

Leah Helene RUDDER

05/04/2023

Where are they now

**First Australian Female Policewoman
to be Awarded the Star of Courage (SC)**

Leah Helene RUDDER SC

AKA Leah RUDDER, Veg

Leah KENNAWAY

Related to: **David John RUDDER**, NSWPF ProCst # **60367**

“possible” relation in ‘the job’: ?

NSW Goulburn Police Academy – **Class # 241**

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 26513

Rank: Commenced Training at Goulburn Police Academy on Monday
24 April 1989 (aged 18 years, 9 months, 9 days)

Probationary Constable- appointed Friday 27 October 1989 (aged 19 years, 3 months, 12 days)

Constable – appointed ? ? ?

Constable 1st Class – appointed ? ? ?

Detective – appointed ? ? ? (NO)

Senior Constable – appointed ? ? ?

Final Rank: = Senior Constable

Stations: Wagga Wagga (SPO), Kings Cross (ProCst)(GDs),

Lower Hunter Command (March 1996 – 23/12/10)(Maitland)(Newcastle Crash Investigation Unit) – Retired HOD 23/12/10.

Service: From 24 April 1989 to 23 December 2010 = 21 years, 1 month, 26 days Service

Retirement / Leaving age: = 40 years, 5 months, 8 days

Time in Retirement from Police: Continuing in Retirement

Awards: National Medal – **granted** ? ? ?

NSW Police Valour Award – **granted** 3 December 2003 (SenCon)

NSW Police Medal with two Clasps (15 years, 20 years) – **granted** ? ? ?

National Police Service Medal – **granted** ? ? ?

Star of Courage Medal (SC)- **granted** 12 March 2007 (SenCon)

Born: 15 July 1970 at Deniliquin, NSW

Memorial / Plaque / Monument located at: Australia's 1st Female Police Officer to be Awarded the Star of Courage (SC).

The only female, having a number of life sized fixed banners, erected on "Heroes Walk" at the NSW Police Academy, Goulburn, NSW

Dedication date of Memorial / Plaque / Monument: Nil – at this time (**April 2023**)

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

I wish Leah and her family all the very best in life.

Cal

Lot 4539 SESSION 18 (2.30PM FRIDAY 31ST MARCH) Orders,
Decorations & Medals – Australian Groups

POLICE BRAVERY GROUP OF FIVE: (listed as mounted)



Star of Courage; National Medal; NSW Police Valour Award; NSW Police Medal, – two clasps – 15 Years, 20 Years; National Police Service Medal.

Leah Helene Rudder on reverse of suspension bar of first medal, **Leah Helene Rudder** on all other medals except the third

medal which has **Senior Constable Leah Helene Rudder**.

All medals pantographed.

The first two and the second two medals court mounted as pairs, the last medal with pin-back suspender bar. *Nearly uncirculated.*

Together with booklet for Investiture at Government House and with Entry Card to Admit **Senior Constable LH Rudder**; booklet **Attestation Parade**, Constable Education Program, at which **Senior Constable Rudder** was presented with **Commissioner's Valour Award**; letters of congratulations from important officials; various articles, newspaper clippings, posters and a host of other documents and photos relating to the courage and police service of **Senior Constable Leah Rudder**.

Star of Courage: Awarded by the **Governor-General Michael Jeffery** and presented at **Government House, Canberra 12 March 2007**.

Citation: In the early morning of **10 April 2003**, Senior Constable **Rudder rescued** an unconscious man from a burning house at **Tarro, New South Wales**.

At around midnight, Senior Constable Rudder was driving into her driveway after work when she heard breaking glass and yelling coming from a neighbouring house. She drove to investigate and found a female using a garden hose through a window of a house that was on fire. The woman informed Senior Constable Rudder that she had called emergency services. The fire had engulfed the front section of the house. Senior Constable Rudder looked through a partially broken window to determine whether the occupant of the house was still inside.

Visibility was poor, so she used a steel bucket she found at the rear of the house to break more of the window. She was still unable to see inside and the window was too high for her to gain access, so she returned to the rear of the house and

tried the back door. It was locked so she kicked the wooden door repeatedly until she had made a hole to crawl through. She was unable to gain access, however, due to intense heat and smoke. She returned to her vehicle, called for assistance and grabbed a torch. Senior Constable Rudder used the torch to smash a window and look inside for any occupants. She saw a man lying on the floor, wedged between the foot of a bed and the wall. She returned to her car to advise colleagues who had now arrived, that she was going inside to rescue the man. One of her colleagues went with her and they both entered the house through the hole in the rear door. They tried to drag the man from the house but he remained wedged and they were forced to retreat when they were overcome by the intense heat and thick smoke.

After getting some fresh air, they re-entered the house and, despite the fire gaining in intensity, returned to the bedroom. As they dragged the man to the door of the bedroom, the walls and ceiling began to collapse and both officers were showered with sparks and debris. The man became jammed in the doorway, and while Senior Constable Rudder tried to free him, her colleague was forced to retreat due to smoke inhalation. Senior Constable Rudder continued to pull the unconscious man by his feet down the hallway.

A colleague then assisted her in removing the man from the burning house to safety. By her actions, Senior Constable Rudder displayed conspicuous bravery.

NSW Police Commissioner's Valour Award: Conferred upon Senior Constable Leah Helene Rudder **3 December 2003** by K.E.Moroney, Commissioner of Police.

Citation: In recognition of the extreme bravery and meritorious service displayed when undertaking the successful rescue of a person from a house fire at Tarro on 11 April 2003.

Senior Constable Rudder became aware of a residence which was well alight and ascertained that a person was inside. Access was gained by crawling through a hole in a door made whilst gaining entry to the building. The occupant was located unconscious and wedged between the wall and furniture. Unable to release the person, she exited the premises to call for additional support.

On the arrival of assistance a further attempt to release the occupant was undertaken. However, due to smoke inhalation and the intense heat both officers left the premises.

Undeterred and facing intense heat, acrid smoke and falling debris, Senior Constable Rudder re-entered the premises unaccompanied. On that occasion she was able to free the person and began pushing the occupant along the floor.

Although this situation presented a real threat to Senior Constable Rudder's life, she maintained her resolve and was eventually able to complete a successful rescue with the assistance of other personnel.

By her actions Senior Constable Rudder displayed courage, professionalism and responsibility to the community in an extremely dangerous situation. She is highly commended for her valour under extreme duress.

Leah Helene Kennaway, born **15 July 1970** at **Deniliquin**, NSW and then moved to **Goulburn** where her father worked as Valuer General and here she attended **Goulburn High School**; moved to **Wagga Wagga** when her father was appointed Regional Valuer General and attended **Koorinal High School** there until completing her Higher School Certificate; joined **NSW Police Force on 24 April 1989** as a **Student Police Officer**, this was the first class conducted under the new **PREP** (Pole Recruit Education Program), a 6-month training course that included a placement period at Wagga Wagga Police Station;

attested to rank of Probationary Constable 24 Oct 1989 and

stationed at Kings Cross Police Station where she performed General Duties Police, both mobile and beat patrol;

confirmed as a Constable Oct1990; for next 5 years at Kings Cross Patrol she performed secondments with various roles and duties within Sydney Charge Room and Cell Complex, Prisoner Transport Unit, Riot Squad and Sexual Assault Unit;

one of only a few female officers to train with the newly formed Riot Squad and highly sought-after IROC (Initial Response Officer's Course) selected and specifically trained to take sexual assault statements from victims;

appointed Constable First Class in 1995;

married on 07 Jan 1995 to police officer **David John Rudder**;

twin boy and girl born prematurely at Paddington, Sydney NSW on 30 Aug 1995;

Senior Constables David and Leah Rudder transferred to **Lower Hunter Command** in Mar 1996,

David stationed at **Cessnock Police Station** and

Leah at Maitland Police Station where she performed duties General Duties, Domestic Violence, Warrant and Summons, Sexual Assault and as a Police Negotiator; she had another son born in 1998 and continued to work in a **part-time capacity** at **Maitland Police Station** as a **Domestic Violence Liaison Officer** for the Lower Hunter Command encompassing **17 police stations** and also continued working as an IROC Officer, Police Negotiator and later as an Investigator at **Newcastle Crash Investigator Unit**;

Senior Constable Leah Rudder was **medically discharged** from the NSW Police Force with both **physical and psychological injuries** on **23 December 2010** after a 22-year career.

Senior Constable Leah Rudder was the **first female police**

officer in Australia to be awarded the **Star of Courage**. She was also given the honour of being the only female of a number of life size fixed banners erected on '**Heroes Walk**' at the NSW Police Academy and she appears in **The Who's Who of Australia 2008** and the **Valour Roll** at the NSW Police Academy.

Estimate / sale price does not include buyer's premium (currently 22% including GST) which is added to hammer price.

All bids are executed on the understanding that the Terms & Conditions of sale have been read and accepted. For information on grading and estimates please refer to the Buying at Auction advice.

Estimated value: **\$20,000**

Bid at live.noble.com.au

SOLD for \$23,500

<https://www.noble.com.au/auctions/lot/?id=462035>

This was published 16 years ago

Single-minded hero recognised

March 12, 2007 – 11.04am

A policewoman's single-minded determination to save an unconscious man from his burning NSW home has been recognised with one of Australia's highest-ranked bravery awards.

Senior Constable Leah Rudder is one of two heroes announced Monday as being awarded with the Australian Bravery Decorations' Star of Courage medal.

The other brave Australian to receive the star is South Australian truck driver Daryl Smith who rescued a man from a burning car after an accident in 2002.

The star is awarded for non-military acts of conspicuous courage in circumstances of great peril where people put themselves in jeopardy to protect the lives or property of others.

Hours after dragging 42-year-old Charlton Redding away from the flames and smoke engulfing his home at Tarro, near Maitland, in 2003, Sen Const Rudder said: "I had one thing in mind – to get him out alive".

The officer, who had served 14 years with the force and was aged 32 at the time of the rescue, had finished a 15 hour shift about midnight on April 11, 2003, when she pulled up in the driveway of her home.

She heard explosions, breaking glass and yelling coming from her neighbours' yard and quickly realised Mr Redding's house was on fire.

The mother of three called for back-up and discovered Mr Redding was still alive, but unconscious and wedged between a bed and a wall.

After about 20 kicks she managed to smash through the back door and was joined at that stage by **Senior Constable Jules Moylan**, 35.

However, heavy smoke and heat forced the officers to retreat a short time later.

They regrouped and forged into the home a second time as fire started to rip through walls and the ceiling began to collapse.

They managed to get Mr Redding to the hallway near the back door before again being forced back.

Const Moylan was so badly affected by smoke he could not go back again. It was then that Const Rudder fully realised she was risking her life.

"It was a hard choice – I was very tempted at one stage to just let him go, I'd tried ... but I'm a very determined person," she said on the day of the rescue.

"But we knew he was still alive, we were so close to getting him out, we had minutes left."

Sen Const Rudder is still in the force, working with a domestic violence unit in the NSW Hunter Valley.

Since 1975, and including Monday's awards, there have been 129 stars awarded. The highest award in the scheme is the Cross of Valour.

Hunter police recognised for house fire rescue

Posted **Mon 12 Mar 2007** at 8:27am

Three Hunter Valley police officers have been recognised for their bravery, after they helped rescue a man from a burning house near Maitland four years ago.

Senior constables Leah Rudder, Jules Moylan and Gregory Payne helped save the unconscious man in the early hours of April 10, 2003.

Senior Constable Rudder, who was returning home from work, came across the burning building at Tarro and spotted the man lying on the bedroom floor.

She and **Senior Constable Moylan** had to make several attempts to save him, after being overcome by intense heat and thick smoke.

At one stage, the walls and ceiling started to collapse – **Senior Constable Gregory Payne** then came to assist.

Senior constables Rudder and Moylan have received the **Star of Courage**, while **Senior Constable Payne** has been recognised with a **Commendation for Brave Conduct**.

Posted 12 Mar 2007

Hunter police recognised for house fire rescue – ABC News



Former NSW Police Senior Constable Leah Rudder was awarded Star of Courage in 2003



By Conor Burke
March 31 2023 - 6:33am



Former NSW Police Senior Constable Leah Rudder was awarded the Star of Courage back in 2003 - the first female officer to receive the honour - for an outrageous act of bravery. Picture supplied

A decorated Riverina police officer who was the first to be awarded one of the state's top bravery awards has made the "painful decision" to put their medals up for auction this week.

Former NSW Police Senior Constable Leah Rudder was awarded the Star of Courage bravery decoration back in 2003 - the first female officer to receive the honour.

The Star of Courage
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The Deniliquin-born, Goulburn and Wagga raised, officer was
recognised after she risked her life in a house fire, fighting through
the blaze and braving a collapsing house to save the life of its
occupant.

"On the night, she just acted on instinct," said Leah's husband
David Rudder. "And she saved that guy's life and she gave him 20
more years of life."

Mrs Rudder left the police 11 years ago and hasn't worked since due

Ad

make the tough decision to sell her precious medals

"She hasn't worked full time since then ... and then she had some
money invested in a business in Sydney but as a result of COVID that

"This has been a really painful and difficult decision for her," he said.

Mrs Rudder's 22-year career saw her stationed in Sydney and regional NSW, including the Lower Hunter Valley.

The "country girl" joined the police as an 18-year-old and after a stint in Wagga was posted to Kings Cross in her first full posting in 1989.

"She always wanted to be a police officer," Mr Rudder said.

"Her first station was Kings Cross, she loved it there .. it was a very tough station at the time, it was a different police force back then."

Next month will be the 20th anniversary of her feat of bravery and she still meets up with the man she saved every Christmas. Her medals will be auctioned on March 31 as part of a set of five medals she was awarded with bids to start at \$20,000.

<https://www.dailyadvertiser.com.au/story/8142403/decorated-riverina-cop-to-auction-star-of-courage-bravery-medal/>

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

Cal

5 April 2023

Kenneth Frederick GILMOUR

05/04/2023

WHERE ARE THEY NOW ?

Kenneth Frederick GILMOUR BEM

AKA ?

Late of ?

NSW Police Training Centre – Redfern / Police Training
College – Penrith Class # ? ? ?

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # ????

Rank: Commenced Training at ? Academy on ? ? ?

Probationary Constable- appointed ? ? ?

Constable – appointed ? ? ?

Detective – appointed ? ? ? (YES)

Constable 1st Class – appointed ? ? ?

promoted to Detective Sgt

~~Senior Constable~~ — appointed ~~???~~ (NO)

Sergeant 3rd Class – appointed ???

Sergeant 2nd Class – appointed ???

Sergeant 1st Class – appointed ???

Inspector – appointed ???

Chief Inspector – appointed ???

Superintendent – appointed ???

Chief Superintendent – appointed ???

Final Rank = ?

Stations: ?, Darlinghurst Police Station,

Service: From ??? to ??? = ? years Service

Awards: The Order of the **British Empire Medal** (Civil) /
British Empire Medal (Civil) (Imperial) – **BEM** – – **granted** 4
February 1958 – (Det Sgt 3/c) In recognition for
apprehending an armed man

No other Mentions on the Australian Honours system – Although:

was awarded the **George Lewis Trophy** for **1957** (a trophy
presented each year by a Sydney business for the most
courageous act by a member of the NSW Police Force) and

the **Peter Mitchell Trust Award** for ‘ Most courageous act ‘.

Born: ? ? ?

Memorial / Plaque / Monument located at: ?

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



INSCRIPTION:

MEDAL PINNED ON HERO

Daily Mirror, Tuesday June 3, 1958 page 19

Hero of the Spittiri shootings last year, DetSgt

Kenneth Frederick GILMOUR, received the **British Empire Medal** for his bravery from the State Governor (**Sir Eric Woodward**) at Government House today.

On May 24, 1957, Et. Sgt Gilmour went to a house in Darlinghurst where **Spittiri** had killed a man, shotgun blasted a woman and attempted to fire the premises.

DetSgt Gilmour saw the man at the top of a narrow flight of stairs with a shotgun, yet he climbed towards the man who then fired the gun at him.

Gilmour suffered a shocking injury to his right arm. He is permanently disabled. Gunman Spittiri died from a bullet from Gilmour's automatic.

Two other policemen, Const's **Neville William BEALE** (# 6924) and **Ronald Joseph TURNER** (# **????** – Not in the 1968 Stud Book) were also decorated for bravery at the ceremony.

FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED ABOUT THIS PERSON, THEIR LIFE & THEIR CAREER .

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

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

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

Australian Police YouTube Channel

Kenneth Frederick GILMOUR, Detective Sergeant, Third Class, New South Wales Police Force.

A telephone message was received at the **Darlinghurst Police Station** that a man, armed with a shotgun, had killed another and seriously wounded a woman and then attempted to set fire to some premises.

Detective Sergeant Gilmour, accompanied by two other policemen, arrived at the premises shortly afterwards and went to the basement at the rear.

A steep and narrow stairway led to the ground floor where a person could be heard moving about.

Gilmour, who was armed with his Service weapon, ascended to near the top stair and leaned forward to look around a partition. He saw the man standing in a doorway across the hall pointing a shotgun at him.

Gilmour called out that he was a Policeman and directed him to drop the gun.

The man stepped towards him and in a position above and slightly to the left of the **Detective Sergeant** aimed his weapon directly at him.

Both discharged their weapons at the same time and the **Detective Sergeant** was seriously wounded in the right arm.

The gunman was fatally wounded.

Detective Sergeant Gilmour displayed out-standing courage in ascending the narrow and steep stairway, being fully aware that an armed and desperate man was awaiting his approach and

that he would be fired upon when he would be at a considerable disadvantage.

<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/41302/supplement/780/data.pdf>



Detective Constable Kenneth GILMOUR

<https://atwonline.com.au/image/atw097>

Three detectives (wearing fedoras) are photographed on **24 May 1957** outside a residence in **Burton St, Darlinghurst** in Sydney's inner east. The seated man is **Detective Constable Kenneth Gilmour**, who had been shot in the arm after entering the home; the police were responding to reports of a gun being fired. Gilmour was later awarded a medal for bravery. "possibly" **Det. D.W. 'Bill' NEWALL** standing on the right of frame.

The man sitting on the edge of the gutter, injured and bloodied, is **Detective Constable 1st Class K F Gilmour** from **Darlinghurst Police Station**, soon to be promoted to **Detective Sergeant**.

It was the morning of 'cracker night', **24 May 1957** and **Gilmour** was later awarded the **British Empire Medal** in recognition of his bravery on that day.

A man named **Charles Spiteri** had shot two people, killing a man and wounding a woman.

Detective Constable **Gilmour** 'went to the premises with other police; he climbed the stairs to the room in which **Spiteri** was sheltering and saw **Spiteri** standing in a doorway pointing a shotgun at him.

He called to **Spiteri** that he was a policeman and told him to drop the gun.

Spiteri then aimed his gun at **Gilmour** and fired, **Gilmour** firing simultaneously with his service pistol.

Gilmour was seriously wounded in the right arm and had to retire, and it was subsequently found that **Spiteri** had been killed by the bullet from **Gilmour's** pistol'.

The **NSW Police Department annual report** for **1957** declared that *'in going up the stairs to the room after Spiteri, knowing that he was armed and had already shot one person, Detective Sergeant Gilmour displayed courage of a very high order.'*

(Report of the Police Department of New South Wales for 1957, Sydney, Acting Government Printing Office, 1958 p.18).

Gilmour also received **two other awards** for bravery:

the **George Lewis Trophy** for **1957** (a trophy presented each year by a Sydney business for the most courageous act by a member of the New South Wales Police Force);

and the **Peter Mitchell Trust Award** for 'Most courageous act'.

The injury to Gilmour's arm resulted in a **permanent disability**.

Caroline Simpson Library & Research Collection | Sydney Living
Museums – Full Record

Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 – 1995),

Tuesday 4 February 1958, page 7

Decoration For Police Gun Battle Hero

SYDNEY, Monday.

The **Queen** has awarded the **British Empire Medal** to **Detective Sergeant Kenneth' Frederick Gilmour**, hero of the gun battle between police and crazed migrant, **Charles Spiteri**, last May.

Gilmour's right arm was permanently disabled by one of **Spiteri's** shots.

The Governor, . **Lt.-Gen. Sir Eric Woodward**, has been advised that the award was made for **civil gallantry**.

The citation stated that police were called to a residential in **Burton Street, Darlinghurst**, on May 24 last year.

Det. Gilmour, followed by two other police, ascended steps at the rear, of the building.

He saw **Spiteri**, armed with a **shotgun**, standing in the doorway, and both fired at once.

Spiteri was fatally wounded and **Det. Gilmour's** right arm was shattered.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/91256892>

August 1986: Former Liverpool Police Officer – Detective Chief Inspector D.W.(Bill) Newall, retires from the New South Wales Police Force, aged 60, after 35 years of dedicated service to the community of NSW.

During his Police career he received three Commendations – i) Highly commended for his courage and devotion to duty displayed at Darlinghurst in 1957, on the occasion of the wounding of **Detective Constable 1/c. K. F. Gilmour** by a well-known criminal.

Detective Gilmour was seriously wounded in the right arm, which caused him to retire. The offender had been killed by

Detective Gilmour discharging his service pistol.

Earlier that day the offender had shot dead a male person and wounded a woman.

Cited: Liverpool (NSW) Police Time Line (1788 – 2016)
P324

July 2011: Former Liverpool Police Officer – **John (Jack) Ryder** passed away aged 79. He had been retired for some years.

During his Police career in 1953, he was presented with a Queen's Commendation by His Excellency the Governor of NSW on the 21.5.1954 for 'Brave Conduct' when grappling with an offender armed with a knife at Yennora in February, 1953.

In 1957, he was 'Highly Commended' for the courage and devotion to duty displayed at Darlinghurst in May, 1957, on the occasion of the wounding of **Detective Constable 1/c. K. F. Gilmour** by an offender who had previously murdered **John Brooks** and wounded **Ruby Brooks**.

In 1959, he was commended for powers of observation and good policing displayed on four occasions between April, 1958 and January, 1959, including one occasion when he was off duty, in the detection of stolen motor vehicles, resulting in the arrest and subsequent conviction of the offenders concerned.

Signed C. J. Delayney.
Commissioner of Police.

In 1966, he was commended for the role he played in the apprehension at Concord in January, 1966, of two notorious armed and desperate criminals, who had escaped from Pentridge

Gaol Victoria, in December, 1965.

Both criminals were subsequently extradited to Victoria and charged with murder and escaping from lawful custody.

Signed N. T. W. Allen.

Commissioner of Police.

He was also a member of the Police Emergency Squad. EXAMS. In 1957, he was awarded the Peter Mitchell Award for obtaining the highest marks in the Constable 1/c. examinations. In 1964, he obtained the second highest marks in the Sergeant 3/c. examinations. In 1980, he obtained the second highest marks in the examinations for the rank of Inspector.

Police Service Card State Archives Werrington.

Cited: Liverpool (NSW) Police Time Line (1788 – 2016)

P420
