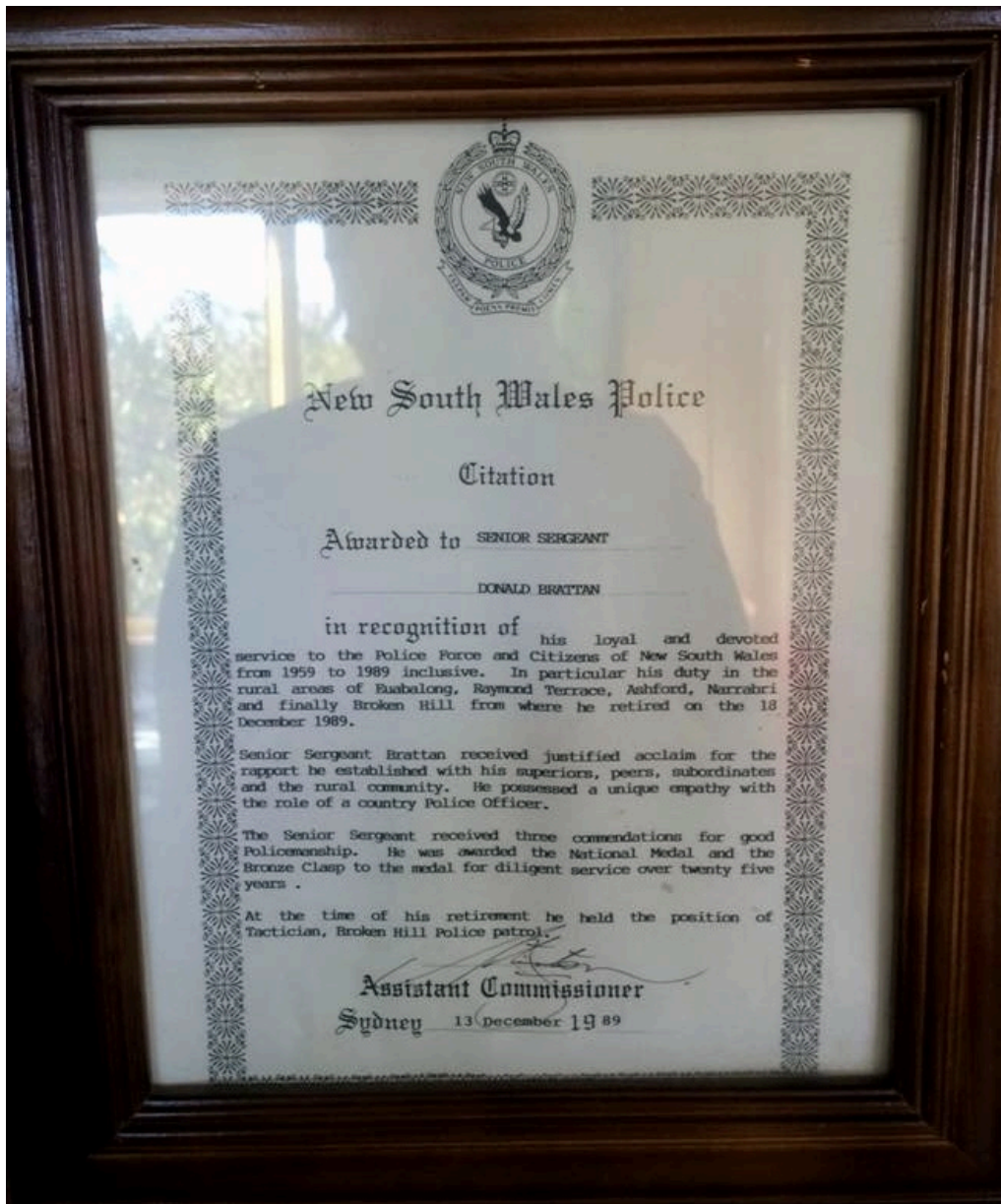
**Funeral location**: Ashford Cemetery,  
Ashford Cemetery Road., ASHFORD

**Buried at**: Ashford Cemetery, Ashford  
Cemetery Road., ASHFORD, NSW

**Memorial at**: ?



Don BRATTAN



**DON** is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance \* **NOT JOB RELATED**

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**Funeral location:** [\[codepeople-post-map\]](#)

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

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

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May you forever Rest In Peace Don.

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Location – Broken Hill, Mitch Hardaker, **John Hardaker**s son, was told that this was taken whilst Mad Max 3 was being filmed out there. You can see the old bus on the left of the picture. This picture is of John Hardaker and other officers. Most probably Don BRATTAN with his back to camera and the large Crown ( Sgt 1/c ) on the left sleeve.



Grave of Donald BRATTAN

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