

Leighton John McQUADE

18/08/2016

Leighton John McQUADE

(Late of Boro formerly of Blackbutt, NSW)

aka Leigh

New South Wales Police Force

Academy Class DPP 5

Regd. # 33903

Rank: Senior Constable – Medical Discharge HOD – PTSD

Stations: ?, Warilla (Lake Illawarra / Oak Flats) TAG Unit,

Service: From 12 May 2000 to 6 January 2011 (Medically retired 2013) = 13+ years Service

Awards: Local Area Command Commendation – Lake Illawarra – 2008

No find on It's An Honour

Born: 30 May 1973

Died on: Thursday 18 August 2016

Cause: PTSD – Suicide – overdose

Age: 43

Funeral date: Monday 29 August 2016 @ 10am

Funeral location: Hansen & Cole Funerals, 634 Northcliffe
Dve, Kembla Grange (cnr F6)

Buried at: Lakeside Memorial Park, 230 Kanahooka Rd,
Kanahooka

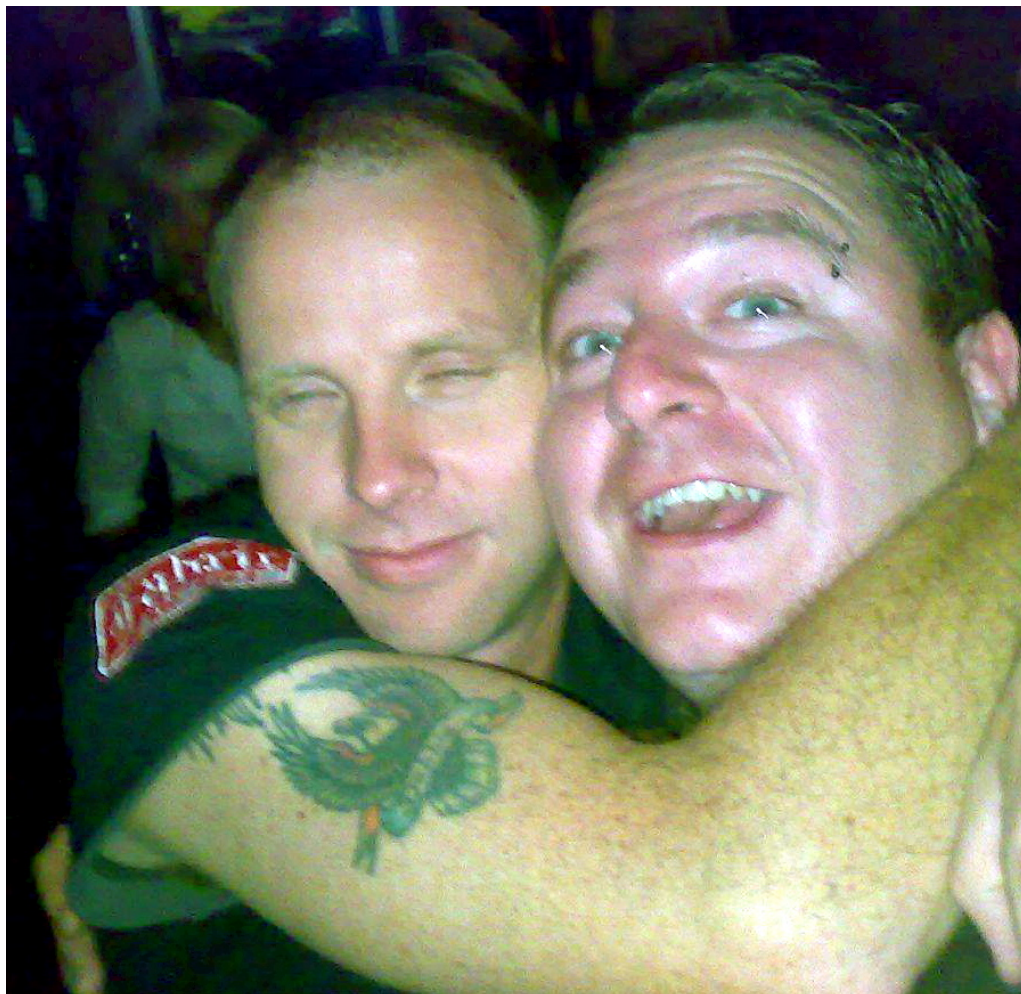
Memorial at: ?



From left to right Greg Dillow , Claire Larkin
, Frank Weir , Leigh McQuade and Rob McMahon ...

Push video to full screen to remove the side marks of the website.





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

Funeral location: [codepeople-post-map]

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

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

Leigh, prior to joining NSW Police, worked at Appin Mine and later became a Senior Constable at Lake Illawarra (Oak Flats) Police Station for many years.

On the morning of Thursday 18 August 2016, he was found deceased at his property at Boro near Braidwood, NSW, resulting from an overdose.

Leigh had recently 'sold up' in the Illawarra and moved to his property to make a fresh start in life – but, sadly, the demons continued to follow him after a previous suicide attempt some years earlier.

May you forever Rest In Peace mate. You were a good bloke.

McQUADE Leighton John (Leigh)

Passed away on 18th August, 2016.

Late of Boro formerly of Blackbutt.

Dearly beloved Dad of Taylah and Maddison.

Loving and thoughtful Son of Tom & Lyn.

Much loved Brother of Shane and Dan.

Loved Grandson of Jack & Ellie (both dec) and Arthur & Sarah (both dec).

Will be sadly missed by his many Aunties, Uncles, Cousins and Friends.

Aged 43 Years

Your Memory Is Our Greatest Treasure

To Have And To Hold In Our Hearts Forever

The relatives and friends of Leigh are invited to attend his Funeral Service to be held at the Northcliffe Chapel of Hansen & Cole, 634 Northcliffe Drive, Kembla Grange on Monday 29th August, 2016 commencing at 10am. At the conclusion of the Chapel Service the funeral will proceed to Lakeside Cemetery for burial.

In lieu of flowers donations are invited to **Beyond Blue**. A bowl will be provided at the Chapel door.

<http://tributes.illawarramercury.com.au/obituaries/illawarramercury-au/obituary.aspx?n=leighton-john-mcquade-leigh&pid=181173428>

Leighton John McQuade – Funeral pamphlet

Illawarra sisters speak out after cop dad's suicide

Cydonee Mardon

4 Nov 2016, 8:39 p.m.



Sisters Maddison and Taylah McQuade with a picture of their father Leigh McQuade who recently committed suicide. Picture: Georgia Matts

Leigh McQuade had no trouble staring down the hardest of criminals and never thought twice about throwing himself in the line of fire.

His police academy training supplied him with the tools necessary to bring down the toughest of crooks and soothe the hearts of the most broken victims.

But no one taught Senior Constable McQuade how to tackle the black dog that terrorised him. The wild beast that has brought down far too many NSW cops, got him too.

Maddison and Taylah McQuade are now left wondering why no one could help their dad – the brave Illawarra cop who took his own life, aged 43.

“When dad began to get sick, I was quite young so I wasn’t entirely aware of what was going on but as I grew up I learnt what the basics were ... his anxiety affected the daily things that he used to be able to do so carefreely,” Maddison said.

“It wasn’t until after his death that I actually researched what PTSD actually entails, and it just blew me away to believe how an individual can suffer so much.”

Maddison said police officers entering the force should be better supported for the mental struggles they could face.

“They should sit them down and say ‘hey you might have to learn to fire this gun but you also need to learn how to mentally deal with seeing deceased bodies, by being able to save people and all the horrific things that are on the cards’.

“It’s pretty evident that there’s not much of that.”

The McQuade girls are angry their family was “kept in the dark” with no support or education on how to help their dad during his six year-struggle before he was medically retired in 2013.



Taylah and Maddison don’t want their dad Leigh McQuade’s death to be in vain. Picture: Georgia Matts

“Everyone puts so much crap on cops ... but they put up with some inhumane sights, they are suffering,” Maddison said.

“There is minimal awareness, support and education about PTSD and these types of diseases.

“If any good can come of Dad’s death it would have to be to try and help those suffering before it’s too late because I could never wish this pain on anyone.

“It’s too horrific to lose someone you love to a disease that they didn’t deserve. There could be so much more support.”

As the McQuade family struggles to move on without Leigh, they

still feel the support is lacklustre.

“Even now we haven’t been provided much help, we were assisted with NSW Police Association counselling with only three appointments and as I’ve been going through my HSC they ‘couldn’t’ help me with paperwork to explain why I need privileges,” Maddison said.

“It was horrible, all the stuffing around and telling stories to people who claimed they were there to help but never did.”

Brave cop ill-equipped to battle his demons



Lake Illawarra Senior Constable
Leigh McQuade

The death of an Illawarra police officer has again highlighted

the dire need for better support for emergency service workers suffering mental health issues, Greens Justice Spokesperson David Shoebridge said.

The MP is taking their fight to Parliament on Monday.

Lake Illawarra Senior Constable Leigh McQuade took his own life in August after years of battling debilitating symptoms of PTSD. He went from a loving, happy dad with a close-knit group of friends, to an isolated, withdrawn man who drank excessively to "coat the pain".

His daughters Maddison and Taylah remember feeling helpless and on "high alert" for a trigger that could end in a bad episode for their dad.

"I understand in the job there's tragedies of deaths with accidents, murders, drug busts ... but criminals get assistance and the opportunity to rehabilitate," Maddison said.

"No assistance is given to these police officers that suffer PTSD and other mental illnesses and diseases. Their only escape from it is to end it, usually with suicide."

Mr Shoebridge said the story was all too familiar. "First responders, whether police, firefighters or paramedics, see things and deal with trauma that is almost unthinkable for most of us, and it happens to them on a daily basis".

"For police in particular the lack of organisational support while they are in the force is then magnified by the complete absence of support once a psychologically injured officer leaves the force," Mr Shoebridge said. "The fact is once an injured officer leaves it is their family, their spouse and children, who take on the burden and suffer the impacts of the injury. Theirs is an often unspoken need and it is well past time it was addressed."

Berrick Boland, a former police officer who runs a support

page for injured police officers and the families of those who have died, says the issue of suicide is hidden from public view.’’

In NSW you are better positioned if you are a dead greyhound than an injured or deceased policeman or emergency services government employee,’’ Mr Bolland, the administrator of the Forgotten 000s Facebook page says.

A NSW Police Association spokeswoman said a new Police Legacy program was available to officers and families called BACKUP for Life. The Government has committed \$500,000 annually over the next four years for the program to ‘‘design, implement and manage post service support strategies for former NSW police officers and immediate families’’.

The Association runs a CARE Program and promotes Beyondblue’s ‘‘Good Practice Framework for Mental Health and Wellbeing in First Responder Organisations’’.

Illawarra cops pay tribute to struggling friend

The NSW Police Force can hold themselves responsible for Leigh’s death, an unnamed colleague said.

‘‘He left there with a messed-up head and not any kind of support. He had so much anger and hurt in his heart, this wouldn’t have come as no surprise to anyone who knew him. And as a police officer he managed to have care and respect for the people he was forced to arrest.

‘‘More than any police officer EVER he cared for the families and genuinely wanted to see positive change in people and always done his absolute best to give people a second chance.

‘‘No police officer will ever live up to his standards. R.I.P mate save that beer for us when we see you again.’’

Another colleague said: ‘‘Leigh worked in the Lake Illawarra TAG Unit, now it’s called the proactive crime unit. It was very busy, non stop.

‘‘Work involved drug raids, DNA hits targeting high-risk offenders ... ,’’ the officer said.

‘‘He was in the face of crooks, searching people, brawls ... he was a great bloke with a good heart.’’

Anyone needing support can call Lifeline on 13 11 14 or beyondblue on 1300 224 636.

<http://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/4273677/no-one-was-there-for-him-illawarra-sisters-speak-out-after-cop-dads-suicide/?cs=12>

Sonia WILLIAMS – nee TURNER

18/08/2016

*** ARTICLE ONLY ***

Sonia WILLIAMS – nee Sonia TURNER

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 36424

Rank: ?

[blockquote]"First female to be stationed with the NSW ' Public Order & Riot Squad ' "[/blockquote]

Stations: ?, MEOCS, PORS, THE ROCKS

Service: From ? May 2002 to 24 October 2013 = 11 years Service

Awards: ? – No find on It's an honour

Born: ?

Cause for leaving: HOD Injuries – Depression – Suicide attempts

Age: ?

An article on P.T.S.D., attempted suicide and coming out on the other side

Life trials spur boxer toward first pro fight

"Posts by Sunshine Valley Gazette" on April 7, 2016



Sonia WILLIAMS nee Sonia TURNER – NSWPF –
Retired HOD 2012

By Richard Bruinsma

The bright eyes of Mooloolah boxer **Sonia Williams** do nothing to reveal the scars of the challenges she's faced over the past five years.

She endured sexual discrimination and physical abuse as the first female member of the New South Wales police riot squad, countless work-related injuries and 22 surgeries, a medical discharge from the police force, depression and four suicide attempts – but she is now rebuilding her life and a boxing career, and hoping to be a role model for others.

The 33-year-old won all three rounds to record a dominant victory in her first amateur boxing bout in Caloundra in February, and she is now training for her first professional fight on the Gold Coast in December.

“People ask me who I aspire to, who is my role model,” Mrs Williams said.

“But I'm my own role model, because I don't know anyone who

has been through what I've been through and survived."

Mrs Williams grew up as a self-confessed tom boy, and was a competitive body builder and first degree Tae Kwon Do black belt by age 18.

She was NSW Womens Full Contact Sparring Champion from 14 to 18, and won a bronze medal in bare knuckle contact fighting at the World Martial Arts Games in 2000.

At 18, she followed her life dream and joined the NSW police force, where she went on to become the first female ever to be signed to the riot squad, with some 80 male colleagues.

That's where life started bombarding her with challenges.

She was advised by a colleague she was unwelcome in the male-dominated squad and that she would be "broken". Her knee was busted badly in her first "soft" training event on her very first day.

However, she persevered, before eventually leaving the riot squad in 2010, but was medically discharged from the police force, perhaps somewhat ironically, after being badly injured in a student university protest in May 2012.

Her list of medical procedures is quite daunting – knee reconstructions, broken wrists, hearing loss, hip injuries, multiple muscle tears and tendon damage, herniated and bulging discs, disc replacement, nerve damage, cysts and foot injuries.

After her discharge, and despite moving to Queensland with husband Glenn, she battled lingering injury and pain, lost life focus and fell into depression. She attempted suicide four times, the fourth when she smashed her car at high speed into telephone pole on Steve Irwin Way in late 2014 – she escaped with only two broken feet.

It was the crash that changed her life.

“I had the sense knocked into me,” she confesses. “I had no goals, I wasn’t boxing, I had nothing; I had the injuries that were always there and nothing seemed to be getting any better.”

From there Mrs Williams started training seriously with legendary Sunshine Coast boxing trainer Bobby Stimson.

She’s also being helped by Glenn, a former special services soldier-turned personal trainer.

“I’d be lying if I said I didn’t have bad days, but I’ve come a long way,” she said.

Her boxing career takes the next step when she heads to a training camp to Thailand in July to train with some of the toughest kickboxers and Mixed Martial Arts fighters in the world.

Mrs Williams has launched a crowd funding campaign to help her and two other female boxers make the Thailand training camp in July. To donate, visit www.gofundme.com/78rmpbn8

“I’m going to be the next world champion in my weight division,” she said confidently.

The powerful words of affirmation are themselves a necessary positive force for this fighter’s rebirth.

From there, she knows not even the sky is the limit.

Photo caption: Mooloolah boxer Sonia Williams has overcome countless challenges on her journey toward her first professional bout in December.

www.svgazette.com.au/life-trials-spur-boxer-toward-first-prof-ight/

Suicide attempts

18/08/2016

Known NSW POLICE SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

[divider]

INCIDENT ONE

Suicidal officer with a gun, but this time tragedy averted



“Perhaps it was a cry for help by the officer that has prevented this from ending tragically” ... police in yesterday’s stand-

off.

Les Kennedy and Ben Cubby

May 1, 2007

THE desperate officer arrived at **Earlwood police station** yesterday afternoon via a rear courtyard, got his **service pistol**, returned to his car and put the gun in his mouth.

But a crucial phone call saved him. Minutes earlier, the officer, a **39-year-old senior constable** with the **highway patrol**, had phoned a fellow officer in despair.

This call, about **2.15pm**, generated immediate confusion, as police prepared for a siege. Soon the area around **Earlwood's highway patrol headquarters** was cordoned off and swarming with about **50 police**, including members of the State Protection Group and an armoured van.

Negotiators were brought in, as hundreds of onlookers crowded the Earlwood shopping strip.

After a "delicate and sensitive" stand-off lasting nearly **three hours**, the negotiators persuaded the officer to surrender at **5.05pm**.

"The fact that there was some contact with another officer – perhaps it was a **cry for help** by the officer that has prevented this from ending tragically," a police official told the *Herald* last night.

The acting Assistant Commissioner, **Frank Mennilli**, confirmed the phone call had probably saved the situation, but could shed no light on why the officer, a **married man** who had been in the force for **20 years**, might want to take his life.

At least seven NSW police officers have **committed suicide since 2001**, five of them **in a police station**. More police have

died **from suicide** while **on duty** than any other cause.

Last month the Police Commissioner, **Ken Moroney**, expressed his concern at the **rate of suicides** and the need for **commanders** to **recognise symptoms** and **intervene**. He said senior officers would be trained to recognise psychological distress. "It may be that by taking an early intervention role we can lead people into the right programs," he said.

Mr Moroney added that many police had been reluctant to seek help about personal problems while coping with the pressures of their job.

Officers at Sutherland and Menai are still struggling to explain why a new recruit, **Constable Greg Norman Lundberg**, 29, fatally **shot himself** while working alone in the station at **Menai** in **January**. He left no note and did not appear depressed to his colleagues.

At **Chatswood police station** in **November 2005**, **Detective Senior Constable Patrick Cleary** shot himself dead before colleagues arrived for work.

And in **August 2004**, **Detective Sergeant Steve Leach** killed himself with his pistol at police headquarters at **Parramatta**.

Following yesterday's stand-off, Mr **Mennilli** said outside Earlwood police station: "There was a telephone call made to another officer and the police responded to that telephone call."

The officer was taken **into custody** and his **health** and **welfare** needs will be assessed.

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/suicidal-officer-with-a-gun-but-this-time-tragedy-averted/2007/04/30/1177788058862.html>

[divider]

Event location:

[codepeople-post-map]

[divider]

INCIDENT TWO

NSW Police officer in suspected suicide

Date **May 10, 2007**

The NSW Police Force has been rocked by the actions of another apparently suicidal officer.

This time a high-ranking officer is in a coma hospital after trying to commit suicide in a hotel room, The Daily Telegraph reports.

Superintendent Paul Nolan, 54, was recently **suspended** from the force because he is **under investigation** by the **Police Integrity Commission**.

He was found unconscious about **midnight** on **Tuesday**.

The nature of the PIC investigation is unclear.

This latest incident comes after **Commissioner Ken Moroney** last week expressed concerns about mental health issues among the force, publicly telling his officers that it was **"OK to cry"**.

In **January**, **29-year-old Constable Greg Lundberg** committed suicide with his **pistol** in **Menai police station** due to **personal problems**.

Last month a **39-year-old senior constable** barricaded himself inside **Earlwood police station** and threatened to take his

life.

Earlier this month, **27-year-old Constable Nathan Hearps** from **Quakers Hill** plunged to his death from a Surry Hills apartment block, News Ltd reports.

<http://news.smh.com.au/national/nsw-police-officer-in-suspected-suicide-20070510-bx0.html>

[divider]

INCIDENT THREE

From Berrick Boland – Saturday 11 June 2016 – 8.21pm

Hi Member and Guests,

Have just got off the phone with **2 ex police** and friends of our member, M.....I..... of P....., she has been admitted by Ambulance to hospital last night after calling Lifeline and then the Ambulance.

She has apparently stated to her friends at the hospital today, she took 2'300 mgs of the pain killer **Lyrice** prescribed for her back injury received while on duty with the **NSW Police force**, she has been using a **walking cradle** for the last **2 years**.

She further stated to her friends, she had **researched** the effects of **overdosing on Lyrice** on the internet and ascertained **a certain dose** would leave her in a **vegetative state** and she didn't want that, it was **death or nothing**, when she had reached swallowing at least **8** from her memory, she

stated to have a floating sensation and **her family and niece's started to flash in her mind** and she started to **get scared**, she called **Lifeline** and told them, she states they told her to get off the phone and **call an ambulance**, which she did, the ambulance arrived and conveyed her to hospital, where she remains in a **stable condition**.

Apparently her **blood pressure** was extremely **high** and they needed to stabilise that last night **fearing a stroke** and she has agreed at this stage to **remain in hospital** until further **specialists** can see her **after the long weekend on Tuesday**.

The main reason given to her friends, **EML Insurance** were pushing her to visit another **IME** which she says was unnecessary and she only receives **\$440,00 pw**, and couldn't afford the **\$100.00 taxi fare**, **EML insisted she pay up front and they would reimburse her later?**.

Admin.

[divider]

INCIDENT FOUR

2:51pm **August 3, 2016**

Struggling ex-cops given a lifeline in NSW

By **AAP**

Detective Senior Constable Allan Sparkes was a celebrated rescue hero and recipient of the highest honour for civilian bravery when he decided to end his life.

"It was **October 4, 1998**. I kissed my wife and goodbye and went

to work with **my revolver**. *I pulled one of the bullets out and had a look at it for a few seconds, before putting it back in,*" he told a roomful of the state's top brass at the launch of a support program on Wednesday.

"Then I walked off to the bathroom to shoot myself."

A colleague walked in just in time, taking the gun out of his hands and helping him home.

Only a few months earlier, Mr Sparkes became one of only six Australians to win the **Cross of Valour** after risking his life to rescue an **11-year-old boy** washed down a drainpipe during flash flooding.

He almost drowned in that rescue, and **the trauma from that added** to a lifetime of exposure to brutal crimes and accident scenes, pushing the "**strong, tough**" policeman to the brink.

However, the moment that **hit him the hardest** was when he was **discharged from the police force against his own will**.

"To receive a phone call saying you're out, that was probably **one of the most damaging experiences I've ever endured,**" he said.

"I had to find my worth again, to prove to myself that I was still a man, a husband, a father capable of protecting and looking after my loved ones."

Now a motivational speaker and Black Dog ambassador, Mr Sparkes says a program such as Backup for Life, launched by the NSW Police Force on Wednesday, would have helped struggling policemen like him recover from trauma suffered in the line of duty.

The program aims to support retired cops who struggle with isolation and a lack of purpose, as well as their psychological and physical scars.

The launch comes days after revelations that a culture of shame and silence towards mental health and PTSD issues still abounds in the NSW Police.

Police Minister Troy Grant acknowledged the cultural issues but said the force was still evolving in its processes for dealing with trauma.

He drew upon his own experiences “dancing with shadows” during his 22-year policing, saying if he hadn’t received professional help he wouldn’t have made it through.

The NSW government has contributed \$2 million to the program.

* Former NSW police officers seeking support can contact 1800 4 BACKUP

* Readers seeking support and information about suicide prevention can contact Lifeline on 13 11 14.

© AAP 2016

Read [more](http://www.9news.com.au/national/2016/08/03/11/09/forgotten-ex-cops-in-nsw-given-lifeline#0wY828vEHeZVR0p5.99) at
<http://www.9news.com.au/national/2016/08/03/11/09/forgotten-ex-cops-in-nsw-given-lifeline#0wY828vEHeZVR0p5.99>

FORD

18/08/2016

FORD

New South Wales Police Force

Sub-Inspector

Attempt Suicide – firearm

ACCIDENTS AND FATALITIES

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

Sudden Death of a Sub-Inspector's Wife.

Attempted Suicide of the Husband.

Sydney, Monday.

Barrier Miner (Broken Hill) Monday **20 July 1896** page 2 of
4

A telegram from Orange reports that at the police barracks there Mrs. Ford, wife of Sub-Inspector Ford, who was suffering from an affection of the heart, was suddenly seized with a fit. Doctor Crase was called in and found that the patient had become nearly exhausted by violent spasms. He went for some chloroform to be administered to her, but on his return, after only a few seconds absence, he found that Mrs. Ford had died from syncope in the interim. Inspector Ford had been sent for and arrived a few minutes before his wife's death. He was distracted with grief and fired three shots from his revolver in an attempt to take his own life. One shot struck him in the jaw but inflicted no serious injury ; the others missed. The inspector, however, lies seriously ill from grief and shock.

Gabrielle Patricia McDONALD

18/08/2016

Gabrielle Patricia McDONALD – nee Eggleston

aka Gabby

late of Maryland

Wife to Andrew McDonald # 22289

NSW Police Academy Class # 242C

“possibly” a Rejoinee

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 26685

Rank: Commenced training at Goulburn Police Station on Sunday
30 July 1989 (aged 19 years, 5 months, 5 days)

Probationary Constable – appointed 25 January 1990 (aged 19
years, 11 months, 0 days)

Constable – appointed ? ? ?

Detective – appointed ? ? ? (YES)

Constable 1st Class – appointed ? ? ?

Senior Constable – appointed ? ? ?

Sergeant 3rd Class – appointed ? ? ?

Final Rank: Detective Sergeant

Stations: ?, Inner City (Sydney), Newtown Detectives,
Balmain (8 Division), Newcastle, Lake Macquarie L.A.C.,
Northern Region Professional Standards

Service: From 30 July 1989 to 3 July 2013 = 23 years, 11
months, 3 days Service

Awards: No Find on Australian Honours

Born: Wednesday 25 February 1970

Died on: Wednesday 3 July 2013

Cause: Depression – Suicide – hanging – ON DUTY

Previous attempt in 2012 inside Newcastle Police Stn

Age: 43 years, 4 months, 8 days

Funeral date: Thursday 11 July 2013 @ 11am

Funeral location: Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church,
Sandgate Rd, Shortland

Buried at: Sandgate Lawn Cemetery, 116 Maitland Rd, Sandgate,
NSW

Grave Location: Lawn Cemetery 1, Row R, Grave 54

GPS: Lat: -32.8703445 Long: 151.709213



Gabrielle "Gabby" McDonald

**GABBY is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance –
Canberra**

*** BUT SHOULD BE. Last checked ~~2 Aug 2019~~ 24 Jan 2024**

**GABBY IS mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance – NSW
Domain**

Grave location: [codepeople-post-map]





Grave of Gabrielle Patricia McDONALD – nee Gabby Eggleston



Class 242C Goulburn – Attested 25 January 1990
Gabby EGGLESTON, Front row, 3rd from right

Late of Maryland

Gabrielle passed away on 03/07/2013.

Her funeral is proposed to be held at 11am on Thursday 11th Instant at Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church, 262 Sandgate Road, SHORTLAND.

Dearly loved wife of ANDREW, loving mother of JESSICA and JOSH. Loved daughter and daughter-in-law of CARMEL and NORM (dec'd) EGGLESTON, FRAN and WARREN McDONALD.

Sister and sister-in-law of PETER and MAREE, MEL and JULIE, MARIA and MARK, ANDREW and AREEYA, ANGELA and MARK, SUE and STEVE, PATRICK and CAROLINE, NICOLE and NIGEL, GREG and loved aunty of their FAMILIES.

The Relatives and Friends of GABRIELLE are warmly invited to attend her Funeral to be held in Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church, Sandgate Rd, Shortland on THURSDAY 11/7/13 Funeral Liturgy commencing at 11am. An interment will follow at Sandgate Lawn Cemetery.

<http://pettigrew.com.au/upcoming-funerals/2013/7/11/mcdonald-gabrielle-patricia-gabby.html>

Gabrielle "Gabby" McDonald (1970 – 2013)

In Memoriam

Gabrielle Patricia MCDONALD

Passed away suddenly on 3/7/2013

What would we give to hear your voice and see your face again.

In our hearts is your memory and there you will always be.

Love from Andrew Jessica Joshua your family & friends

Published in The Newcastle Herald on July 3, 2015

– See more at:

<http://tributes.theherald.com.au/obituaries/theherald-au/obituary.aspx?n=gabrielle-mcdonald-gabby&pid=175205192#sthash.ti7JDssd.dpuf>

Family of NSW policewoman who took her own life suing state for millions

Exclusive by the National Reporting Team's Lorna Knowles

Updated **12 Jul 2016**, 6:00am

The family of a policewoman who took her own life is suing the state of New South Wales for millions of dollars, for allegedly failing to protect her from harm.

[blockquote]

Key points:

- Andrew McDonald has filed three negligence claims against the state
- The claim alleges his wife did not receive adequate care after attending several traumatic incidents
- It also alleges police failed to investigate a previous suicide attempt

[/blockquote]

Video:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-07-11/family-of-nsw-policewoman-who-took-her-own-life/7587948>

Newcastle mother-of-two Sergeant Gabrielle McDonald developed post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression after witnessing a string of horrific incidents on the job.

She took her own life on July 3, 2013, the day after a police medical officer had declared her as fit for duty.

Her husband Andrew McDonald has filed three negligence claims against the state of NSW on behalf of himself and his two children, Jessica and Joshua.

His statement of claim, filed to the NSW District Court, said over the course of her career, McDonald attended numerous traumatic incidents, including domestic disputes, assaults, car accidents, suicides and murders.

She was particularly distressed by the drowning of a 17-year-old boy in 2009 and a double road fatality in 2010, but did not receive any counselling, debriefing or monitoring after the incidents, the statement of claim alleges.

In late 2010, she was promoted to Detective Sergeant in the Professional Standards Unit, Northern Region. But she struggled with the heavy workload, which included two stints relieving for her supervisor.

In 2012, McDonald attempted suicide in an office at the Newcastle police station, but police never investigated the incident.

"It's investigation 101," Mr McDonald, who was also a police officer, told the ABC.

"That's what police do and it's appalling that it was never done."

Police medical officer found suicide attempt 'was not genuine'



The day before McDonald took her own life, she was sent to see a police medical officer, Dr Naresh Verma.

Mr McDonald told the ABC, Dr Verma determined her previous suicide attempt was not genuine and he did not believe she had PTSD.

"All the staff thought well, OK, things must be on the improve, maybe Gabrielle is not sick at all, maybe she's pulling the wool over our eyes and that was clearly wrong," Mr McDonald said.

Dr Verma did not respond to repeated requests for comment.



The police force determined that McDonald should be transferred to another police station the next day.

According to the statement of claim, she was summoned to a meeting without warning and without a support person to be

told she was being moved.

McDonald left the meeting in a distressed state, drove to a state forest and took her life.

Mr McDonald said he had one last telephone conversation with his wife.

“She said I can’t go on any more. I’m not getting better. I’m such a burden. They keep kicking me down at work. All I’m trying to do is keep my hours up. You know, this is hopeless,” he said.

“And I said: ‘You can’t do this’. I pleaded with her and begged her not to.

“She said I love you and the kids. We talked about all the things we’d done together, but nothing I said would make sense to her, she was just that determined to do it”.

McDonald ‘did not receive proper monitoring’

Mr McDonald’s lawyers allege that the police service ought to have known the meeting would cause her distress and that she was at risk of self harm.

They allege the NSW police force was negligent because it failed to maintain a safe system of work to avoid injury to McDonald.

It had also allegedly failed to provide her with adequate training to perform her duties and to take precautions for her safety, “putting her in a position of peril”.

The service is also accused of failing to provide adequate training on how to recognise the symptoms of psychiatric injury.

“The deceased did not receive any or proper monitoring of her condition while she continued to work in a stressful environment,” the claim states.

The claim also alleges the police force had failed to devise a system for the flagging of police officers involved in numerous distressing or traumatic incidents.

As a result of its negligence, McDonald had suffered a major depressive disorder, chronic PTSD, alcohol abuse and death by suicide, it is alleged.

Mr McDonald said he now suffered from an adjustment disorder with depression and anxiety.

He was on track to become a superintendent, before he was medically retired.

He is claiming about \$900,000 in future lost earnings, in addition to damages and interest. He is also seeking damages on behalf of his two children.

Damages are limited to \$750,000 in the NSW District Court, but it does have the discretion to lift the cap.

In a statement to the ABC, the NSW police force said it could not comment specifically on the tragic circumstances which led to the death of a serving officer.

“NSW police continues to improve its practices and procedures, having made significant advances over many years to minimise the psychological impact of policing duties on our officers, who frequently undertake stressful and difficult work,” the statement said.

“As a major priority, NSW police encourages the reporting of these impacts and offers a range of services to support, guide and educate our staff.

“These support services are comprehensive and effective.

“It is well understood that every officer’s circumstances are unique and most often extremely complex with regard to the impacts of psychological injury.”

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-07-11/family-of-nsw-policewoman-who-took-her-own-life-suing-state/7576870>

Scott Perrin 18 May 2020

Gabby was my partner Newtown D’s. She was rock solid, loyal and supportive. She spoke her mind and was honest in opinion and views.

Gabby was from the Eggleston family of the Hunter & loved horses and racing. She taught riding to kids with patience & care. Gabby also helped place horses with the Mounted Section NSW Police.

Along with Gabby & Deb Hayton, we had a tough feminine perspective to our office in the 90’s.

Sad to know when she was in need, Gabby felt alone.

Gabby was loved by many and will be missed by all!
