

Bryson Charles ANDERSON

06/12/2012

Bryson Charles ANDERSON

AKA Bryce ANDERSON, Bryson ANDERSON

Son of Rex ANDERSON, NSWPF # 8681

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 23020

Academy Class: 222

Rank: Police Trainee – commenced 18 August 1986,
Probationary Constable – appointed 7 November 1986,
Constable 1st Class – appointed 1991,
Detective Constable 1st Class – appointed November 1993,
Sergeant – appointed 2004,
Detective Inspector – appointed 2009,
Duty Officer – from 19 December 2010
Detective Inspector

Stations: Goulburn Academy, Parramatta G.D's, Granville, Ermington, C.I. Duties – Granville, Castle Hill, Task Force Boyne, Ermington, Rosehill, Special Crime, Internal Affairs,

Hawkesbury L.A.C.

Service: From 18 August 1986 to 6 December 2012 = 26
years, 3 months, 18 days Service

Age at Leaving: 45 years, 10 months, 20 days

Time in Retirement: 0

Awards: National Medal – granted 22 July 1993 (SenCon)

NSW Police Medal together with 1st & 2nd Clasps

Commissioner's Unit Citation – 2003 for Highly professional
investigations

1st Clasp to the National Medal – posthumously

3rd Clasp to the NSW Police Medal – posthumously

Valour Award – posthumously

Born: Monday 16 January 1967

Died on: Thursday 6 December 2012

Cause: Murdered – Oakville, NSW

Age: 45 years, 10 months, 20 days

Funeral date: Wednesday 12 December 2012

Funeral location: St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, NSW

Buried at: Cremated

Memorial location: Outside of Windsor Police Stn, NSW

Memorial dedication performed on Tuesday 6 December 2022 upon the 10 Anniversary of his Murder.

BRYSON IS mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance




The Commissioners Press conference.

[http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-12-06/p ... ck/4413626](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-12-06/p...ck/4413626)

Two people have been arrested after a senior police officer died after sustaining critical injuries in an axe attack in Sydney's north-west.

Police say Detective Inspector Bryson Anderson was among a number of officers called to a dispute between neighbours at **Scheyville Road** in **Oakville** about 2pm (AEDT).

About two hours later, Detective Inspector Anderson was seriously injured in what is understood to have been an axe attack.

Det Insp Bryson Anderson killed with an axe on Thu 061212	

After treatment by paramedics he was rushed to **Windsor Hospital** in a critical condition but died a short time later.

Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione said a **19-year-old man** and a **42-year-old woman** had been arrested at the scene and taken to Windsor Police Station where they were assisting investigators with their inquiries.

Mr Scipione said Detective Inspector Anderson was from a police family and had left a wife and three children.

“They are, as you imagine, distraught, but taking strong support from not only their immediate family, but the police family.

“We will console officers that were part of this particular operation.

“They, as you would also imagine, are traumatised and all support services have been put around them.

“I’ve got to say the strength and courage that is being shown inside (the hospital), not only by the police that are there, but also by the family, is incredible.”

Photo: Police say the officer was called to a dispute between neighbours in Oakville.

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**Det Insp Bryson Anderson
killed with an axe on Thu
061212**



Mr Scipione said he could not provide too many details of the events leading up to the attack given the investigation was in its early stages.

“I understand the (neighbourhood) dispute did involve the use of some weapons, but again having said that, we want to get to the bottom of this investigation before we start making too many statements,” he said.

“Suffice to say it was a violent neighbourhood incident that caused the police to attend and there were many police there.

“Some time after they first attended, there was an interaction which led to the death of Inspector Anderson.

“I understand they were trying to communicate with affected parties and were looking to resolve this peacefully.”

Mr Scipione said Detective Inspector Anderson had worked for him more than 10 years ago and paid tribute to his skills as an investigator.

“He was nothing short of a role model to those officers that come after him,” he said.

“Today is a stark reminder how dangerous this job is. These people do this in such a way they put their lives before the lives of others.

“You have an idea what the price is today.”

Anyone with information about the incident are being asked to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or use the Crime Stoppers website.

RIP Bryson

A tribute from our Commissioner

Today (**Wednesday 12 December 2012**) we honour a brave man. Bryson Anderson. A police officer, and so much more.

A man who was so deeply respected by the community in which he lived, worked and devoted much of his spare time.

A true man of the people. His service to the community was far greater than simply those days when he wore that blue uniform with such pride and distinction. And of course, Bryson was a loving husband, father and brother to his own family. To this family we owe so much. A debt of gratitude for the support you gave Bryson as he went about his duties. Police officers understand that each day they go to work, they put their lives on the line. This tragedy reminds us all of the sacrifice that goes with that understanding. Our community will always rely on men and women of courage who are willing to put up their hands to serve and protect. Bryson Anderson stood tall in their ranks. Detective Inspector Bryson Anderson, friend, you have left us with an enduring legacy, a standard to which we

can all aspire and for which we are forever grateful. You will always be remembered.

Andrew Scipione

12 December 2012

Valedictory for Detective Inspector Bryson Anderson

Date **December 12, 2012**

As delivered by NSW Police Force Commissioner Andrew Scipione
APM

At 3.30pm on the 6th of December 2012, **Detective Inspector Bryson Charles Anderson** arrived at the scene of a neighbourhood dispute at Oakville near Windsor that had escalated beyond all reason.

He went to lend support to fellow officers who were seeking to bring matters to a peaceful resolution.

It was not to be.

The approach of police was resisted and Detective Inspector Anderson was fatally wounded.

Detective Inspector Anderson was rushed by ambulance to Hawkesbury Hospital but died as a result of his injuries.

Bryson Charles Anderson began his career as a **trainee** police officer on the **18th of August 1986** and **attested** on the **7th of**

November 1986.

His first general duties posting was here in **Parramatta**. That was followed by others to **Granville** and **Ermington**.

While at **Granville** in **1991**, **Constable First Class Anderson** commenced **criminal investigation duties**, successfully gaining his **designation** as a **Detective in November 1993**.

Bryson's designation was a defining moment in his policing career and he quickly displayed an aptitude and an enthusiasm for criminal investigation that was soon recognised by his commanding officers.

At **Castle Hill**, **Task Force Boyne**, **Ermington**, **Rosehill** and then within **Special Crime** and **Internal Affairs**, Bryson honed his detective skills. He was dedicated, analytical and meticulous.

A thoroughly good bloke. I worked with Bryson ... and I can vouch for that.

In **2004**, promoted to **sergeant**, Bryson returned to **general duties**. This time it was to **Hawkesbury Local Area Command**, where he was to spend **three years** as a supervisor.

In **2007** **criminal investigation** was again to beckon, Bryson seizing the opportunity to return to **Special Crime and Internal Affairs** ... now known as **Professional Standards** ... where he applied his skills to **covert investigations**. There he was promoted to the rank of **Detective Inspector** in **2009**.

What was to prove Bryson's final posting was back in **Hawkesbury**. He took up the role of **Duty Officer** in **Hawkesbury Local Area Command** on the **19th of December 2010**, and served with distinction in that role until the moment of his passing.

Throughout his service Detective Inspector Anderson undertook extensive internal training in his chosen policing specialisation.

He was awarded the **NSW Police Medal**; the **National Medal**; as well as the **first and second clasps** to the **NSW Police Medal**.

In **2003** he received a **Commissioner's Unit Citation** for highly professional investigations.

He will **posthumously** receive the first clasp to the **National Medal** and the **third clasp** to the **NSW Police Medal**.

Impressive as they are, the bare facts I have recounted do Detective Inspector Bryson Anderson little justice. Those who knew him ... know that Bryson the man transcended ... in achievements and in potential ... any chronology of this type.

Those that know it best of all are Bryson's wife, **Donna**, and his three children, **Olivia**, **Darcy** and **Cain**. It is with them that Bryson, devoted husband and father, was closest. And it is they who, tragically, must now manage without his love, strength and support.

Bryson's father, **Rex**; mother, **Shirley**; and brothers **Warwick** and **Damian** also know the calibre of the man. Bryson's is a profound loss, but be assured his life was just as profound a credit to you. I know for certain that he enriched the lives of all of us in the NSW Police Force who had the good fortune to know him.

What the record does not disclose is Bryson's wholehearted embrace of community service.

Even when on holiday, Bryson was thinking of what he could do for others. On packing his bags last year for Vanuatu, in with the board shorts and sunscreen he found room for gifts and sporting equipment for the local village kids.

The demands of policing are great: more than enough for most of us, and often more than a full-time job. But not for Bryson. He was retained as a fire-fighter, serving for eight years between 1994 and 2002 at Number 81 Station, Windsor,

rising to the rank of Deputy Captain.

And it didn't stop there. Bryson coached a number of junior soccer teams for the Colo Soccer Club. And on the day before he died he took part in the final leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, held in Windsor, an event which five months earlier he volunteered to organise.

Bryson loved the Hawkesbury area, where he lived and worked most of his adult life.

And innumerable people, from the Hawkesbury and elsewhere, loved and admired Bryson in return. His personnel file is full to overflowing with complimentary remarks and letters of appreciation, many from the community and victims of crime, moved to write in gratitude for the care, dedication and professionalism with which he went about his work.

In Vanuatu, upon hearing of his passing, the villagers whose lives Bryson had so selflessly touched while on holiday held a service in his memory.

He was equally admired by his fellow police officers, myself among them. On the one hand, a tenacious and committed police officer, driven to pursue offenders for the darkest and most serious of crimes. Yet retaining the most extraordinary empathy, compassion and concern for the victims of those crimes.

He showed initiative and leadership; intelligence and perseverance; dedication and humility; and, memorably, a ready smile and an engaging way. Bryson drew people to him, without guile and without effort. The workplace was a better place for him being there.

The tributes from his fellow officers were immediate and many. They tell variously of a proud husband and father, a keen motor cyclist, an active participant in sporting clubs, and, invariably, of a superb police officer.

He made his vast store of policing wisdom available to young officers but never imposed it. More likely were those officers to hear from Bryson an encouraging “Just play your natural game, it’s first class” – one of his favourite sayings – to go with some tip or insight he’d somehow manage to convey.

Reflecting on her career, one officer ... echoing the thoughts of many others I am sure, wrote: “Bryson you are an amazing officer and an even nicer gentleman. I formed this opinion 20 years ago as a naïve female probationary constable. I still hold the same opinion now. You will be truly missed”

There can be no doubt Bryson will be missed.

He lived for the community, died serving it and deserved much better.

His death reminds us that law and order are not givens. They come at a price and that price, on occasion, is a prohibitive one.

With Bryson’s death we realise, suddenly, even if belatedly, that ours is a society worth defending.

We realise that our hard won freedoms and protections are vulnerable and easily demolished.

We realise that not only is each individual’s life precious and fragile ... but that so too is our way of life.

We meet Bryson’s death with grief and tears, but that can’t be allowed to suffice.

If he could lend us his voice, I’m sure Bryson would agree that now is not the time to be timid or defensive. It is not a time to be apologetic, nor a time for retreat.

The anger and regret we all feel – for Bryson’s sake and for the sake of all of the officers who have fallen before him – need to find constructive expression. As a society we need to

rise up to repudiate violence, however and wherever we can, with all the energy we can muster.

For his wider police family ... of which all police officers and their families are a part ... Bryson's death will neither be forgotten nor be in vain. Bryson's courage and conviction inspire us now ... and will into the future. We will continue to protect and serve the community as Bryson did. Of that he can be sure.

It is my honour today to posthumously confer two awards on Detective Inspector Bryson Anderson.

The National Police Service Medal: recognising Bryson's ethical and diligent service in protecting the community.

And the Commissioner's Valour Award for the conspicuous action and exceptional courage he displayed at the incident in Oakville where he lost his life. After being attacked with a knife and sustaining wounds that would prove fatal, Detective Inspector Anderson went to the aid of a fellow injured officer without hesitation.

In part the valour citation reads:

Conferred for conspicuous merit and exceptional bravery whilst under attack during the execution of his duties at Oakville on Thursday, 6 December 2012.

By his conspicuous actions and exceptional courage in a dangerous situation, Detective Inspector Anderson evinced the highest standards of the New South Wales Police Force and is so conferred with the Commissioner's Valour Award.

I am deeply honoured, and indeed privileged, to be able to represent every member of the New South Wales Police Force here today to farewell a man who served his community with courage, honour, and distinction.

A loving husband and father.

A prized friend and colleague.

A police officer.

Our prayers are with you Bryson. May you rest in peace.

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/valedictory-for-detective-inspector-bryson-anderson-20121212-2b9e2.html>

Homily for the Funeral Mass for Detective Inspector Bryson Anderson, St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta, Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP, Bishop of Parramatta

Wednesday, 12 December 2012 02:57:38 PM

Any death is a loss. The death of a loved one before time is worse. A senseless, violent, innocent death is even more appalling. But a death in the line of duty hits us especially hard. Why is that?

Our word police comes from the Greek word polis, meaning the city-state, its citizens and civilisation. Police are appointed to keep order in the polis and protect persons and property. The word politician comes from the same root, for they too work for the people, with our bureaucracies and courts. Yet none of these is in the front-line the way police are.

We all shelter behind our police officers' sense of law and order, their character and courage, their instincts, reactions, negotiating and other skills. Detective Inspector Bryson Anderson devoted his life to providing such shelter for his family, friends and community. He lived for this and this was a gift to us all; he died for this and this affronts us all.

His fellow officers also mourn his passing, as Commissioner Scipione testified. I first got to know the Commissioner and his people in the lead-up to World Youth Day in Sydney in 2008. It was a time when hundreds of thousands of youth threw them kisses and told them God loved them and they loved them. If only it was always so! One such beloved of God and people was described in our first Scripture reading today (Wisdom 4:7-15). Being virtuous, untarnished and God-pleasing, the man in that passage was ready for God sooner than most.

Bryson's fellow officers tell me he was such a man, and that his integrity inspired them. That his death has left them in shock is a sign of that bond within the police family said to be as thick as blood.

Of course, policing was literally in Bryson's blood, as his father and brother both served in the force, Rex for many years here in Parramatta. When I saw Donna and the family after the terrible news, there were policemen present as if they were his own brothers. Such a death must make all officers aware of their own mortality, must bring to the surface daily anxiety for the safety of the public, their comrades and themselves, and so too for beloved spouses who might be widowed or children orphaned. But it also brings out into the open their fraternity and courage.

Thousands are here today to pray for Bryson and the Anderson family, to share in their natural sorrow and supernatural hope. But proud as they must be and however comforted by our presence, they still have the very personal grief of ones who've lost husband, father, son and brother.

Perhaps they are asking themselves: How could an argument over a bird cage end so horribly? Why do bad things happen to good people? Why does God permit such things? Well, God could have made us robots, obedient to His every command. Instead He took the great 'gamble' of making us free, able to choose good or evil. He does everything to persuade, encourage, inspire us to

live lives of service and self-sacrifice.

Some of us do. Most of us try. Some don't. When bushfires, floods or other natural evils hurt innocent people, we know that these are part and parcel of a world that is beautiful and bountiful but has its own law and order.

The real mystery for us is man-made evil: why human beings do terrible things to each other, why they misuse the godlike gifts of freedom and intelligence. Like those in our first reading, we "look on uncomprehending". Few of us will face death by an assailant's knife or have that happen in our family. But when our own crosses come, we too must try to make some sense of it. In Jesus Christ, we believe, God fully embraced our human condition, including His own violent death as an innocent man before his time.

Why was it necessary for Christ to suffer? Because that was where humanity was. To redeem us, He had to go where we are. So God became a real human being, with friends and enemies, hopes and fears, who wept for His dead friend Lazarus, and later cried out tired, frightened, abandoned.

God in Jesus Christ is the great realist: no evasion, no false front, no easy escape; no pretending away the sin of the world or the suffering of ordinary lives. But He did what any man, any God-made-man, could do.

The problem of evil drives some to atheism, some to despair. But it draws some to the Crucified One, to unite their sufferings with His, as He united His whole being with them at Christmas and beyond.

This doesn't 'magic away' all that is unpleasant; we may still ache that someone we love has been stolen from us. Our hearts may be troubled as Jesus' was (John 12:27, 13:31). But in time faith can bring new perspective, the courage to face the human condition, the grace to grow through this stage of our life, and compassion for others who suffer also.

Any faith or philosophy worthy of us must face evil straight on. Every police officer knows this. Euphemisms and positive thinking will not do; neither will glorifying evil or emptying it of its mystery. From the side of the Crucified God flows the blood and water of human life and death. But from there, too, flows hope for every hurting heart, every fragile person, even for the dead.

2012 is the sesquicentenary of the New South Wales Police Force and was supposed to be a year of celebration for them. Yet it began with the killing of Senior Constable Dave Rixon and ends with the killing of Detective Inspector Bryson Anderson. He is the 14th to be killed on duty since 1980. Death is no respecter of office, rank or character. And so this week a family, a force, a whole state join Christ in His Passion. We are joined with Him in His mortal combat with evil: proposing the good and beautiful and true to all; preventing violence and injustice where we can; comforting the victims, those who suffer for justice's sake and those who mourn them.

In our Gospel passage, Christ called Himself the Way, the Truth and the Life for every troubled heart (John 14:1-6). His life offers us the way, as it did to Bryson, the way of justice, mercy and peace. Christ's death offers us the truth, as it did for Bryson, the truth about human fragility and promise, freedom and intelligence for good or evil. And His Resurrection offers us the life, as it does for Bryson, life eternal for every noble soul.

2012 should have been a year of celebration for police officers and still it should be: a celebration of what is most worthy in the force and in those who bring it credit. It should have been a time of pride and joy for the Anderson family: that will come later, as they treasure what Bryson gave to them and to us all.

But for now: "We seem to be giving Bryson back to you, O God,

who gave him to us.

Yet, as you did not lose him in giving him to us, so we do not lose him by his return. For you do not give as the world gives, O Lover of souls: what you give you never take away ... For life is eternal, and love immortal, and death is only an horizon, and the horizon is no more than the limit of our sight.

“Lift us up, strong Son of God, that we may see further. Cleanse our tearful eyes that we may see more clearly. Draw us closer to yourself, that we may know ourselves to be nearer to Bryson, now that he is with you. And while you prepare a place for us (John 14:1-6), prepare us also for that happy place, that where you and he are, we may be also, for evermore.” (Prayer of Fr Bede Jarrett OP)

Detective Inspector Bryson Charles Anderson (1967-2012) – Find a Grave Memorial





RIP Detective Inspector Bryson Anderson

He was a Hero dressed in blue,
 a badge, his shining glory
 A Holden police car, his noble steed
 He wrote in history a glorious story
 He fought brave and true until the end
 to defend fellow Aussies way of life
 These Brave men and women that fight so hard
 live their lives on the point of the knife.

He was not to know this patrol would be his last
 as he buttoned up his shirt
 He had no time to think of this as he struggled
 with the purp.

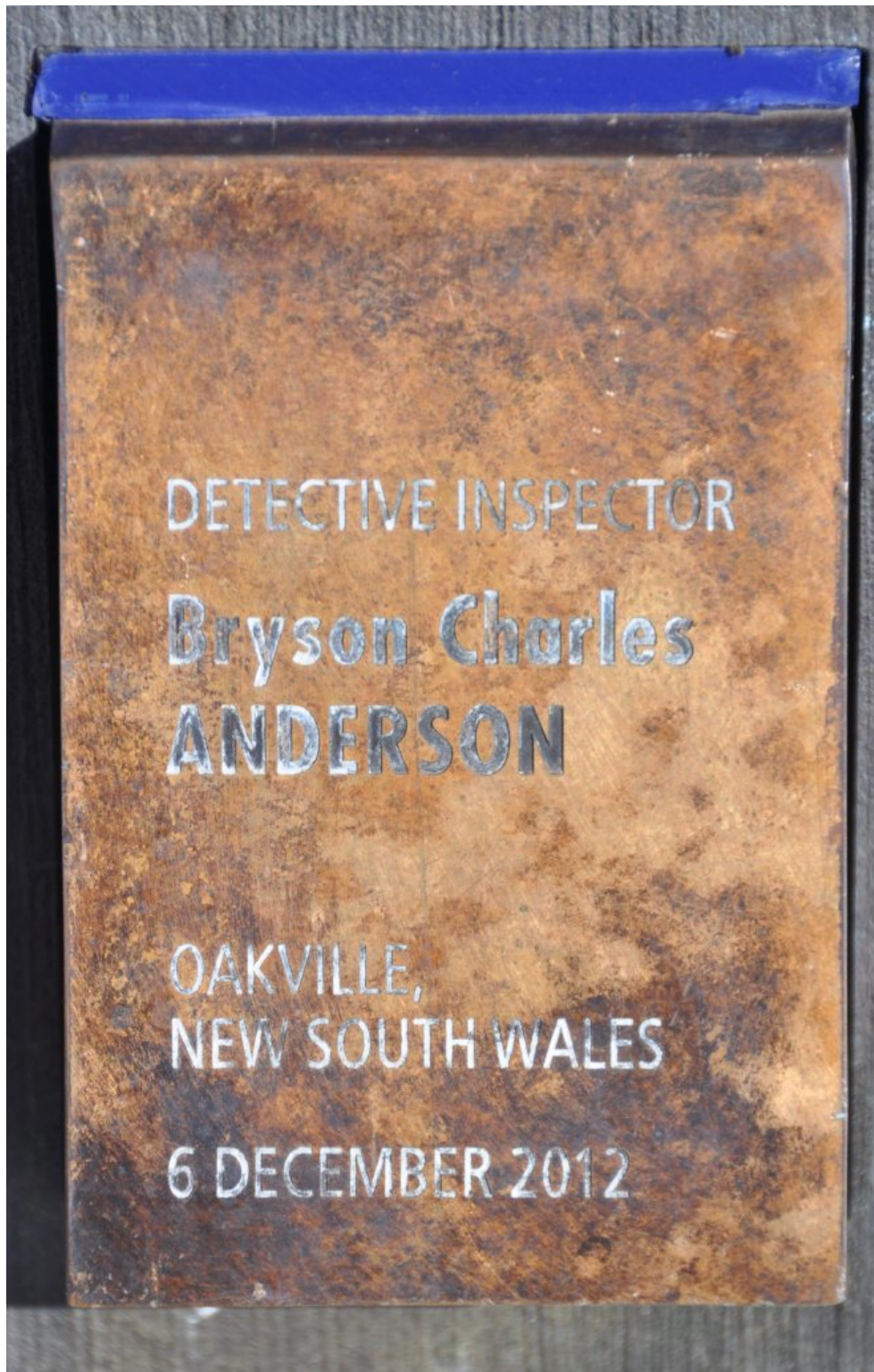
And as he took his final breath and
 the Angel took his hand
 The Angel whispered in his ear
 "Mate, you fought valiantly, for this
 great land".

"Your fighting now is done my friend,
 you can keep your badge on your hip"
 "They'll know what you did in heaven
 son as you make this final trip,
 So as the officer took the angels hand
 and marched forth to the gate
 he looked back at at his fellow Blue
 and Yelled "You blokes should be paid
 a higher rate!"

Alexandra Stewart







National Police Wall of Remembrance



Bryson ANDERSON IS mentioned on the National Police Wall of Remembrance, Canberra

Mitchell Barbieri and his mother Fiona plead guilty to their roles in killing of decorated officer Bryson Anderson

- *Amy Dale*
- *The Daily Telegraph*
- November 05, 2014 12:24PM



Police officers arrive for the trial for Fiona and Mitchell Barbieri charged with the murder of Inspector Bryson Anderson. They pleaded guilty to their roles in his death at the start of the trial this morning. Picture: John Grainger

THE mother and son charged with killing decorated police officer Detective Inspector Bryson Anderson have pleaded guilty on the morning their trial was due to start.



Detective inspector Bryson Anderson, 45, who was killed when he attended a neighbourhood dispute in Oakville on December 6, 2012.

Mitchell Barbieri pleaded guilty to murdering the 45 year old officer, while his mother, 47, pleaded not guilty to murder but guilty of the officer's manslaughter.

The pleas came as the jury were about to be empanelled and begin to hear the opening address.

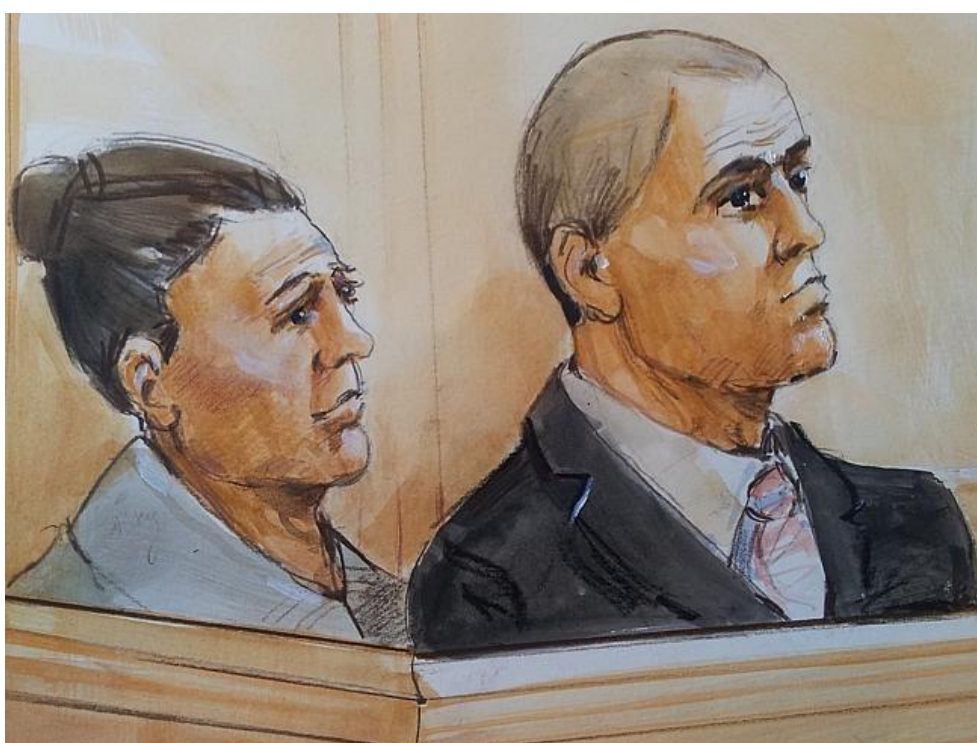
Bryson Anderson was killed on December 6, 2012, after being called to the pair's Oakville home, in Sydney's north west.

Fiona Barbieri's plea to manslaughter is being accepted on the grounds of "substantial impairment", the court heard.

It is expected a sentencing hearing will take place next year.

Mitchell Barbieri, 21, is facing a mandatory life sentence without parole for murdering a police officer.

The Supreme Court was packed with family, colleagues and friends of Det Insp Anderson, some of whom shed tears as the guilty pleas were announced.



Artist impression of Fiona Barbieri and her son Mitchell in the dock of Central Local Court last year. Artist impression by Bernd Heinrich

Flanked by police officers, Det Insp Anderson's brother Warwick Anderson thanked the investigating officers for their "support and strength" and the hard work of the DPP.

He said the family was very mindful of the officers who were with his brother on the day he died and who continued to suffer physical and psychological injuries.

“The thoughts, care and prayers of our family go out to them,” he told reporters outside court.

There was still a significant way to go for his family to come to terms with the “senseless and tragic loss of Bryson”, he said

Justice Robert Hulme adjourned the case until next Wednesday, when the Crown will begin calling evidence on sentence.

Defence counsel will give their submissions to court on November 24.



Family and friends of murdered Detective inspector Bryson Anderson and police



Grave of Bryson Anderson

Peter Justin FORSYTH

06/12/2012

Peter Justin FORSYTH

(late of Ultimo, NSW)

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 29967

Goulburn Police Academy Class 260

Rank: Commenced Training at Goulburn Police Academy on ? ?
1994

Probationary Constable – appointed Friday 19 May 1995 (aged
26 years, 0 months, 3 days)

Constable – appointed ? ? ?

Final Rank: Constable

Stations: Campsie, Leichhardt

Service: From ? ? 1994 to 28 February 1998 = 3+ years
Service

Awards: Regional Commander's citation in 1996, while still on
probation, for his role in arresting an armed offender

Born: Friday 16 May 1969 in Goondiwindi, Queensland

Died on: Saturday 28 February 1998 @ 12.14am

Age: 28 years, 9 months, 12 days

Cause: Murdered – Stabbed

Event location: Ultimo, NSW

Funeral date: Thursday 5 March 1998

Funeral location: St Mary's Cathedral, St Marys' Rd, Sydney
CBD

Buried at: Toowoomba, Qld on Monday 9 March 1998

GPS 27*34'29"S / 151*55'12"E

-27.570374° / 151.91914°

Interment # Roman Catholic Lawn #5, 8th Row, Position 17

Memorials: 1/ There is an Auditorium in Glebe, NSW, named in
honour of Peter.

2/ William Henry Street Ultimo NSW, Near junction of William
Henry and Harris Streets.

Round blue ceramic plaque approximately 40cm in diameter with
gold lettering and mounted on a wall.

Inscription:

*[blockquote]As you pass by, remember
William Henry Street will never be the same.*

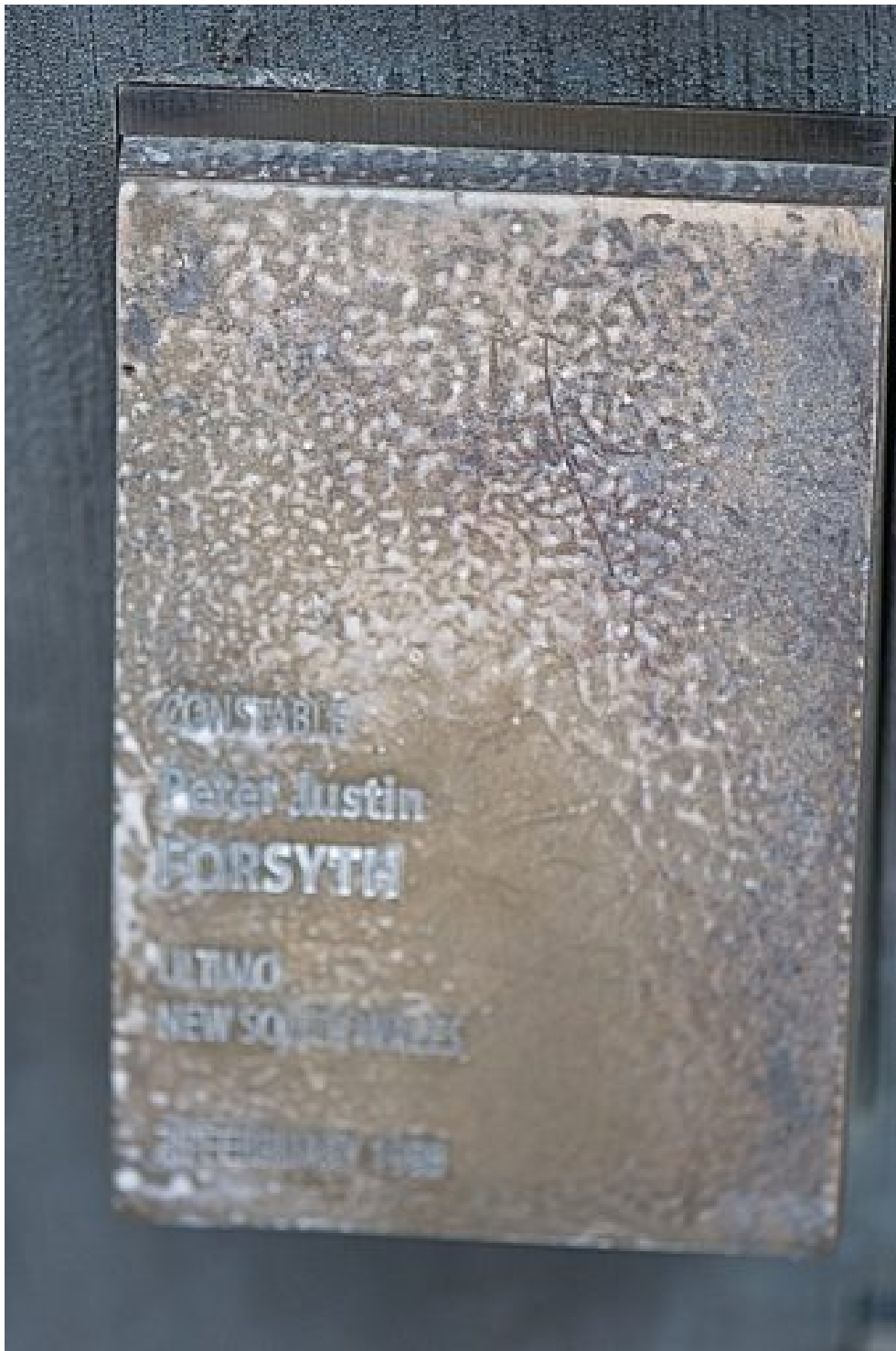
Constable Peter Forsyth

died whilst serving the community he lived in, doing the job he loved.

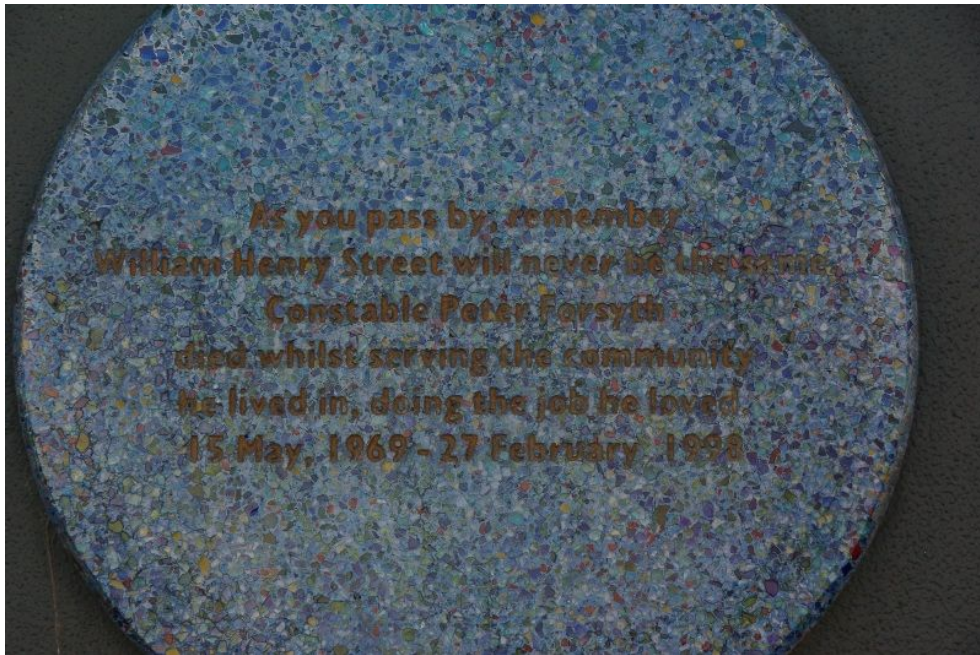
15 May, 1969 – 27 February, 1998[/blockquote]



PETER IS mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance



Peter Justin FORSYTH – Touch Plate – National Police Wall of Remembrance, Canberra.



Memorial: William Henry Street , Ultimo, 2007



Peter Justin FORSYTH
(late of Ultimo, NSW)





Grave Stone, Toowoomba, Qld

About **11.25pm** on **27 February, 1998** **Constable Forsyth** was walking to his home in **Ultimo** with **Constables Jason Semple** and **Neville** when they were approached by a young male selling **Ecstasy tablets** (an illegal drug), which was later found to be a simple Panadol tablet. After speaking with this person and a

second offender, **Constable Semple** informed them that they were police officers and attempted to make an arrest. One of the offenders, Murray Walter HEARN, then **produced a knife** and stabbed **Constable Forsyth** and **Constable Jason SEMPLE** before running off. They were pursued for a short distance by **Constable Neville** before he quickly returned to assist his injured colleagues. The injured police were soon conveyed to the **Royal Prince Alfred Hospital**, however **Constable Forsyth** unfortunately died of his wounds at **12.14am**. **Constable Jason Semple** underwent surgery and later recovered.

The constable was born in **1969** and joined the New South Wales Police Force in **1995**. At the time of his death he was stationed at **Leichhardt**.

Freed after killing a cop, Murray Hearne married his jail psychologist

February 15, 2017 2:22pm

Murder Uncovered: Officers down

HE KILLED a cop, left another one critically injured, and now is free and married to the prison psychologist he started an affair with in jail.

Murray Hearne, the man who **stabbed unarmed and off-duty police officer Peter Forsyth** is on parole, and free to rejoice in the birth of his son with prison mates on Facebook.

Details of Hearne's post-prison life are detailed tonight in Channel Seven's true crime show *Murder Uncovered*.

The show finds Hearne, released from jail in **March 2014** after 16 years behind bars, to **Wagga Wagga** where he lives with his wife, **Bobbie Bergmeier**, and their son.

The show reveals the pair met when she was an intern and he was an inmate, in **Junee prison**.

And while **Hearne** refuses to talk to *Murder Uncovered* about his life now, he has no such qualms on Facebook, where among those congratulating him on the birth of his son is another convicted killer: axe murderer **Keith Schreiber** – who spent more than a decade in jail for killing **Jack Van Krevel** at the request of his former lover.



New life: Hearne's wife Bobbie Bergmeier.
Picture: Channel 7. Source: Channel 7

“A new life added to this world,” Hearne posted on Facebook when baby **Micha** was born.

Peter’s daughter, **Brodie** – cheated of her own father thanks to **Hearne** – struggles with the news.

“I’d tell him (Hearne) every day when he looks at his child and thinks about all the love he has for his child, he can think about us (she and her brother **Mitchell**),” Brodie says.

“Think about my dad and think about how he (**Hearne**) has taken all that away ... the school assemblies, the sports award ... everything.

“He gets to have that and we don’t. It’s selfish.

“I want him to take care of that child and keep it in the back of his mind that he gets to go through that. We had to do that without our Dad.”

“IT HURTS IN MY CHEST”

For those that loved **Constable Peter Forsyth**, the pain is ever-present.

It lurks there, just beneath the surface, still raw, bubbling over when memory stirs it.

It’s the pain of a husband, father and mate snatched away while his killer walks free.

It’s almost two decades since **Peter** and his colleagues, **Jason Semple** and **Brian Neville**, went for few quiet Friday night beers, and Peter never came home.

The trio was unarmed, and off-duty when offered of a drug deal by a group of teenagers.

When they tried to arrest **Murray Hearne**, Peter wound up dead, **Jason** critically injured, and **Hearne** went on the run.

Jason rarely speaks of the night his mate tried to save him and wound up collapsed on top of him, stabbed, never to see his beloved wife **Jackie** and children **Mitchell** and **Brodie** again.

All speak at length of the night **Murray Hearne** turned **cop killer**, and of the painful nights ever since, on Channel Seven's *Murder Uncovered* tonight.

"You can't plan for this I miss him", says Peter's widow, **Jackie Reimer**, wiping tears as she relives that night.

Watching back old videos of Peter with their children gives her a "physical pain. It hurts in my chest. It's a real pain, it's not just a feeling."



'I was only pretending. I wasn't strong,' Jackie says of her battle to keep it together after her husband was murdered. Picture: Channel 7 Source: Channel 7

Peter's daughter, Brodie now 20, acutely feels the absence of a man she loves, but never knew.

"I feel like I know so much about Mum. I can tell when I walk in if she's had a good day or a bad day, she doesn't need to

tell me," Brodie says.

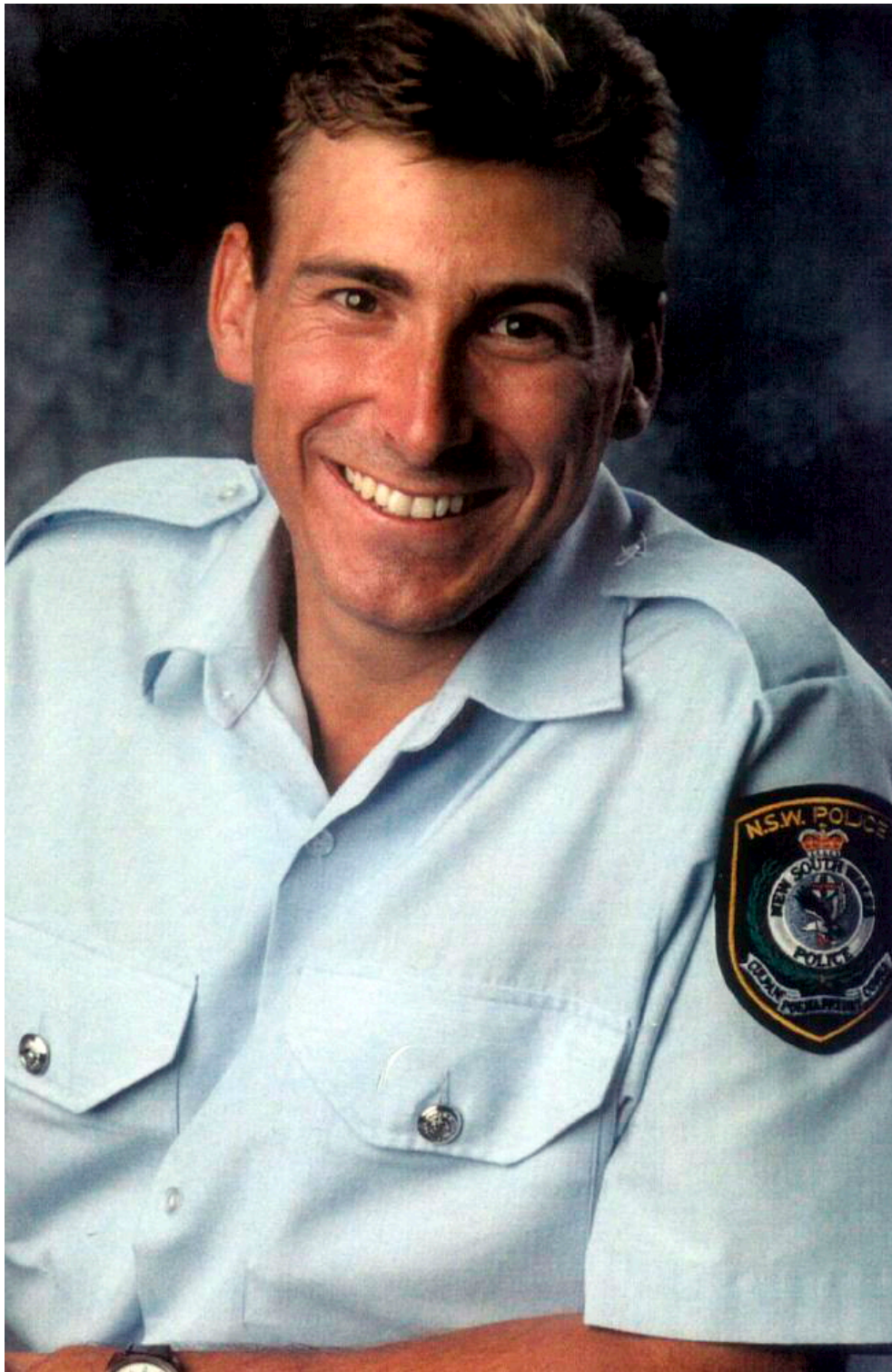
"And then I don't know one thing about Dad.

"I don't know how he carries himself. I don't know his sense of humour. I don't know ... just the little things you should know about your dad. I don't know those."

THAT NIGHT

Jason Semple is a mountain of a man – of a size that if he told you to get stuffed, you'd probably start making arrangements.

A man not easily given to tears. A man, who, when Hearne stabbed him, didn't feel the knife. "It felt like a soft punch," he says.



Constable Peter Forsyth. 'She'll be right mate', were his last words of comfort to his stabbed mate. Source: News Corp Australia

But on February 28, 1998, he was the new kid on the block – “the full rookie” invited by Peter with another officer, Brian Neville, for a few post-work ‘welcome drinks’ in Sydney’s

inner-city Ultimo, not far from where Peter lived.

"It wasn't meant to be a last catch-up," says Brian, fighting tears..

The trio had finished at the pub and were walking along Harris Street when a young male in a group of four yelled "do you want some E's?" (the drug, Ecstasy).

Suddenly, three off-duty cops were on duty.

Realising Murray Hearne was the one with the product, called him over to them asking to see the drugs. Then they grabbed him and walked him down the road, to search him.

When Hearne rose out of a crouch, the night took a fatal turn.

"I felt a couple of blows ... first to my chest and stomach ... but I thought I was getting punched," Jason remembers.

"It felt like weak punches ... like 'is that all you've got?'"

Hearne made a break and bolted. Jason felt like he was 'leaking', lifted his shorts, and realised he'd been stabbed.

As Brian went in pursuit of Hearne, Jason watched blood spray from his stomach.

Peter came to his aid, laid him in the gutter, started shouting for help.



It wasn't meant to be a last catch-up'. **Brian Neville** and **Jason Semple**. Source: Channel 7

'NOBODY KNEW HE'D BEEN STABBED'

"Peter was calm, he was single-minded on getting me help. ... Pete was so normal, nothing to indicate he'd been injured," says Jason.

"Nobody knew he'd been stabbed. Least of all him."

Until Peter collapsed onto Jason's chest.

"Pete's talking to me, then next thing he's basically laying on top of me ... it was like he'd just fainted on top of me ... I remember looking down watching the blood, thinking 'what's wrong with Peter?',," says Jason.

The tears come.

"And the last thing he ever says to anyone on earth is 'she'll be right mate'."

Peter was stabbed twice in the heart. Jason was taken to hospital and surgery.

Peter was pronounced dead not long after midnight.

And Hearne was on the run.

THE HUNT

Initially, police had no idea who the cop killer was that they were hunting for.

But Hearne couldn't resist bragging to friends. Within 24 hours they had a name, and two properties under surveillance. Now they needed evidence, or a confession. Preferably both.

By Monday, they'd spotted him, and had his phone intercepted, and had to endure listening to him watch a news report about the injured Jason.

As he watched, Hearne told someone he was on the phone to: "that's the big c*** ... that's him ... I dropped him on his arse".

When the story of the hunt appeared that night on the TV show *Australia's Most Wanted*, the crack came.

His own stepfather contacts police: "I'm nervous. because it's one of my kids that did it," he said. "His name is Murray Hearne".

Arresting officers tell *Murder Uncovered* Hearne cried when he was caught. And he wet himself.

Meanwhile, those that loved Peter, buried him.

Jason was told he was too sick to attend. He went anyway, ditching the wheelchair and walking into the service.

Jackie tried to keep it together for the children.

"My time for me was late in the middle of the night, when nobody else was around," she says.

"I had to hold it together and pretend that I was strong (for the kids), but I was only pretending. I wasn't strong," she

says.



Convicted murderer
Murray Hearne is led
from court in 1999.
Picture: Marc
McCormack Source: News
Corp Australia

FACE TO FACE WITH A KILLER

Jackie wanted answers, and hoped Hearne's trial would give them.

Until he changed his plea the morning it was to start, pleading guilty to the murder of Peter Forsyth, and to a lesser charge for stabbing Jason.

"I was shocked and disappointed all over again," she says. "I was 'you're not going to say anything ... you're not going to tell me anything. I've got nothing again now. Nothing."

Hearne was sentenced to 27 years jail. It was reduced on appeal.

Another blow to those grieving Peter.

From jail Hearne asked to see Jason. Jason told him "to stick it".

But eventually, Jackie looked her husband's killer in the eye.

"I thought 'this is going to be my only opportunity to get some answers'," she says.

"He was very nervous ... hyperventilating. Shaking. Sweating," she says.

"I looked at the person he was now, years later. He was not some thought kid any more."

He was looking for forgiveness, but he didn't get it.

"I think so, that's his problem. Not mine," she says.

Peter Forsyth's son, Mitchell is now 22.

Asked what he'd say to his father's killer if he got the chance, Mitchell's voice drips with contempt.

"What would I say to him? Nothing. I wouldn't give him a second of my life."

Murder Uncovered airs at 9pm tonight on Channel 7



Peter's son, Mitchell, pictured with sister Brodie, wouldn't give his father's killer 'a second of my life". Picture: Channel 7 Source: Channel 7



Murder Uncovered confronts

Hearne. Picture: Channel 7

Source: Channel 7

<http://www.news.com.au/entertainment/tv/current-affairs/it-hurts-in-my-chest-its-a-real-pain-its-not-just-a-feeling/news-story/5e0afde2921f8676cc907cbc7786ce9f>

Cop killer living in Wagga with former Junee jail psychologist and their son | Photos, timeline

Rowan Forster

15 Feb 2017, 8:30 p.m



HEARNE leaves court
in 1999



Murray **HEARNE** in Wagga



Hearne's Junee gaol psychologist wife, Bobbie Bermeier

A COP KILLER who served 16 years jail for the murder of a Sydney police officer is living in Wagga with his former Junee prison psychologist wife and their infant boy.

Convicted murderer **Murray Hearne**, now 37, was the focus of a Channel Seven investigation on Wednesday night exploring his brutal murder of **Constable Peter Forsyth**.

It has now been revealed Hearne works locally as a cabinet maker and is on parole.

The then-18-year-old fatally stabbed **Peter Forsyth** and seriously wounded fellow officer **Jason Semple** after approaching the off-duty policemen and offering them drugs.

Constable Forsyth, a father-of-two, and rookie Mr Semple were unarmed when they left drinks at an Ultimo hotel in inner-Sydney.

They detained him and tried to check Hearne's ID, when the 18-year-old pulled out a knife.

He fatally stabbed Constable Forsyth twice in the heart, and his colleague Jason Semple twice in the stomach.

While the murderer is enjoying his new life as a dad, the widow of the slain policeman has told of her anger towards her late husband's killer.

"You don't think this is going to happen in your life. You can't plan for this," Constable Forsyth's widow, Jackie Reimer said.

"It hurts in my chest. It's a real pain. It's not just a feeling."

She shared details of the harrowing moment she came face to face with Hearne.

"He was hyperventilating and shaking and sweating," she said.

"He was really very nervous.

"I looked at him as the person that he was now all these years later. He was not some tough kid anymore.

"He told me where he threw the knife, in a garbage bin."

In June 1999, Hearne was sentenced to 27 years' jail for killing Constable Forsyth and seriously wounding Jason Semple.

However, he was released from prison **eleven years** early.

In his time at Junee Correctional Centre, Hearne met a young psychologist, **Bobbie Bergmeier**.

Four years before he was released, the convicted killer and the psychology intern began a relationship.

In 2014, the year of Hearne's release, Bergmeier was disbarred as a psychologist.

In a rare interview with Channel Seven's Murder Uncovered crew, officer Jason Semple has told of what the policemen went through that night, before Constable Forsyth's murder.

"I rarely speak openly about things, but it's important to share my story," he said.

"I don't want people to forget my mate and colleague, Peter Forsyth, and what we went through that night and what he did for me.

"It's also for the **thin blue line** that we're a part of.

“So much has happened since then, but I’ll never forget his sacrifice.”

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/4471272/cop-killer-living-in-wagga-with-jail-psychologist-wife/?cs=2452>

Detective Inspector Wayne G. Hayes was OIC of the investigation.

Mead Drive.

On the 2/3/98 the step father of **Hearne** phones Triple zero and names **Murray Walter Edward Hearne** as the offender.

On the 3/3/98 **HEARNE** was interviewed by **Detective Inspector Wayne Hayes** whereby **Hearne** refused to answer any questions and was then charged with the **Murder of Peter Forsyth** and **Attempt Murder of Jason SEMPLE**.

22 April 1999 **Murray Walter Edward HEARNE** appears in Court for a Plea of Not Guilty but ultimately pleaded Guilty, on that date, to the **Murder of Peter Forsyth** but the lesser charge of **Malicious Wounding Jason Semple**.

On 4 June 1999 **HEARNE** was Sentence to 27 years gaol which was later reduced on Appeal.

Hearne asked to meet **SEMPLE** whilst serving his sentence at Junee Gaol. **SEMPLE** declined. Hearne also wanted to meet **Jacqui Forsyth**. She met him in Gaol a few years before his release. She sat face to face with **HEARNE** who was shaking, sweating and very nervous.

He told her that he threw the knife into a garbage bin.

HEARNE met his Prison Psychologist, **Bobbie Maree Burgmeier**, 4 years before his release from gaol. She is now his wife. He married the young female Psychologist who was helping him in the Gaol. She was eventually 'struck off' for having a sexual relationship with the murderer and falsifying records.

Hearne only served 16 years of his 27 year Gaol sentence before he was released on Parole in March 2014.

Now (2017) lives in Wagga Wagga with his wife and baby and he is employed as a cabinet maker.

Murray Hearne is on FB and is a Friend of **Keith Schreiber** – axe murdered.

Hearne has a full tattoo sleeve down left arm and tats on his right leg. Is of a solid build.

Jason Semple eventually left NSWPF after a good career and is now retired with PTSD.

• July 16 2014

Prison psychologist struck off for sexual relationship

with murderer

• Louise Hall

A young female psychologist has been struck off for having a sexual relationship with a convicted murderer she was treating in jail and falsifying official records to cover it up.

Bobbie Maree Bergmeier met the inmate – known for legal reasons as Client A – when she began working as an intern psychologist at the Junee Correctional Centre in April 2010.

Client A was serving a 21-year-sentence for murder and malicious wounding and had been in jail since he was 18.

Ms Bergmeier and Client A met monthly as part of her work with prisoners managed by the serious offenders review council (SORC). Around April 2011 Ms Bergmeier and Client A began having intimate telephone conversations which became sexualised.

The Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) alleged Ms Bergmeier told Client A she “loved him and couldn’t wait to be with him”, “she missed him and never had a best friend like him”, “that he was sexy and she wanted him forever”, “she was having a house built for both of them” and “she wanted to start a family with him”.

On Wednesday, the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal found Ms Bergmeier used “forethought, planning and subterfuge” to conceal the relationship from her colleagues and supervisors and “flaunted the security system for the purpose of her own personal gratification”.

She used a colleague’s password to enter false information into Client A’s case notes and altered the SORC allocation list to falsely show another psychologist as Client A’s

treating practitioner.

She also used the false name **Briony Watts** to take around 300 Skype calls from him during the time she worked at the prison.

She resigned from the job in August 2011 but continued to stay in contact with him, visiting him at Mannus Correctional Centre, having close, personal relationships with his family and friends, and applying to be his sponsor for weekend and day leave.

She continues to be in a relationship with Client A, who was paroled in March this year and lives with Ms Bergmeier's mother. She is working as a behaviour support practitioner at the Mercy Centre and is studying to be a primary school teacher.

The tribunal reprimanded Ms Bergmeier in the strongest possible terms, cancelled her registration as a psychologist and banned her from providing health services in both the public and private sectors.

Although Client A was serving time for murder, he had been in jail all of his adult life and was "needy and dependent and psychologically vulnerable", the tribunal heard.

In addition to being a "serious violation of professional boundaries", Ms Bergmeier had been "unmindful or insensitive to the consequences of her actions for Client A", who had had no opportunity to develop relationships outside prison.

Ms Bergmeier said she accepts responsibility for her actions and acknowledges her wrongdoing.

However, the HCCC told the tribunal her decision to maintain her relationship with Client A despite the ramifications for her professional career "indicates an ongoing decision to prioritise her personal relationship over her professional obligations".

Ms Bergmeier graduated from the University of Western Sydney with a bachelor of psychology in 2008. She became a registered psychologist in April 2011, around the time she says the relationship with Client A became personal.

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/prison-psychologist-struck-off-for-sexual-relationship-with-murderer-20140716-ztnj4.html>

Constable Peter Forsyth memorial



Photographs supplied by Peter F Williams

Plaque commemorates Constable Peter Forsyth who was killed in the line of duty.

Constable Forsyth was stabbed in Ultimo by a man he was trying to arrest for drug dealing. **Murray Walter Hearne** was jailed for **27 years** for the **murder of Constable Forsyth** and the **stabbing** of Constable **Jason Semple**. But the sentence, imposed by **Supreme Court Justice James Wood**, was **reduced** by a third in **2001** on **appeal**.

Address:	William Henry Street , Ultimo, 2007
State:	NSW
Area:	AUS
GPS Coordinates:	Lat: -33.877996 Long: 151.19816 Note: GPS Coordinates are approximate.

<http://monumentaaustralia.org.au/display/23575-constable-peter->

forsyth-

PCYC Glebe / Leichhardt FB page

NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY 29th SEPTEMBER 2013

DEDICATION to GLEBE POLICE OFFICER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

Constable Peter FORSYTH was an officer that was stationed at GLEBE POLICE STATION. He was well known in the area for his passion for working with youth in the housing estate area of Glebe.

The **auditorium** at **Broadway** is dedicated to his efforts in working in and living around the Glebe area. The auditorium is referred to as the **PFA** (**Peter FORSYTH Auditorium**).

Constable Peter FORSYTH was stabbed in the chest while arresting a drug dealer in inner-city Ultimo on **February 28, 1998**.

29 August 2013

Support Aussie Cops FB Group

Post by Cameron P

NSW Police Constable **Peter Forsyth**, tragically murdered when confronting a drug dealer whilst off duty in 1998. Pete was a **Qld boy** whom I had the pleasure of knowing and working Security with at **Broadbeach Qld** before he joined the Police. He was an absolute champion bloke, great husband, father and mate to all of us lucky enough to know him, he always bought a smile to our faces and knew how to lighten up any situation. The depth of his courage and sense of doing the right thing by

people knew no bounds. Gone but never forgotten, R.I.P Pete.

Post by Nifty N

I will never forget **Pete Forsyth's** contagious laugh! The cheeky work antics and his dedication as a father of two beautiful children which he adored and his dedication to duty and his community!! The night he died will haunt me forever with memories I can't erase, but the times we worked together and socialised will forever be memories I cherish! I am glad that those great memories of some 13 and more years ago still seem like they were yesterday!! I think of you often mate!!!

Support Aussie Cops * There is an Auditorium named in honour of the Constable in Glebe

February 28, 2013 at 12:21am · Like · 6

Leslie Bender The law should be changed to allowed police to be armed at all times on and off duty he might be still here RIP PETER

February 28, 2013 at 12:27am · Like · 2

Dianne Llewellyn such a shame ... Such a beautiful smile R I P constable Forsyth ,we will never forgat you ..

February 28, 2013 at 12:45am · Like · 4

Merri Browner HOW do I say it TO MANY Of THESE BEAUTIFUL BEAUTIFUL young BOYS are DYING FORRRR WHAT!!!!!!!!!!!!

February 28, 2013 at 12:57am · Like · 1

Jenelle Reghenzani that is so sad =(=(rip what a beautiful young man to have his life taken away so tragically

February 28, 2013 at 2:48am · Like · 1

Megan Wilson What a tragic set of circumstances. Cst Forsyth looks a warm, caring soul and a guy it would have been a pleasure to know. My thoughts go not only to his family but also to the other cops there that night for what they experienced.

February 28, 2013 at 5:17am · Like · 2

Craigaroo Elliott Sitting on the side of an interstate highway running laser with a tear in my eye. Pete the Queenslander was one of the funniest, easy-going blokes I ever met. Shared a floor with him at the academy, had a beer or two with him off-duty.

I'm proud to call my mate and will always honor his memory.

February 28, 2013 at 6:27am · Like · 6

Sue McDonald Rip. very sad day.

February 28, 2013 at 6:51am · Like · 1

Maryann P Parsons RIP xx

February 28, 2013 at 7:13am · Like · 1

Susan Ford Pte, miss you mate.

February 28, 2013 at 7:57am · Like · 1

Eric Cook rest in peace peter justin forsyth

February 28, 2013 at 8:58am · Like · 1

Joyce Allen RIP Constable Peter Forsyth, now its time to walk the beat in heaven x Deepest condolences to all his family and friends xx

February 28, 2013 at 10:15am · Like · 1

Lisa Haigh R.I.P. Peter.

February 28, 2013 at 10:56am · Like · 1

Stefan Christian RIP

February 28, 2013 at 5:40pm · Like · 1

Liz Moore RIP Peter, I think about your courage and bravery in protecting the community. We will miss you.

February 28, 2013 at 11:37pm · Like · 1

Brodie Forsyth putting your life on the line to protect the community... im so proud of you dad, ill never forget you or your beautiful smile, we all miss you x

March 3, 2013 at 11:24pm · Like · 2

John Gibson So glad to have known you, Pete.. We had heaps of laughs together but you left us too soon..

February 3, 2014 at 8:53am · Like

Sheryl Lee Mole ALWAYS a LITTLE BIT MORE THAN JUST PETE. Just a little bit more interest in other folks welfare, Just a little greater showing that he really did care. Just a little more kindness to those he meet each day And a little greater effort to aid them on their way. Just a little more determined

to do the best he could. To help some other fellow and prove a friend who would. Just a little bit more sunshine along life wary road. And a little bit more ready to ease another's load. Just to work a little harder for other people's good. And to show a bit more friendship MY FRIEND PETE could. !!!!! I miss you each and every day .

March 14, 2014 at 12:13pm · Like · 1

Sheryl Lee Mole Our photo is the first photo I see each morning as I walk into my lounge room and the last I see at night when I turn out my lights.x

March 14, 2014 at 12:16pm · Like · 2

Rosalee Lang Amen to that! x

March 30, 2015 at 11:55pm · Like

Kylie McNulty Beautiful Person . Thinking of you every at this every year.

September 29, 2015 at 4:45pm · Like

Constable Peter Forsyth

28 Feb 1998

Const Peter Forsyth was stabbed whilst affecting an arrest (posthumously awarded the Commissioner's Valour Award).

This photo recalls that tragic event.



The monument reads,

"As you pass by, remember William Henry Street will never be the same. Constable Peter Forsyth died whilst serving the community he lived in, doing the job he loved. 15 May, 1969 – 27 February, 1998"

"Constable Forsyth was stabbed in Ultimo by a man he was trying to arrest for drug dealing. Murray Walter Hearne was jailed for 27 years for the murder of Constable Forsyth and the stabbing of Constable Jason Semple. But the sentence, imposed by Supreme Court Justice James Wood, was reduced by a third in 2001 on appeal."

monumentaustalia.org.au/monument_display.php?id=23575&am...

'He will be missed by all. My mate, our mate, is gone.'

Date **Fri Mar 06 1998**

Publication **Sydney Morning Herald**

By KENDALL HILL and TIM JAMIESON

As Constable **Peter Forsyth's** cortege paused for a final goodbye to colleagues outside **Glebe Police Station in Talfourd Street**, young **Mitchell Forsyth** clutched his dead father's **bravery award**.

Minutes before, Mitchell had been waving to mourners lining **Glebe Point** and **St John's roads** while they **tossed proteas, daisies and gladioli** onto the roof of the hearse. The crowd, struggling for some way to mark its appreciation of the 28-year-old officer, **broke into applause**.

Then the **three-year-old** was handed the memento of his dad by a funeral assistant who reached into the car and tousled his hair.

His mother, **Jackie**, clutched him under one arm, and 15-month-old **Brodie Rose** under the other, as they caught a moment alone to remember the husband and father killed a week ago in a senseless stabbing at **Ultimo**, and the extraordinary public mourning his death roused.

There were many in tears, or fighting them back, among the **NSW and Queensland police honour guard** flanking the Forsyths. Locals wept openly beside them. Relatives in cars behind clutched their mouths with grief.

Constable Peter Justin Forsyth was farewelled by family, colleagues, friends and dignitaries yesterday in a funeral service with full police honours at **St Mary's Cathedral**. It was attended by **2,600** inside and **500** outside.

In their ranks was **Probationary Constable Jason Semple, 25**, stabbed in the stomach during Friday's fatal assault, who arrived in a **wheelchair but walked** with help up the cathedral steps.

Constable Brian Neville, who escaped injury and chased the youths allegedly responsible for the attack outside the **Ultimo Community Centre**, acted as a **pallbearer** for his dead mate.

More than **1,500 police officers** attended from across the country and **New Zealand**. So, too, did the **paramedics** who attended to him.

His colleague, **Constable Shane Forsyth** (*no relation*), told mourners: *"Memories of Pete will live forever. I only wish that I had known him for a longer time. A lot was fitted into a life that was so short."*

And to the Forsyth children: **"Mitchell and Brodie**, you will always know your **Big Bear**. The memories of him will never die."

The **Police Commissioner**, Mr **Ryan**, delivered a valediction to the *"well-liked lad"*, born in **Goondiwindi, Queensland**, in 1969, and who joined the **Police Academy in Goulburn in 1994**.

"Peter was a brave man," Mr Ryan said. Constable Forsyth was awarded a regional commander's citation in 1996, while still on probation, for his role in arresting an armed offender.

"He was conscientious and proud to be a policeman. He had no hesitation, even while off duty, in tackling crime and criminals head on."

The **Premier, Mr Carr, Opposition Leader, Mr Collins, Police Minister, Mr Whelan, and the Lord Mayor, Councillor Sartor,** also attended.

Eulogies by **Constables Craig Elliot and Guy Flaherty,** colleagues and friends from the **Leichhardt** local area command, revealed **Constable Forsyth** as a cheerful, mischievous young man.

Constable Flaherty recalled the day his mate was returning from the races by train with his mother, **Joan,** when he politely asked a crowd of rugby players to keep their language down.

"Well, this bloke came over full as a boot, flipped the seat back and sat opposite Peter and his mum," Constable Flaherty said.

"He said 'Is this your mum?' Pete said, 'yeah'. He said, 'Ya know, your son has just stood up and told a heap of blokes to shut up just for you. You must be so proud of him to be that loyal'."

Constable Forsyth's widow, comforted by **the Dean of the cathedral, Father Anthony Doherty,** wept as **Constable Flaherty** finished his address.

"Peter used to say to me there are bad men and then there's us. He was a policeman who would serve the community for which he was part of, keen to help and do the right thing.

"He offered safety, security to his community, love and loyalty to his family as well as to his friends. He will be missed by all. My mate, our mate, is gone."

Local residents confirmed **Constable Flaherty's** words. Many had

met him through his policing duties or his work with the **police community** and **youth club**. Forty **Glebe High School students**, each grasping a white rose, also waited to say goodbye.

One of the mourners, **Ms Fran Campisi**, cried as she recalled how the young constable helped her during a prolonged domestic dispute.

"He used to ring me up to see if I was OK," she said. "The day before he died he rang me to see if I was still being harassed. It's just devastating; he was so lovely, so caring and so sincere."

At **Glebe police station** the counter was lined with **cards and flowers** and the public had left more than **\$500**. Donations to the **Peter Forsyth Memorial Fund** may be made at any **NSW or ACT Commonwealth Bank branch**.

Constable Forsyth will be **buried** in **Toowoomba, Queensland, on Monday**.

http://www.canberratimes.com.au/zoom/archive/rnews980306_0439_9953

Beyond Courage FB page

Dave Bee Remember this like it was yesterday. RIP Peter.

Like · Reply · 2 · February 28 at 12:02am

Noor Daudpota won;t forget u Pete x

Like · Reply · February 28 at 12:03am

Ben Campbell Champion bloke.

Like · Reply · 3 · February 28 at 12:05am

Sue Jackson RIP

Like · Reply · 1 · February 28 at 12:09am

Ted Collins Rest in peace mate.

Like · Reply · February 28 at 12:15am

Andrew Kenna Rip

Like · Reply · February 28 at 12:17am

Rob Potter He was protecting somebody or responding to somebody being robbed wasn't he. Top bloke thst will always be remembered

Like · Reply · February 28 at 12:21am

Phil Cookson R.I.P class mate Pete was a thorough gentleman

Like · Reply · 1 · February 28 at 12:21am

Rosie Jackson Rest in peace.

Like · Reply · February 28 at 12:22am

Cathy Cameron Clark I remember this so well... What a waste of a beautiful life xxx

Like · Reply · February 28 at 12:25am

David King RIP Brother.

Like · Reply · February 28 at 12:53am

Valda Ritson RIP

Like · Reply · February 28 at 1:34am

Iris May Vanden Berg It's so hard to believe so many years have gone by since this fine young Officer lost his life, in the line of duty.

A tragedy and heartbreak.. . RIP..You will never be forgotten.

Like · Reply · 3 · February 28 at 2:23am

Nicole East RIP ?

Like · Reply · February 28 at 3:11am

Patriciogoo Lay Rest in peace.

Like · Reply · February 28 at 3:13am

Ian Borland RIP Brother

Like · Reply · February 28 at 6:22am

Christopher David Rest easy Pete.

Like · Reply · February 28 at 7:02am
Julie Griffin RIP. Feels like yesterday.

Like · Reply · 1 · February 28 at 7:33am
Kylie Cronin R. I. P. Pete.

Like · Reply · February 28 at 7:43am
Jackie Durbridge ?

Like · Reply · February 28 at 7:46am
Naomi Baldwin RIP

Like · Reply · February 28 at 8:08am
Sharon Johnson Nichols Rest in peace Peter.

Like · Reply · February 28 at 8:17am
Peter Chamings RIP Brother

Like · Reply · February 28 at 8:31am
Johnny V's RIP...

Like · Reply · February 28 at 8:32am
Peter Gould RIP

Like · Reply · February 28 at 8:54am
Stephen Nicholls Never forget you Pete. Rest in peace my friend.

Like · Reply · February 28 at 8:57am
Craig Byrnes RIP

Like · Reply · February 28 at 9:07am
Julie Turton RIP Peter ?

Like · Reply · February 28 at 9:20am
Haley Addison Rip ?

Like · Reply · February 28 at 9:34am
Jennifer Hicks RIP never forgotten ????

Like · Reply · 1 · February 28 at 9:36am

Cam Gregory #Respect

Like · Reply · February 28 at 9:44am
Ken Medway

Like · Reply · 5 · February 28 at 9:48am
Ken Medway

Like · Reply · 4 · February 28 at 9:48am
LJ Sergi Marten So sad..... RIP ??????

Like · Reply · February 28 at 10:09am
Dimmy Nicholson RIP so bloody sad

Like · Reply · February 28 at 10:13am
Lani Liz RIP brother, you are not forgotten.?

Like · Reply · February 28 at 10:19am
Liana Stewart RIP, another hero gone to young ?

Like · Reply · 1 · February 28 at 11:04am
Michael Dunne RIP Brother.

Like · Reply · February 28 at 11:50am
Matthew Sconce RIP brother...

Like · Reply · February 28 at 1:41pm
Dusty Miller RIP

Like · Reply · February 28 at 2:04pm
Donna Lawrence RIP

Like · Reply · February 28 at 2:12pm
Kim Lucas RIP and thank you

Like · Reply · February 28 at 3:34pm
Paul Glock RIP.

Like · Reply · February 28 at 4:16pm
Ellen Kait RIP

Like · Reply · February 28 at 4:38pm
Glen Pearson Rest Easy Brother

Like · Reply · February 28 at 6:09pm
PG Bags RIP brother.

Like · Reply · February 28 at 6:22pm
Tom Leerie RIP

Like · Reply · February 28 at 8:39pm
Deadre Ham RIP

Like · Reply · February 28 at 8:57pm
Peter MacRae RIP Brother...

Like · Reply · February 28 at 9:51pm · Edited
Richie Belmore We had some good times Bro RIP. A man with a big heart.

Like · Reply · 2 · February 28 at 10:40pm
Arthur Stephens Was working that night. Shitting night, running around Ultimo wanting to tackle any moving shadow.

Like · Reply · 2 · February 29 at 7:22am
Susan Ford Peter was an awesome guy, the sort of friend that brightened your day every time you saw him, I was very lucky to have had him as a friend.

Like · Reply · 2 · February 29 at 8:33am
Lorraine Jackson Rip

Like · Reply · March 3 at 8:43pm

NSW; Teenager admits murdering policeman

AAP General News (Australia)

04-27-1999

NSW; Teenager admits murdering policeman

By Margaret Scheikowski

SYDNEY, April 27 AAP – A teenage labourer almost broke down today as he **pleaded guilty** to **murdering** policeman **Peter**

Forsyth, who was stabbed **last year** in inner Sydney. Close to tears, **Murray Walter Hearne** answered in a trembling voice "**guilty**" to charges of **murdering constable Forsyth** and to **maliciously wounding** his colleague **Probationary Constable Jason Semple**. The 19-year-old's trial was about to start in the New South Wales Supreme Court and a jury panel was in waiting. Const Forsyth, 28, Const Semple, 25, and another colleague were off-duty as they walked from a hotel at Ultimo at about 11.25pm on February 27, having gone there after work. An earlier court hearing was told Hearne was one of three passing youths who allegedly offered to sell drugs to the officers, who then tried to arrest them. But Const Forsyth, who was only metres from his Ultimo home, was fatally stabbed while Const Semple was stabbed in the chest and abdomen. Hearne, from Prospect in Sydney's outer west, was originally charged with the attempted murder of Const Semple, but today pleaded to the lesser charge of malicious wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. Justice James Wood put the matter over to Thursday to hear submissions on sentence. Outside the court, the constable's widow Jacquie Forsyth expressed mixed emotions at the guilty plea. While she was surprised and relieved, the mother of two young children said she was sad she would not have the opportunity to have a trial because she wanted answers. "Every morning I wake up and the first thing I think of is why, why did this happen, and I was really hoping for some answers." She said it did not matter what the sentence was. "It is not going to change; it's not going to make my situation or my family's situation any better," she said. "It is not going to bring Peter back." She said she was glad to hear the guilty plea from Hearne but she wondered why it had taken so long for him to admit the crime. "I think his emotion and his sadness were for himself," she said. "I am sure he was not thinking about my family or my husband." Ms Forsyth was accompanied by a large number of relatives, friends and colleagues of her husband. "I have got a lot of support but the person who I want most isn't there for me," she said.

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Posted 1st March 2012 by liteinternet

<http://liteworldsseven.blogspot.com.au/2012/03/nsw-teenager-admits-murdering-policeman.html>

NSW: Court told murdered cop had tried to help colleague

AAP General News (Australia)

04-29-1999

NSW: Court told murdered cop had tried to help colleague

SYDNEY, April 29 AAP – Police constable Peter Forsyth had been stabbed once in the heart when he came to the aid of a colleague who had been knifed, a judge was told today.

According to the statement of facts which was read out in the New South Wales Supreme Court, a youth and Murray Walter Hearne had offered the two men and another officer an ecstasy tablet for \$40.

But Const Forsyth had said something like “you are bloody idiots, you know who we are don’t you”.

The constable also was heard to say “you are drug dealers, I live in the street, I have got kids who live in the street”.

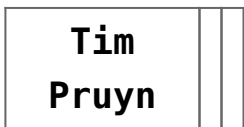
The statement said during the ensuing struggle Probationary Constable Jason Semple was stabbed twice and he realised Const Forsyth was also knifed when he came to his assistance.

Hearne, 19, has pleaded guilty to murdering Const Forsyth, 28, and to maliciously wounding Const Semple, 25, on February 27, on a street in inner-city Ultimo.

Justice James Wood is hearing submissions on sentence, which are continuing.

<http://doleblo15.blogspot.com.au/2012/03/nsw-court-told-murdered-cop-had-tried.html>

Widow forces Premier to get tough on killers



Widow forces Premier to get tough on killers
<http://news.com.au/newspulse/pulseframe/0,4711,1790821>

By SARAH BLAKE

11 March 2001

JUDGES will be forced to hand down tougher sentences to murderers, following a campaign led by the widow of murdered police officer Peter Forsyth.

Premier Bob Carr ordered new sentencing guidelines for the State's judges after a private meeting last Tuesday with Jackie Reimer and victims' rights lobbyist, Martha Jabour.

They approached the Premier after Constable Forsyth's killer had **nine years cut from his sentence** by the **Court of Criminal Appeal**.

"It has been put to us that there should be sentencing guidelines for murder," Mr Carr told The Sunday Telegraph yesterday. "This is an issue I will take up with the DPP, the Bar Association and the Law Society."

The Premier said he was prepared to look at amending "truth in sentencing" legislation if it was clear that sentences were

not meeting community expectations. This followed investigations by The Sunday Telegraph which showed average murder sentences had fallen by two years since the legislation was enacted.

Bureau of Crime Statistics figures show average minimum terms for NSW since then has been 12.9 years. Previously, murderers served an average 14.5 year term, according to the Department of Corrective Services.

Mrs Reimer – who changed her surname from Forsyth when she remarried last year – said the moves were a “great step in the right direction”.

“It’s obviously too late for Peter’s case, and that’s just another thing that we will have to tolerate, but I am happy for the heartache it will save other people,” she said.

Sentencing guidelines would be issued by Chief Justice Jim Spigelman, through the Court of Criminal Appeal, to ensure uniform sentences for different categories of murder.

This would stop disparities such as that in the Forsyth case, said Martha Jabour, executive director of the Health Department-funded Homicide Victims Support Group.

“Justice Wood gave the right sentence initially. He had taken into account all of the objective factors: that the offender was young, that he had limited education,” she said. “The Court of Criminal Appeal then overturned the sentence and reduced it by a third because of the same factors.

“If there was consistency in sentencing, then we wouldn’t have any of these problems.”

Judicial education would also put an end to insensitive handling of victims by the courts.

The Forsyth judgment was handed down on the third anniversary of Const Forsyth’s death, adding greatly to the anguish of his

family.

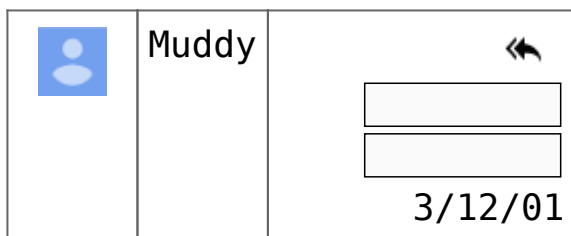
The three Court of Criminal Appeal judges defended the reduced sentence by stating that by the time murderer Murray Walter Hearne was released, he would be almost 35, and that he would not have a wife and child – which was punishment enough.

“The impact of that incarceration will not cease immediately on his discharge and he will thus have very substantially lessened opportunities of a career, wife and children. That is no minor punishment,” the judgment said.

Mrs Reimer said that victims of crime found such treatment “frustrating and bewildering”.

Sentencing guidelines have been in force for those guilty of fatal driving offences for the past 18 months.

The guidelines, which cover drivers who are drunk, on drugs, negligent and angry, have resulted in every prisoner found guilty receiving a jail term.



About bloody time that there was equality within the sentencing of Murderers. It appals me that someone who can take a life gets only a handful of years. I am sorry but in cases where an adult is concerned (bearing in mind the child's matter above), whether or not he can start a family and lead a normal life is irrelevant and as for his education level.....does a lower than normal education make a person unable to decide whether taking someone's life is right or wrong? Is a person so morally and intellectually bankrupt that they cannot even comprehend the basic tenets of the community they live in?

As for the court of appeal over turning Mr Woods ruling, once again, it brings into question, who IS watching and moderating the decisions of the powers that be within the legal system?

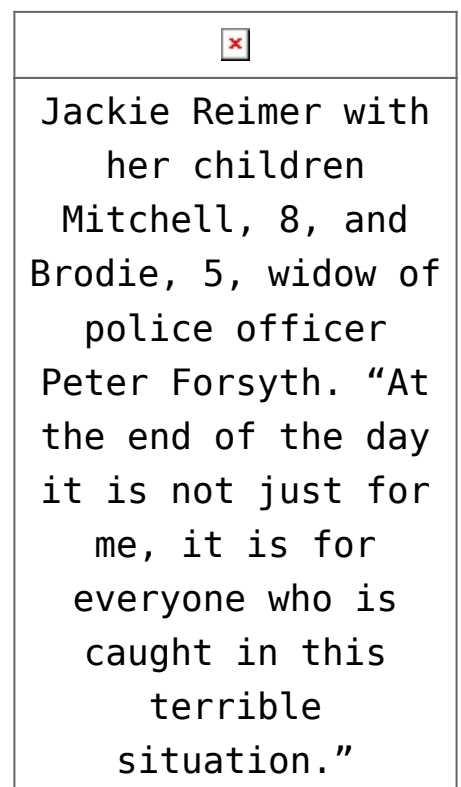
Stay Safe

Muddy

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!topic/aus.services.emergency/vKoZ7fVWM3I>

Widow's fury fuels fight for justice

By Malcolm Brown
September 5 2002



Jackie Reimer, widow of murdered policeman, **Peter Forsyth**, said last night it was high time police who performed the often thankless task of protecting the public knew they had the full support of the justice system.

“At the end of the day it is not just for me, it is for

everyone who is caught in this terrible situation," she said.

Ms Reimer, 31, had been widowed with two children on February 28, 1998, when Constable Forsyth was stabbed in Ultimo by a man he was trying to arrest for drug dealing.

Murray Walter Hearne was **jailed** for **27 years** for the **murder of Constable Forsyth** and the **stabbing of Constable Jason Semple**. But the sentence, imposed by **Supreme Court Justice James Wood**, was **reduced** by a third in **February** last year by the **Court of Criminal Appeal**.

The court substituted a **maximum** term of **18 years** with a **minimum** of **13** and said the original sentence had been "manifestly excessive". A furious Ms Reimer said at the time: "I am trying to work out what I am going to tell my children."

Then, **Ms Reimer** and **Ms Martha Jabour**, executive director of the **Homicide Victims' Support Group**, met with the **Premier** to explain to him what it was like for people affected by such brutality.

"This is what has come out of it," Ms Reimer said last night. "When the appeals come to hand, these people are not going to get massive reductions in their sentences."

Ms Reimer, now married to a **former classmate of Constable Forsyth**, **Senior Constable Jason Reimer**, said it would be comforting to families of victims to "sit in court and know there is a minimum sentence".

"Now it is not just going to be a case of sitting there very vulnerable and hoping the trial judge will be realistic," she said.

Ms Reimer, who now has four children, said she was getting over the trauma, preferring not to dwell on dangers of policing.

<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2002/09/04/1031115886034.html>

Updated on 22 May 2026 with recent grave photo.

James BEATTY

06/12/2012

James BEATTY

AKA ?

Late of ?

“possible” relation in ‘the job’: ?

NSW Belmore Barracks **Class #** ? ? ?

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # ‘P’ 1162

For the purposes of this website ‘P’ = represents those Police

joining Pre 1 March 1862 before the amalgamated of all other Policing Units in NSW. i.e. Mounted Police, Boarder Police, Native Police, Gold Escort Police, Water Police etc.

Rank: Commenced Training as a Probationary Constable – appointed 5 February 1858 (aged 22 years, 4 months, 15 days)

Constable – appointed 18 February 1858

Constable 1st Class – appointed ? ? ?

Detective – appointed ? ? ?

Senior Constable – appointed 1 June 1869

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

~~Sergeant 3rd Class~~ – appointed 1 April 1883

Sergeant 2nd Class – appointed ? ? ?

Sergeant 1st Class – appointed 1 April 1884

Final Rank: = Sergeant

Stations: Darlinghurst (3 Division), Hill End (Mounted Police Gold Escort), Lambing Flat, Parramatta (1st Class Constable), Orderly to the Inspector General of Police – Sydney, Parramatta (Senior Constable), Windsor (O.I.C.), Campbelltown O.I.C., Ryde O.I.C., Penrith O.I.C. (J District)(Easter 1888 – Death)

Service: From 5 February 1858 to 11 January 1890 = 31

years, 11 months, 6 days Service

Retirement / Leaving age: = 54 years, 3 months, 21 days

Time in Retirement from Police: Zero

Awards: No Find on Australian Honours system

Born: Monday 21 September 1 835 Enniskillen, Northern
Ireland

Died on: Saturday 11 January 1890

Age: 54 years, 3 months, 21 days

Organ Donor: N/A

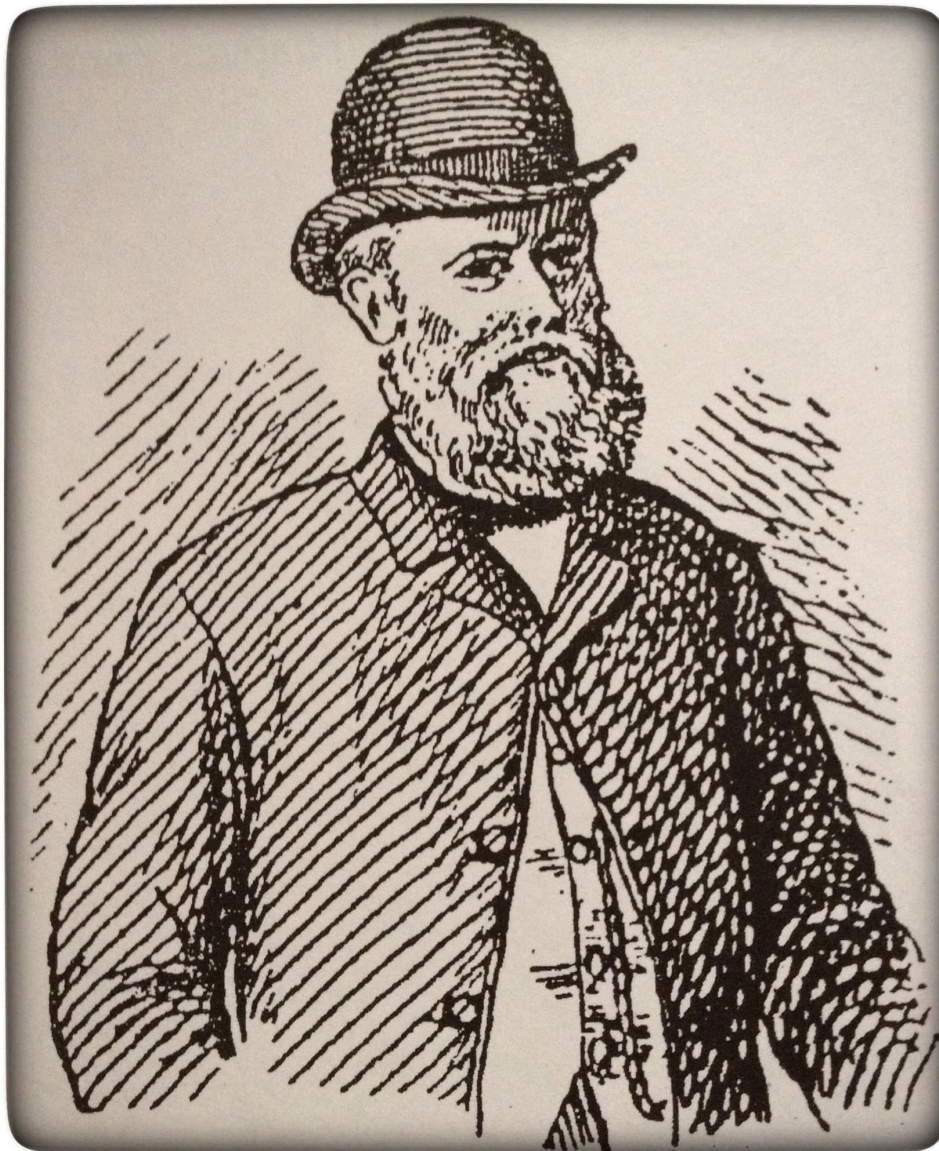
Cause: Murdered – Stabbed – On Duty

Event location: Outside of Penrith Police Station, NSW (site
of the current Station)

Event date: Saturday 11 January 1890

Funeral date: ? ? ? TBA

Funeral location: ? TBA



Courtesy of Beyond Courage.

Funeral Parlour: ?

Buried at: St Stephen's Anglican Cemetery, High St, Penrith,
NSW

Grave location: Plot K18

Grave GPS:



Memorial / Plaque / Monument located at: Penrith Police
Station, Penrith, NSW

Dedication date of Memorial / Plaque / Monument:



James BEATTY Memorial plaque attached to Penrith Police Station, NSW.

Photo taken by Bruce TURNER AM on Wednesday 191022.

JAMES IS mentioned on the National Police Wall of Remembrance
– Canberra

**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

On **11 January, 1890** outside the **Penrith Police Station**, the sergeant had occasion to speak to an Indian vagrant whom he had earlier asked to leave town.

The man suddenly leapt at **Sergeant Beatty**, stabbing him five times.

Local people and **Constable William Moseley** then pursued the offender and cornered him however the man threw a brick which struck the constable in the chest.

Constable Moseley then drew his service revolver and shot the offender, wounding him.

The constable and locals then threw themselves on the offender and he was arrested.

The offender died later that night.

Unfortunately, the wounds inflicted upon **Sergeant Beatty** also proved to be fatal.

The sergeant was born in 1835 and joined the police force on 5 February, 1858. In 1862 he became a member of the newly-formed New South Wales Police Force. At the time of his death he was stationed at Penrith.

Source: Beyond Courage:

James BEATTY's mother died five days before his own demise.

James had previously suffered a knife wound to the head during

the course of the Gold Field Riots at Lambing Flat, NSW.



Sgt Beatty's grave, photo courtesy of Windy Gale
– FB

The *Launceston Examiner* of 11 January, 1990 provided the following news of the tragedy.

*TERRIBLE TRAGEDY. A terrible tragedy was enacted this afternoon at **Penrith**. A coloured man, a stranger in the town, was observed by **Sergeant Beatty** to be throwing stones at*

passers-by.

*The officer warned him to desist, and was in the act of arresting him when he drew a knife and stabbed **Beatty** in the chest, the weapon going completely through his body.*

***Beatty** called out, and **Constable Mosley** came to his assistance, armed with a revolver.*

***Mosley** [**Moseley**] fired at the coloured man, who was in the act of running away, but missed. A second shot, however, took effect, and the fugitive reeled and was about to fall, when a young man named **Zolliner** [**John Zahnliter**] seized him.*

*Both men rolled over on the street, and the coloured man drew the knife again and stabbed **Zolliner**.*

He was ultimately seized and taken to the lock-up.

***Sergeant Beatty**, who is not expected to recover, has had his dying depositions taken. **Zolliner**'s wound is not serious.*

www.ccansw.org.au/index.php/newspublicblog/news/blogs/102-general-/1494-sergeant-james-beatty



As seen by Col Colman on **Friday 28 August 2020**

Col Colman

Also visited **St. Stephens. Anglican Church High Street Penrith** and the Cemetery at the rear to visit the grave site of Police Officer **James Beatty**. Site was cleaned in 2012 by Police and Penrith Council and is in reasonable condition did a little weeding.

In 1890, sad history was made

Penrith officer's murder serves as reminder more than 120 years later

There were emotional scenes this week when Penrith paid tribute to its first fallen police officer, who was stabbed in 1890 in the Penrith CBD.

CASSANDRA O'CONNOR

Until this week, the story behind Sergeant James Beatty was long buried in archived police gazettes and the every-day grass of St Stephen's Anglican Church Cemetery.

On Monday, Penrith's first fallen police officer was commemorated and his grave site returned to serve as a tragic yet heroic reminder of the difficult duties police officers face every day in their line of work.

"He was on duty on Friday, January 10, 1890. Little did he know that later that day he would suffer fatal stab wounds at the hands of a 24-year-old Cingalese immigrant named James," explained Penrith Local Area Commander, Ben Fenczuk.

During the previous week James had made threats against a local publican for refusing to serve him liquor and pulled a knife on a local farmer.

When Sergeant Beatty saw James whilst on foot patrol, he asked him to move on several times.

"The offender stood up and without warning produced a sheath knife which was thrust at the Sergeant striking him in the chest. This occurred about 1.30pm. The Sergeant attempted to disarm the offender and after a short struggle, the Sergeant disengaged given the infliction of a serious wound to the chest," Mr Fenczuk said.

Physicians threw rocks at James and one good Samaritan, a wood stater by the name of John Zahnleiter, was also stabbed in the neck. Constable William Moseley then arrived on scene and fired two shots, which fatally wounded James.

Sergeant Beatty was taken to his horse where he was treated but died from his wound on the evening of January 11, 1890.



Penrith police chief Ben Fenczuk with members of James Beatty's family at his restored grave site. Photo: Melinda Jane

Over 1,500 people came to pay their respects at Sergeant Beatty's funeral - one of the largest funerals in that era.

On Monday, Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione and Mr Fenczuk laid wreaths at the Sergeant Beatty's grave in front of 100 fellow officers and community members. Sergeant Beatty's grave was restored for the occasion by Penrith City

Council, who tidied the cemetery and provided new fencing and gravel.

"We have been honouring the bravery of officers both past and present... That risk and level of commitment to their duties is the same now as it was in 1890," Mr Scipione said.

"We thank Penrith City Council for funding the restoration of the site. Their

help has played big part in making sure that in this city his contribution will never be forgotten."

The family of Sergeant Beatty, including great, great grand niece, Joan Cramet, also attended. "Policing really is about the people and to have the grave restored for the celebrations of the Police Force's 150th anniversary is just lovely," she said.

SERGEANT JAMES BEATTY

Published on Friday, 14 September 2012 06:52 | Written by Mary Thorne | |

✘ On 10th January 1890 Sergeant James Beatty, a long serving officer in the NSW Police Force was fatally stabbed in High Street Penrith. Sergeant Beatty was buried with full police honours in St Stephen the Martyr churchyard cemetery, Fulton Lane, Penrith.

*"About 1.30pm on 10 January 1890, Sergeant James Beatty had occasion to interact with an itinerant Cingalese named **James** in High Street, Penrith outside the **Convent of the Sisters of St Joseph**. During that interaction the **Sergeant** was stabbed in the chest.*

*In the meantime, the offender was contained by townspeople pending the arrival of **Constable Moseley** who shot the offender. A*

*good Samaritan named **John Zahnliter** was also stabbed during the melee. **Sergeant Beatty** died of his wound on the evening of **11 January 1890**. He was survived by his widow Margaretta, four sons and two daughters."*



St Joseph's Convent, High Street Penrith (now Officeworks)

Penrith City Council Library Local Studies collection

On **3rd September, 2012**, as part of the 150th Anniversary of the NSW Police Force, a commemorative service was held at Sergeant Beatty's gravesite to honour his sacrifice, the event a joint venture between Council and Penrith Local Area Command.



Sergeant Beatty's monument was in a dilapidated and damaged state. Council arranged and funded the restoration of the monument to its former glory by master stonemasons, Monuments in Memoriam who are based at Rookwood Necropolis. All restoration work was in accordance with the National Trust of Australia (NSW) Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation, the Burra Charter and Penrith City Council's LEP.

Since 1982, Penrith City Council has been the trustee of this significant churchyard cemetery which dates from 1838 with full responsibility for its care and maintenance. The Public Domain Amenity and Safety two man cemeteries crew, maintain five cemeteries, Penrith, St Marys, Emu Plains, Castlereagh and St Stephens.

In preparation for the occasion an intensive clean up of the cemetery took place with staff from the City Presentation Group – Parks, Public Domain and Cemetery Operations spending a day in the cemetery. The heritage nature of the cemetery and fragility of the monuments meant that whipper snipers could not be used and all trimming around and inside monuments was by hand.



Fragile heritage cemeteries are protected by the grasses that grow around and inside the monuments. Plans of Management are currently being prepared for the cemeteries under Council's control and the consultant's recommendation for St Stephens is that we should avoid

overly detailed or manicured works. The Cemetery should look old, avoid pristine maintenance and maintain the wild character of the grasses within the grave enclosures.



The commemorative service to honour the memory of Sergeant James Beatty was attended by Andrew Scipione APM, Commissioner of Police, Nick Kaldas APM, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Field Operations), Ben Feszczuk APM, Local Area Commander, former Commissioner of Police, Tony Lauer APM, Hon David Bradbury MP, Stuart Ayres MP, Beatty family descendants, Councillor Greg Davies, Mayor of Penrith, Councillor Ross Fowler OAM, Alan Stoneham, General Manager, Barry Husking, Director, David Burns, Group Manager – City Presentation, managers Yvonne Perkins and Barbara McGee, council officers and police personnel.

Mary Thorne, Cemeteries Project Officer

Nepean Times (Penrith, NSW : 1882 – 1962),

Thursday 12 February 1948, page 6

Old Tragedy Recalled

DAUGHTER. OF SERGT. BEATTY PASSES.

Miss Alicia Beatty (68), who died on 2nd inst. and was buried in **St. Stephen's cemetery, Penrith** on 3rd, was the **daughter of Sergt James Beatty**, who was **fatally stabbed** by a **Cingalese** in **High Street, Penrith**, on **January 10, 1890**, an incident that is often referred to by the older generation of the district.

The story, briefly told, is that the Cingalese had been

prowling around the town for a few days and on the day of the tragedy was " moved on " by the Sergt, who followed him for some distance. The man then sat down on the pavement near the Convent and Sergt. Beatty, not liking his appearance, again ordered him to clear out.

The Cingalese started to his feet and, without any warning, drew a sheath knife and, rushing in, stabbed the Sergeant in the chest.

A man named John Zahnliter tried to disarm the assailant and was stabbed in the side.

The Cingalese was shot by Constable Moseley.

Sergt Beatty and the Cingalese died subsequently of their wounds, and Zahnliter recovered, though he suffered severe physical disability, for which he received a pension, till his death many years afterward.

Miss Beatty was buried alongside her late father and mother, in the old St. Stephen's cemetery. Mrs. Beatty died on August 12, 1916.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/117908662>
