

Ross Francis JENNINGS

27/10/2012

Ross Francis JENNINGS

Late of ?

NSW Redfern Police Academy Class # 102

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 11335

Rank: Commenced Training at Redfern Police Academy on Monday
11 January 1965 (aged 20 years, 3 months, 24 days)

Probationary Constable – appointed 22 February 1965 (aged 20
years, 5 months, 4 days)

Constable – appointed 22 February 1966

Senior Constable – appointed 22 February 1974

Sergeant 3rd Class – appointed ???

Sergeant 3/Class – Death

Stations: ?, Western District, – Death

Service: From 11 January 1965 to 1 September 1986 = 21
years, 7 months, 21 days Service

Awards: National Medal – granted 15 April 1981

Born: Monday 18 September 1944

Died on: Monday 1 September 1986

Age: 41 years, 11 months, 14 days

Cause: Heart attack

Event location: West Wallsend Police Station grounds, NSW

Event date: Monday 1 September 1986

Funeral date: ? ? ?

Funeral location: ?

Funeral Parlour: ?

Buried at: Belmont Cemetery, 2 Green St, Belmont St, NSW

Memorial located at: ?



ROSS IS mentioned on the National Police Wall of Remembrance

Grave location (approx) : [codepeople-post-map]

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

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

May they forever Rest In Peace

On 1 September, 1986 Sergeant Jennings was at home at the police residence attached to the **West Wallsend Police Station**. While he was mowing the lawns (one of his duties) he suffered a fatal heart attack.

The sergeant was born in 18 September 1944 and joined the New South Wales Police Force on 22 February, 1965. At the time of his death he was stationed at West Wallsend.

September 29 2017 – 4:27PM

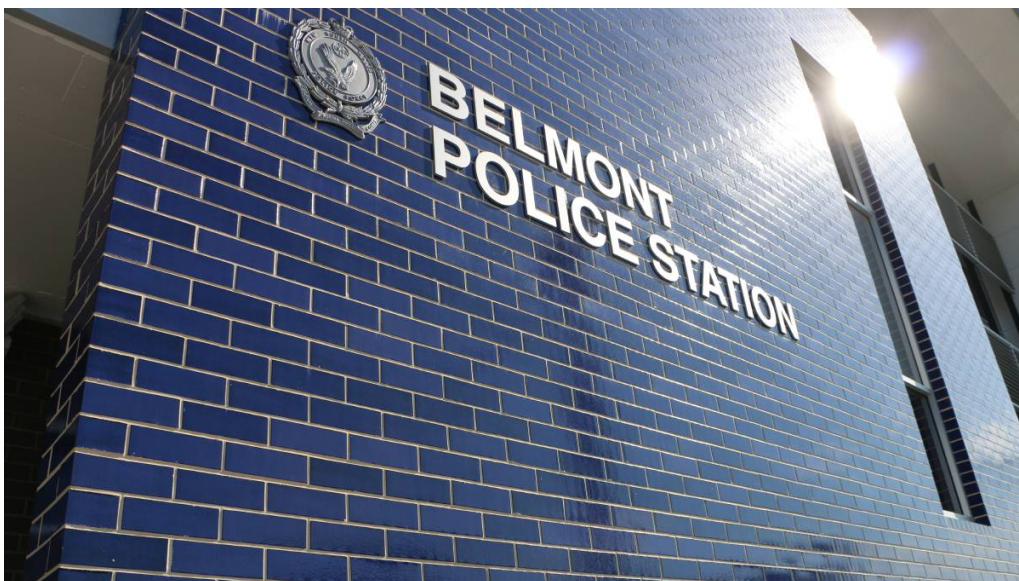
**National Police Remembrance Day
ceremony in Lake Macquarie**

David Stewart

▪ **September 29 2017 – 4:27PM**

POLICE from Lake Macquarie Local Area Command have unveiled plans for a **memorial wall at Belmont** to honour the **seven local officers killed in the line of duty since 1863**.

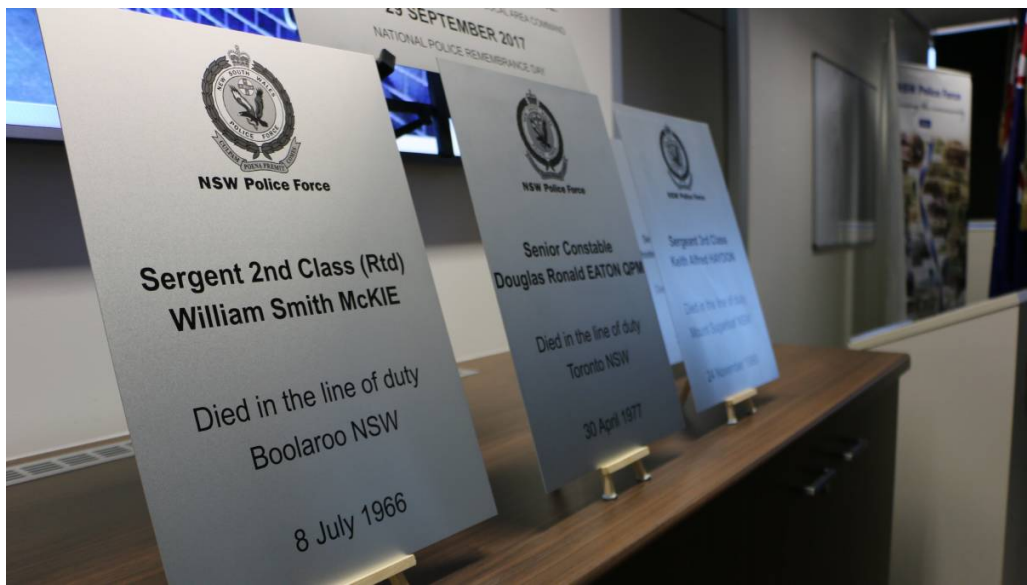
Plaques commemorating the seven officers were **dedicated to the wall** in a ceremony at **Belmont police station this afternoon**, **National Police Remembrance Day**.



▪









Chief Inspector Murray Lundberg of Lake Macquarie LAC presided over a **private ceremony** attended by police, local high school students, and the **families of the fallen officers**.

“This is a time for reflection on the ultimate sacrifice that police officers can give in the execution of their duty,” **Chief Inspector Lundberg** said.

Police Remembrance Day at Belmont

Post by Police Remembrance Day at Belmont.

The fallen officers honoured were Constable **Henry Rucker** (who died in 1863), Constable **Frederick Martin** (1953), Sergeant 2nd Class **William McKie** (1965), Senior Constable **Douglas Eaton** (1977), Sergeant 3rd Class **Keith Haydon** (1980), Sergeant 1st Class **Rhoderic Lindsay** (1984), and Sergeant 3rd Class **Ross Jennings** (1986).

Acting Assistant Commissioner Brett Greentree, the **Northern Region Commander**, said the wall of remembrance, to be created on the distinctive blue wall at the entrance to the police station, would be striking.

“It will be a sight to treasure,” Acting Assistant Commissioner Greentree said.

“I want the officers, as they are walking out the front doors of this police station, to stop and reflect on the names, stop and reflect on the sacrifice.”

He said he hoped that the inaugural plaques to be installed on the wall were also the last.

“My dream is that we never, ever, add another name to this wall. I hope and pray that our wall is now complete.”

Acting Assistant Commissioner Greentree reached out to the families of the fallen officers.

“No commemoration or recognition can make good the loss that is unfairly carried by family members,” he said.

“I can only offer you my heartfelt condolences. Please know that your loved ones, who are no longer with us, will always be remembered.”

Across NSW, ceremonies were held to commemorate the service and sacrifice of the 269 officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty, and through injury or illness, since the formation of the NSW Police Force in 1862.



NSW Police Force

**THIS MEMORIAL IS IN RECOGNITION
TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF
THE NSW POLICE FORCE
WHO HAVE MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.**

DEDICATED BY THE LAKE MACQUARIE LOCAL AREA COMMAND

29 SEPTEMBER 2017

NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY



NSW Police Force

**Sergeant 1st Class
Rhoderic Francis LINDSAY**

Died in the line of duty
Swansea NSW

20 February 1984



NSW Police Force

**Sergeant 3rd Class
Ross Francis JENNINGS**

Died in the line of duty
West Wallsend NSW

1 September 1986

Douglas Ronald EATON

27/10/2012

Douglas Ronald EATON QPM

Father of Serving NSWPF Member Sergeant Michael EATON #
????

Late of ?

New South Wales Police Force

NSW Police Academy Redfern Class # 100

Regd. # 11167

Rank: Probationary Constable – appointed 17 August 1964

Constable – appointed 17 August 1965

Senior Constable – appointed 17 August 1973

Final Rank: Senior Constable

Stations: ?, North East District (1965), Toronto – Death

Service: From ? ? Pre August 1964 to 30 April 1977 = 12+

years Service

Awards: **posthumously** awarded the **Queen's Gallantry Medal** (Imperial), on 25 August 1978 Gallantry – NSW Police – Apprehend an armed man (SenCon),

posthumously awarded the **George Lewis Memorial Trophy**

posthumously awarded the **Peter Mitchell Award**

Queens Police Medal (QPM) – granted ? ? ?

Born: Saturday 23 November 1940

Died on: Saturday 30 April 1977

Age: 36 years, 5 months, 7 days

Cause: Shot – Murdered – On Duty

Event location: Toronto Country club, Kilaben Bay

Event date: Saturday 30 April 1977

In Company of: **Senior Constable Edwin Jackson GILL # 11512**
who was the victim of an Attempt Murder in this same Event

Funeral date: Sunday 3 May 1977

Funeral location: Beresfield Crematorium, Beresfield

Buried at: Cremated

Memorial located at: Toronto Police Station, 139 Cary St,
Toronto, NSW





NSW Police Force

SENIOR CONSTABLE DOUGLAS RONALD EATON QPM



On the night of 30 April 1977 Senior Constable Eaton and Senior Constable Edwin Gill attended a silent intruder alarm at the Toronto Country Club Kilabon Bay. While they were making an external check of the premises both Police Officers were shot by the offenders who had broken into the club. Senior Constable Eaton was killed instantly and Senior Constable Gill seriously wounded. Members of the Glesic family were later arrested and imprisoned and a large cache of weapons and explosives recovered. The Constable was born in 1940 and joined the New South Wales Police Force on 17 August 1964. At the time of his death he was stationed at Toronto. He was posthumously awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal the George Lewis Memorial Trophy and the Peter Mitchell Award.

This room is dedicated to Senior Constable Douglas Ronald EATON QPM
for the ultimate sacrifice.

17 August 2017



DOUG is mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance

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May they forever Rest In Peace



SenCon Doug Eaton (1977)



On the night of 30 April, 1977, **Senior Constable Douglas Ronald Eaton # 11167** and **Senior Constable Edward Gill # 11512** (**Edwin Jackson GILL**) attended a “silent” intruder alarm at the **Toronto Country Club, Kilaben Bay**. While they were making an external check of the premises **both police officers were shot by offenders** who had broken into the club. Senior Constable **Eaton was killed instantly** and Senior Constable **Gill was seriously wounded**. Members of the **Glesic family** were later arrested and imprisoned and a large cache of weapons and explosives recovered.

The constable was born in **1940** and joined the New South Wales Police Force on **17 August, 1964**. At the time of his death he was stationed at **Toronto**. He was **posthumously** awarded the **Queen's Gallantry Medal**, the **George Lewis Memorial Trophy** and the **Peter Mitchell Award**.

Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 – 1995),

Thursday 5 May 1977, page 15

Crash kills two policemen

SYDNEY: **Two policemen** were **fatally injured** on Tuesday night in a car crash near Newcastle while returning from the funeral of a colleague who was shot dead on Saturday.

Police said a car carrying five' policemen from Cessnock, overturned after apparently failing to negotiate a bend near Kurri Kurri.

Those killed were **Senior-Constable Raymond Scorer**, 31, of Aberdare, and **Senior-Constable Alan Thompson**, 30, of Cessnock. Each was married, with two children.

They had attended the funeral of **Senior-Constable Doug Eaton**, who was shot dead at a golf club at the weekend.

The three other policemen are in a satisfactory condition in Cessnock Hospital.

trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/110844243

Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 – 1995),

Saturday 16 September 1989, page 4

Police 'betrayed'

SYDNEY: About 400 police in Newcastle overwhelmingly supported a call yesterday to protest on Wednesday over the release from jail this week of two brothers sentenced to **life imprisonment** for the murder of a police officer during an armed robbery in Newcastle in 1977.

The brothers, **Danny and Wally Glesic**, had each served **12 years** for the murder of Constable Doug Eaton.

A Police Association spokesman said officers felt "severely betrayed" by **Corrective Services Minister Michael Yabsley** over the release.

trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/120853046

Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 – 1995),

Friday 8 July 1977, page 6

COURT REPORTS

Policemen shot: three committed for trial

NEWCASTLE: Three men were committed for trial after a hearing in Newcastle Court on a charge of having murdered a policeman.

The men were also committed for trial on a charge of having attempted to murder another policemen.

Before the court were Mr Nikola Glesic, 41, Mr Wally Vladik Glesic, 20, and Mr Danny Mladen Glesic, 19, all unemployed, of Corranbong.

They were each charged with having **murdered Senior Constable**

Douglas Ronald Eaton at Toronto on April 30 and having **feloniously wounded Constable Edwin Jackson Gill** with **intent to murder** him.

At the conclusion of the Crown case yesterday, the public solicitor, Mr G. Graham, for the defendants, said he did not wish to address the court.

Mr Radford, SM, said he was of the opinion that the evidence of the prosecution established a prima facie case against each defendant on each charge. The three pleaded not guilty and reserved their defence.

Mr Radford committed them for trial at New castle Supreme Court on September 26 and refused bail.

The three were remanded to Newcastle Court on October 24 on a further charge of having, on April 30, broken into the store of **Toronto Country Club Ltd** and stolen six bottles of spirits, three bottles of Coca Cola and a carton of beer.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/110853844>

Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 – 1995),

Wednesday 6 July 1977, page 11

Police allege man admitted shooting

SYDNEY: A man had admitted shooting a policeman at a Toronto country club in April, it was alleged in Newcastle Court of Petty Sessions yesterday.

Detective Sergeant C.W. Hodgkinson, of **Sydney Homicide Squad**, was giving evidence during the second day of committal

proceedings against Mr Nikola Glesic, 41, Mr Wally Vladik Glesic, 20, and Mr Danny Mladen Glesic, 19, all unemployed, of Cooranbong, near Newcastle.

All three are charged with having murdered **Constable Douglas Ronald Eaton** at Toronto, 20 kilometres south-west of Newcastle, on April 30, and **feloniously wounded Constable Edwin Jackson Gill** with intent to murder him at the same time and place.

Constables Eaton and Gill had been answering a burglar alarm at the **Toronto Country Club** when the shooting occurred.

Sergeant Hodgkinson told **Dr R. L. Radford, SM**, he had gone to the **Glesic** property with other police on Monday, May 2. Police had taken possession of a number of firearms at the property.

The defendants allegedly told police they had been at home on the night of the shooting.

A **ballistics report** from Sydney had shown that a shotgun, a pistol and a revolver found at the property had been used at the shooting.

Sergeant Hodgkinson said that Mr Nikola Glesic, told of this, had said, " I shoot one policeman. I am deeply sorry. I love this country ".

Earlier in the hearing, **Sergeant A. McDonald**, also of the **Sydney Homicide Squad**, gave evidence that he had said to Mr Wally Glesic at Toronto police station on May 2, " Since I talked to you last I have found a 9mm pistol and a 44.40 carbine.

" I have reason to believe these weapons were used in the shooting of two police at the Toronto Country Club last Saturday night ".

Mr Wally Glesic had allegedly said, " Yes, it was us that shot them. What I told you before was all lies ".

The hearing resumes today.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/110853464>

Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 – 1995),

Saturday 7 May 1977, page 8

Father, sons on extra charges

SYDNEY: A man and his two sons charged with the murder of a policeman at Toronto last Saturday were further charged in Newcastle Court yesterday on two counts of attempted armed robbery.

The additional charges allege the men, Mr Nikola Glesic, 45, Mr Wally Bladik Glesic, 20, and Mr Danny Mladen Glesic, 19, all unemployed, of Cooranbong, were armed with weapons in two attempted robberies, alleged to have occurred at Morisset on April 3 and April 24.

At a hearing in Wallsend Court on Tuesday, the men were each charged with having murdered Senior Constable Douglas Ronald Eaton at Toronto on April 30 and having wounded Senior Constable Edwin Jackson Gill (# 11512) with intent to murder him at the same time and place.

Mr Power remanded the three men to the Newcastle Court on July 4 and refused bail.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/110844762>

Saturday 9 July 1977, page 7

More charges against father and sons

NEWCASTLE; A father and two sons, already committed for trial on a charge of having murdered a policeman were committed on further charges of attempted armed robbery, when they appeared in Newcastle Petty sessions yesterday.

Mr Nikola Glesic, 41, Mr Wally Vladik Glesic, 20, Mr Danny Mladen Glesic, 19, all unemployed, of Maitland Road, Cooranbong, were charged with having assaulted Mr Howard James Hallett and Mr Reginald Ernest Davis with intent to rob them, with two shotguns and an automatic pistol at Morrisset on April 24.

Mr Nikola Glesic and Mr Danny Glesic were also charged with having assaulted Mr Ernest David Heaton and Daphne Hope Heaton, with intent to rob them while armed with two shot guns at Morrisset on April 3.

Mr Radford, SM, committed the three men for trial at Newcastle District Court on August 2 and refused bail. All three pleaded not guilty.

Yesterday's committal completed 4½ days of hearing evidence against the Glesics on a number of charges, including the **murder of Senior Constable Douglas Ronald Eaton**, and the **attempted murder of Constable Edwin Jackson Gill**, at the **Toronto Country Club** on April 30.

Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 – 1995),

Wednesday 21 September 1977, page 6

Three change plea on murder count

NEWCASTLE: A Newcastle Supreme Court jury convicted yesterday a man and his two sons on charges of having murdered a police constable and having wounded another policeman with intent to murder him.

The three men changed their pleas to guilty on each charge when the trial entered its second day this morning.

Mr Justice Slattery remanded the three men, Mr **Nikola Glesic**, 41. Mr **Wally Vladik Glesic**, 20. and Mr **Danny Mladen Glesic**, 19, all of **Cooranbong**, for sentence today.

When the trial resumed shortly before 11am yesterday the **Public Defender, Mr E. J. Shields**, for the accused, asked that the charges be read again to each of the accused.

The **three men then pleaded guilty** to charges of having **murdered Mr Douglas Ronald Eaton** at or near **Kilaben Bay** on **April 30** and having **wounded Mr Edwin Jackson Gill** with **intent to murder** him at **Kilaben Bay** on the same date.

Mr **Justice Slattery** told the jury " The Crown case against each of the accused is a very strong one. The final decision is yours because each of the accused has been placed in your hands even though they pleaded guilty ".

The jury retired at 11.15am to consider its verdict and found each of the accused guilty on each charge when they returned at 11.40 am.

The prosecutor said he intended to present further charges against the three men today and asked the court to remand them for sentence.

Commemoration of 40th anniversary of officer killed on duty

Sunday, 30 April 2017 04:43:08 PM

****Editor's note: Images of the plaque have been placed on the NSWPF Facebook page****

Police and community members have commemorated the **40th anniversary** of the death of **Senior Constable Douglas Eaton QPM**, unveiling a memorial plaque in honour of the officer, who was killed on duty in the Lake Macquarie region in 1977.

On the evening of Saturday 30 April 1977, Senior Constable Douglas Ronald Eaton QPM, and Senior Constable Edward Gill, attended a 'silent' intruder alarm at the Toronto Country Club, Kilaben Bay.

Whilst making external checks of the premises, the officers were ambushed and shot by three male offenders who had broken into the club.

Senior Constable Eaton was killed instantly and **Senior Constable Gill** was seriously wounded. The offenders were later arrested and imprisoned with a large cache of weapons and explosives located.

The community in which he lived and the wider police community rallied around the officer's young family at the time, raising over \$50,000 for the education of his two school aged children, Michael and Sharon.

Officers are quoted at the time fondly recalling a group of school children attending the station with their lunch money

to donate to the Eaton fund.

Over \$6000 was donated across the counter at the police station, including from persons who the deceased officer had previously arrested.

Ultimately about \$24,000 was raised in the Lake Macquarie/Newcastle area at the time, with an additional \$27,000 received from police all over Australia at Police Headquarters in Sydney.

Superintendent Brett Greentree, Commander of Lake Macquarie Local Area Command, says these donations were considered a measure of the fine man Douglas Eaton QPM was.

“Douglas was an exemplary husband, father, community man and police officer, giving of his time to assist anyone in the community who required his assistance, from those he counselled through various problems to the widows and elderly who affectionately referred to him as ‘Mr Fixit’.

“His widow raised her two children to remember the brave man that their dad was, proudly insisting on there being no place for hatred in their home.

“**Michael** is now a **Sergeant** working general duties at Coffs/Clarence Local Area Command”, Superintendent Greentree said.

To add to the tragedy, three days after the death of Senior Constable Eaton, Cessnock officers Senior Constable Alan Thompson and Senior Constable Ray Scorer were killed in a car accident on Tuesday 3 May 1977 returning from their colleague’s funeral.

At 11.30am today (**Sunday 30 April 2017**), **Senior Constable Eaton QPM** was honoured at a dedication service with a memorial plaque commemorating his sacrifice.

The service was attended by Superintendent Greentree, Acting

Deputy Commissioner Field Operations Jeff Loy APM, Police Minister Troy Grant, as well as family and friends of Douglas Eaton QPM.

Police Minister Troy Grant, said it was an honour to attend the service, and pay his respects to his family, which includes **Sergeant Mick Eaton**.

“Senior Constable Douglas Eaton QPM epitomised a community policeman. He was senselessly murdered 40 years ago leaving his young wife, two children and a community devastated,” Mr Grant said.

“Senior Constable Eaton’s legacy of service lives on, as does his example for all police officers who come after him in the Lake Macquarie and Toronto area.

“The **new Toronto Police station**, to be opened in the next few weeks, will appropriately contain a training room dedicated in his memory.”

https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/awa/20170514194503/http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/82368/20170515-0005/www.police.nsw.gov.au/news/media_release_archivedcle.html

September 29 2017 – 4:27PM

National Police Remembrance Day ceremony in Lake Macquarie

▪ **David Stewart**

▪ **September 29 2017 – 4:27PM**

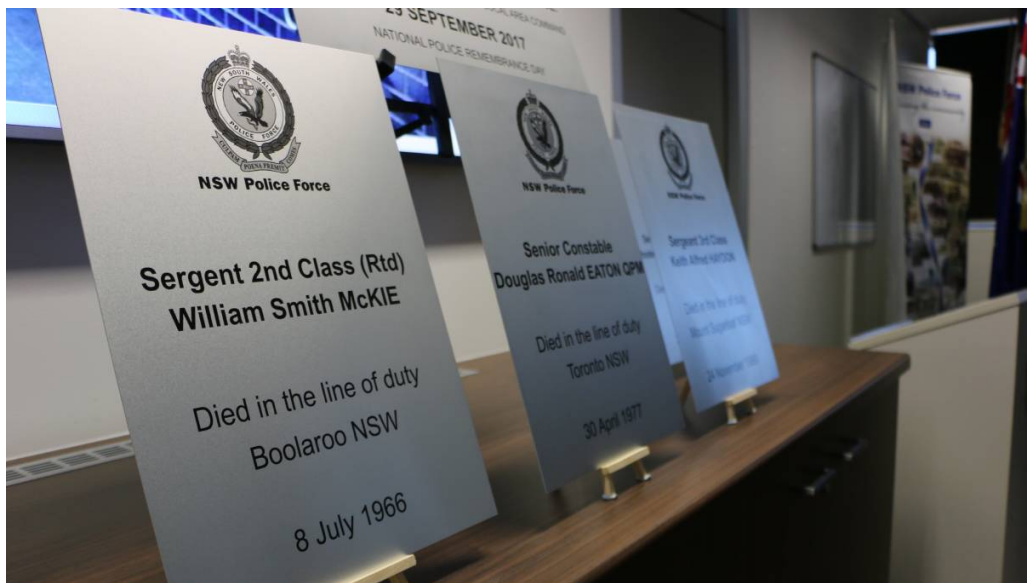
POLICE from Lake Macquarie Local Area Command have unveiled plans for a **memorial wall at Belmont** to honour the **seven local officers killed in the line of duty since 1863**.

Plaques commemorating the seven officers were **dedicated** to the **wall** in a ceremony at **Belmont police station** this afternoon, **National Police Remembrance Day**.











Chief Inspector Murray Lundberg of Lake Macquarie LAC presided over a **private ceremony** attended by police, local high school students, and the **families of the fallen officers**.

“This is a time for reflection on the ultimate sacrifice that police officers can give in the execution of their duty,” **Chief Inspector Lundberg** said.

Police Remembrance Day at Belmont

Post by Police Remembrance Day at Belmont.

The fallen officers honoured were Constable **Henry Rucker** (who died in 1863), Constable **Frederick Martin** (1953), Sergeant 2nd Class **William McKie** (1965), Senior Constable **Douglas Eaton** (1977), Sergeant 3rd Class **Keith Haydon** (1980), Sergeant 1st Class **Rhoderic Lindsay** (1984), and Sergeant 3rd Class **Ross Jennings** (1986).

Acting Assistant Commissioner Brett Greentree, the **Northern Region Commander**, said the wall of remembrance, to be created on the distinctive blue wall at the entrance to the police station, would be striking.

“It will be a sight to treasure,” Acting Assistant Commissioner Greentree said.

“I want the officers, as they are walking out the front doors of this police station, to stop and reflect on the names, stop and reflect on the sacrifice.”

He said he hoped that the inaugural plaques to be installed on the wall were also the last.

“My dream is that we never, ever, add another name to this wall. I hope and pray that our wall is now complete.”

Acting Assistant Commissioner Greentree reached out to the families of the fallen officers.

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“I can only offer you my heartfelt condolences. Please know that your loved ones, who are no longer with us, will always be remembered.”

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DEDICATED BY THE LAKE MACQUARIE LOCAL AREA COMMAND

29 SEPTEMBER 2017

NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY



NSW Police Force

**Senior Constable
Douglas Ronald EATON QPM**

Died in the line of duty
Toronto NSW

30 April 1977



NSW Police Force

**Sergeant 3rd Class
Keith Alfred HAYDON**

Died in the line of duty
Mount Sugarloaf NSW

24 November 1980

Senior Constable Douglas Eaton

The Doug Eaton Room in the Toronto Police Station commemorates Senior Constable Douglas Eaton.

On the evening of Saturday 30 April 1977, Senior Constable Eaton, and Senior Constable Edward Gill, were called to a 'silent' intruder alarm at the Toronto Country Club at Kilaben Bay. Whilst making external checks of the premises, the officers were ambushed and shot by three male offenders who had broken into the club. Senior Constable Eaton was killed instantly and Senior Constable Gill was seriously wounded.

The offenders were later arrested and imprisoned after a large cache of weapons and explosives was located.

Address:	139 Cary Street, Toronto Police Station, Toronto, 2283
State:	NSW
Area:	AUS
GPS Coordinates:	Lat: -33.012433 Long: 151.592924 Note: GPS Coordinates are approximate.

Dedication

Actual Monument Dedication Date:	Thursday 17th August, 2017
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Front Inscription

Doug Eaton Room Plaque : Senior Constable Douglas Ronald Eaton
QPMOn the night of 30 April 1977 **Senior Constable Eaton** and **Senior Constable Edwin Gill** attended a silent intruder alarm at the **Toronto Club Kilaben Bay**. While they were making an external check of the premises both police officers were shot by the offenders who had broken into the club.**Senior Constable Eaton** was killed instantly and **Senior Constable Gill** seriously wounded. Members of the Glesic family were later arrested and

imprisoned and large cache of weapons and explosives recovered. The Constable was born in 1940 and joined the New South Wales Police Force on 17 August 1964. At the time of his death he was stationed at Toronto. He was posthumously awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal the George Lewis Memorial Trophy and the Peter Mitchell Award. This room is dedicated to Senior Constable Douglas Ronald Eaton QPM for the ultimate sacrifice. 17 August 2017

http://monumentaustralia.org.au/australian_monument/display/115260

Senior constable Douglas Eaton

By Greg Piper

Category: Local Legends

Each September we pause to remember and pay tribute to the police men and women who have been killed on duty while serving to protect our local communities. Since the inception of Police Remembrance Day 254 members of the NSW Police Force have died on the front line protecting our values and our way of life. I recently had the privilege of attending a ceremony at **Toronto Country Club** where a plaque was unveiled to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of an event that still holds strong in the memories of many in my community.

Late in the evening of 30 April 1977 **Senior Constable Doug Eaton** and **Senior Constable Edward Gill** were called to a silent intruder alarm at the country club, which is located in a quiet and isolated part of Kilaben Bay. While they were making external checks of the building they were ambushed by three armed men who had broken into the club. Senior Constable Eaton was killed by one of the gunmen and Senior Constable Gill was seriously wounded. The club was an old fibro clubhouse that had been popular with the locals, but its isolated location

had made it a regular target for thieves. On this night 41-year-old Nikola Glesic and his sons Wally and Danny had broken into the clubhouse and were about to leave with a few bottles of scotch, a bottle of wine and a few bags of potato chips when the senior constables arrived. They fired at the officers from behind nearby bushland.

Senior Constable Eaton was just 36 years old when he died, leaving behind his **wife, Judy**, and young children **Sharon** and **Michael**. **Senior Constable Gill** later recovered from serious wounds. What followed was an extraordinary show of community strength, yet more grief was to come. Three days later, in a bitter irony, Cessnock officers **Senior Constable Alan Thompson** and **Senior Constable Ray Scorer** were killed in a car accident while returning to their station after the funeral of their colleague. Senior Constable Eaton was very well known and highly regarded in the area, having lived and served locally for the previous 13 years. The community, shocked and angry, established a memorial appeal for the Eaton children.

Sergeant Joe Hinton, who ran **Toronto police station** at the time, said he had never seen anything like it. He recalled people streaming into the station to donate whatever they could afford to make sure the Eaton children were able to continue with their education. He recalled, "One chap who had been arrested and charged by Senior Constable Eaton weeks prior sent a card to the station expressing his sadness at Doug's death and saying how courteous Doug had been the night he was charged. He also sent a \$50 donation." About \$24,000 was raised in the area, while a further \$27,000 was sent from all over Australia to police headquarters in Sydney. It was an extraordinary gesture.

"He was a special type of fellow, and an outstanding policeman, exemplary husband, father and community man," Sergeant Hinton said. Those qualities live on through his wife, Judy, and through Sharon and Michael. **Michael** is now a **police sergeant** working **general duties** in the Coffs-Clarence

Local Area Command. I have known Judy for many years now. She is a stalwart member of Morisset Lions Club and is involved in many community activities. She is held in very high esteem by those who know her but without a doubt she still carries the scars of that horrible night 40 years ago. I am certain Doug would be very proud of his wife and children.

Senior Constable Eaton was posthumously recognised with a **Queen's Police Medal**. Last month's commemoration included the unveiling of a **plaque at Toronto Country Club** which will forever preserve his memory, as well as his dedication to the local community. The service was organised by local area commander **Superintendent Brett Greentree**, who was joined by the **Acting Deputy Commissioner of Field Operations for the NSW Police Force, Jeff Loy**, and most significantly the **Minister for Police, Troy Grant**, who is in the Chamber this evening. I should also point out that the Minister joined me at Morisset late last year to open a new police station in my electorate. He will be back in the electorate in the coming weeks to officially open the **new station at Toronto**, which **includes a training room that will be named in honour of Senior Constable Doug Eaton**.

The Minister is always welcome in the electorate of Lake Macquarie, and I thank him for his and the Government's interest in providing better facilities and general support for our police in Lake Macquarie. Police work is all too often dangerous, and protecting our community requires a constant vigil. While I acknowledge senior constables Eaton, Gill, Thompson and Scorer today, I also acknowledge all those men and women who serve every day to keep our communities safe.

Local Legends – Senior constable Douglas Eaton

Daniel Hill Remember hearing about this one whilst at the

Academy...in a cruel twist of fate when the offenders were later arrested, a search of one of their wallets revealed a **shooters licence** (which he'd probably used to purchase the gun which killed Constable Eaton & wound the other officer) which **had ironically been issued by Doug Eaton**...(what are the odds).

30 April 2020





NSW Police Force

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TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF
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WHO HAVE MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.**

DEDICATED BY THE LAKE MACQUARIE LOCAL AREA COMMAND

29 SEPTEMBER 2017

NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY



NSW Police Force

**Constable
Henry RUCKER**

Died in the line of duty
Valentine NSW

19 October 1863



NSW Police Force

**Constable
Frederick George MARTIN**

Died in the line of duty
Belmont South NSW

26 November 1953



NSW Police Force

**Sergeant 2nd Class (Rtd)
William Smith McKIE**

Died in the line of duty
Boolaroo NSW

8 July 1966



http://monumentaustalia.org.au/australian_monument/

