

# Stephen John BALLARD

04/11/2013

## Stephen John BALLARD

AKA ?

Late of ?

“possible” relation in ‘the job’: ?

NSW Police Training Centre – Redfern – Class # 137

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 16127

Rank: Commenced Training at Redfern Police Academy on Monday ?  
November 1973

Probationary Constable- appointed 17 December 1973 ( aged 19  
years, 6 months, 5 days )

Constable – appointed 17 December 1974

Constable 1st Class – appointed ? ? ?

Detective – appointed ? ? ? ( YES )

Senior Constable – appointed 28 August 1983

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

Sergeant 3rd Class – appointed ? ? ?

Sergeant 2nd Class – appointed ? ? ?

Sergeant 1st Class – appointed ? ? ?

**Final Rank:** = Detective Sergeant

**Stations:** ?, Manly ( 14 Division )( 1974 ), ?, Goulburn  
Police Station ( 1989 – 1994 ), New South Wales Police Academy  
( 1994 – 1998 )

**Service:** From ? November 1973 to 29 October 1998 = 24+  
years Service

**Retirement / Leaving age:** = ?

**Time in Retirement from Police:** ?

**Awards:** No Find on Australian Honours system

**Born:** Saturday 12 June 1954

**Died on:** Thursday 29 October 1998

**Age:** 44 years, 4 months, 17 days

Organ Donor: Y / N / ?

Cause: Cancer of the Liver ( Type = ? )

Event location: ?

Event date: ?

Funeral date: ? ? ?

Funeral location: ?

Funeral Parlour: ?

Buried at: ?

Memorial / Plaque / Monument located at: ?

Dedication date of Memorial / Plaque / Monument: Nil – at this  
time ( November 2013 )

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

---

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

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

---

**May they forever Rest In Peace**

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

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

**Australian Police YouTube Channel**

---



SenCon Steve BALLARD

Requiem Mass  
to  
Celebrate the Life  
of

STEPHEN JOHN BALLARD

12th June, 1954 - 29th October, 1998



The Life of one we love is never lost...  
Its influence goes on through all the lives  
it ever touched.

SenCon Steve BALLARD – Funeral service booklet  
– front page only

Photograph of Constable First Class Course No.12. It includes the following two former Liverpool Police Officers – **Constable 1/c. Ken Topham; and Stephen Kozicki.**



New South Wales Police Academy  
Constable First Class Course No. 12 – Class. B.  
2 August, 1982 to 27 August, 1982.

BACK ROW : Greg Newham; Des Lakin; Stephen Mills; Callum Currie; Mario Zanatto; John Marine; Murray Baker; Phil Bell.

MIDDLE ROW: Lionel Smith; Allan Green; **Ken Topham**; Stephen Gibson; Helmut Myers; **Steve Kozicki**; Peter Hartney; George Heath.

FRONT ROW: Terry Buxton; Norm Place; Deryck Martin; Sergeant 2/c M.R. Tumeth (Instructor); Sergeant 1/c **K. Johnson** (Director); Sergeant 3/c **John. A. Graham**

## **Constable 1/c Course # 12 – Class B – 2 August – 27 August 1982**

### **Back Row ( L – R )**

Greg **NEWHAM** # 16389, Des **LAKIN** # **?????**, Stephen **MILLS** # 16198, Callum **CURRIE** # 15990, Mario **ZANATTA** # 16464, John **MARINE** # 16445, Murray **BAKER** # 16443, Phil **BELL** # 16155

### **Middle Row**

Lionel **SMITH** # 16446, Allan **GREEN** # 16481, Ken **TOPHAM** # 16422 ( Liverpool ), Stephen **GIBSON** # 16532 ( Liverpool ), Helmut **MYERS** # 16359, Steve **KOZICKI** # 16573 ( Liverpool ), Peter **HARTNEY** # 16536, George **HEATH** # 16426

### **Front Row**

Terry **BUXTON** # 16111 ( Warilla HWP ), Norm **PLACE** # 16556, Deryck **MARTIN** # 16594, Sgt 2/c M.R. **TUMETH** # 9118 ( Instructor ), Sgt 1/c Kevin **JOHNSON** ( Director ), Sgt 3/c John Alexander **GRAHAM** # 9970 ( Instructor ), Stephen

**BALLARD** # 16127, Sue-Ann **BYTHEWAY** # P/W 0207 ( Liverpool ).  
Absent: Stephen **BUTLER** # 16570, William **LARDNER** # 16465 ( Liverpool )

Detective Sergeant Steve BALLARD attested on 17 February 1973 with the New South Wales Police Force and served in various locations across the state, including Manly ( 14 Division ) in 1974.

Towards the end of his service, he served at the Goulburn Police Station ( 1989 – 1994 ) and the New South Wales Police Academy ( 1994 – 1998 )

Steve was a very popular and respected police officer whose friendship and good humour will be greatly missed by his family and his many friends.

---

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  
4 November 2013

---

---

# Beverly Ann LAWSON

04/11/2013

**Beverly Ann LAWSON APM**

aka Bev

**New South Wales Police Force**

**Redfern Police Academy Class # 099**

**Regd. # P/W 0061**

**Rank:** Commenced Training at Redfern Police Academy on Monday ?  
? ? ( aged ? )

Probationary Constable – appointed 11 May 1964 ( aged 23  
years, 6 months, 27 days )

Detective – appointed ? ? ? ( Yes )

Senior Constable – appointed 11 May 1973

Sergeant – Licencing Police ( Wollongong ) – 1986 ( the 1st  
female Licencing Sgt in NSWPF )

Senior Sergeant – appointed 5 July 1987 ( Engadine – 1st  
female Patrol Commander in NSWPF )

Chief Inspector – appointed 21 December 1988 – ( Wollongong –  
1st female Patrol Commander )

Superintendent – appointed 1990

Chief Superintendent – ( Cumberland District Commander ) –  
1993

Deputy Commissioner – Field Operations

**Stations:** ?, Wollongong – 82 Division, Sutherland – 24  
Division, Engadine as Patrol Commander ( 1980's ),  
Commissioners Office

**Service:** From ?pre May 1964 to 22 January 1998 = 33+ years  
Service

**Awards:** National Medal – granted 20 January 1981  
1st Clasp to National Medal – granted 27 November 1990  
2nd Clasp to National Medal – granted 7 October 1991  
Australian Police Medal ( APM ) – granted 14 June 1993

**Born:** Monday 14 October 1940

**Died on:** Thursday 22 January 1998

**Cause:** Illness – Stroke

**Age:** 57 years, 3 months, 8 days

Funeral date: Wednesday 28 January 1998 – Figtree

Funeral location: Church, O'Briens Rd, Figtree, NSW

Buried at: Kanahooka Lawn Cemetery, Eastern side before office, several rows from roadway

Memorials: Bev Lawson Trailblazer's Award – National Women in Policing

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

Bev Lawson suffered from a stroke in her Tarrawanna (Wollongong) home on **21** January 1998 as she prepared to attend the funeral of a retired Police woman, **Ruth Styles**, at a country centre.

Ruth Styles was an Inspector having previously been stationed at Warilla NSW.

Bev Lawson was transported to Wollongong Hospital and died at 10.20am on the 22 January, 1998 in Intensive Care.

Her funeral was held at Figtree on the 28 January, 1998.

Bev was aged 58 at the time of her death.

Because Bev, and other females of her time, were only " Sworn In " as " Special Constable " – I am not sure where Bev exactly sat in relation to " Seniority " within her Academy Class. Her other classmates ( Males ) who were " Sworn In " as Probationary Constables, had the Registered numbers 10985

to 11085 ( *roughly* ).

Under the current Registered number system, Bev would have slotted into a number somewhere within that range.





## Deputy Commissioner collapses at Tarrawanna home

# Bev Lawson close to death

By NALITA FERRAZ

Deputy Police Commissioner Bev Lawson was close to death in Wollongong Hospital last night after suffering a massive stroke at her Tarrawanna home.

Ms Lawson was on a life support system in the hospital's intensive care unit.

Her family and friends had gathered around her bedside.

Doctors said her condition was extremely critical.

The 57-year-old, who often served as the acting head of the NSW Police Service in Commissioner Peter Ryan's absence, was found unconscious by her father about 8am yesterday in the home she shares with her elderly parents.

The state's highest ranking female officer was rushed to Wollongong Hospital by ambulance.

Ms Lawson had been due to travel to Dubbo for the funeral of close friend and former Wollongong colleague Ruth Styles who died this week after a long battle with cancer.

In a statement, Commissioner Peter Ryan revealed Ms Lawson had been off work for several days.

"Ms Lawson had been feeling unwell and was awaiting the results of medical tests prior to her collapse," he said.

But Mr Ryan said Ms Lawson had not experienced an undue amount of stress recently.

Police sources confirmed Ms Lawson had suffered a massive stroke but said it was not known how long she had been unconscious

in her home before being found.

Ms Lawson's distraught elderly parents and older brother remained at her bedside throughout the day.

Deputy Commissioner Jeff Jarrett and Assistant Commissioner Christine Nixon arrived at the hospital in the afternoon to lend their support to Ms Lawson and her family.

They were joined by senior Illawarra police including Lake Illawarra Local Area Command boss Superintendent Bruce Newling and Wollongong's crime manager Detective Inspector Bob Cockledge.

Mr Ryan was unable to visit Ms Lawson and her family yesterday but a police spokeswoman said he might

make the trip to Wollongong today.

Mr Ryan extended his support to Ms Lawson and her family.

"Ms Lawson is seriously ill and undergoing further tests," he said.

"Everybody's thoughts are with Bev and her family and we wish her a complete and rapid recovery."

A police source said Ms Lawson's illness had rocked the entire NSW police force.

"Everyone was shocked by the news. She is definitely in everyone's thoughts."

Illawarra police officers were told officially of Ms Lawson's illness in a memo broadcast over the police radio shortly after midday.

A radio operator announced to officers that Ms Lawson was in Wollongong Hospital seriously ill, possibly with a heart condition.

Ms Lawson recently had attended the farewell of former Wollongong colleague Chief Inspector Dick Brook.

CONTINUED PAGE 3



Deputy Police Commissioner Bev Lawson ... now seriously ill in Wollongong Hospital.



## Commissioner close to tears



Distressed NSW Police Commissioner Peter Ryan leaves Wollongong Hospital after the death of his deputy Bev Lawson (right).



# Bev's death shocks city

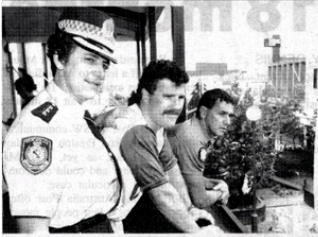
By NALITA FERRAZ  
NSW Police Commissioner Peter Ryan was close to tears yesterday as Wollongong mourned the death of Bev Lawson.  
Ms Lawson, 57, died in Wollongong Hospital moments after her family made the heart-wrenching decision to switch off her life support system.  
The deputy commissioner died at 10.20am, surrounded by family and friends.  
Senior police officers including Wollongong crime manager Detective Inspector Bob Cocksedge and Lake Illawarra Local Area Commander Superintendent Bruce Newling joined Inspector David Ainsworth in comforting Ms Lawson's family at the hospital.

Almost immediately after her death, tributes began pouring in for the woman once described as a "true daughter" of Wollongong.  
Born in 1940, Ms Lawson was raised in the Illawarra and remained in the region, even after becoming Mr Ryan's right hand.  
Mr Ryan emerged visibly shaken from the hospital, pacing outside the building with his head bowed and hands clasped behind his back.  
Before leaving the hospital, Mr Ryan - choking back tears - described Ms Lawson as a good friend and colleague who would be sorely missed.  
"She was more than a deputy to me, she was a great friend (and) a shining example to all police," Mr Ryan said.

CONTINUED PAGE 3

PICTORIAL - PAGES 6, 7

# THE LIFE AND TIMES OF BEV LAWSON: 1940-1998



A daughter of Wollongong ... (clockwise from above) Bev Lawson discussing city mail safety with restaurateur Michael Bolt and security guard Rex Griffiths in 1988; with close friend Ruth Styles who died earlier this week; with Wollongong University deputy vice-chancellor Peter Robinson, vice-chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton and Police Commissioner Peter Ryan at her graduation last year; farewelling Chief Inspector Dick Brook (right) when he retired earlier this month; In 1989 when she became the only woman divisional chief inspector in NSW; in 1986 as the first female divisional licensing sergeant in the state; and returning to her old school in 1993 to present Tarrawanna Primary students Alison Sinnott and Jonathon Baird with their president badges.



# the weekender

MERCURY P2 SAT 24-1-98

## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

What made news this week:

### ILLAWARRA/SOUTH COAST



**Lawson death:** Tributes flowed as the death of Deputy Police Commissioner Bev Lawson shocked the Illawarra and the NSW Police Service. Ms Lawson, 57, collapsed at her Tarrawanna home on Wednesday with a stroke, and died on Thursday.

*Funeral Service*  
*for*  
***Beverley Ann Lawson***

*Deputy Commissioner Field Operations*  
*New South Wales Police Service*



*14.10.40 to 22.1.98*

*Figtree Churches of Christ*



Five motorcycle police officers escort Deputy Police Commissioner Bev Lawson's funeral cortege from Wollongong Church of Christ yesterday.

Picture: ROBERT PEET



BEV LAWSON  
1940 - 1998

MERCURY P: 6 SAT 1-8-1998

# Police officers having a ball

## Tribute to Bev Lawson

Police Commissioner Peter Ryan and his wife Adrienne joined Vera and Joe Lawson as guests of honour at last night's Illawarra Police Charity Ball.

The 13th annual event was held in memory of former Deputy Commissioner Bev Lawson who died earlier this year after suffering a massive stroke.

Once Wollongong's most senior police officer and the State's highest-ranking female officer, Ms Lawson was one of the founding members of the charity event.

Since its inception the event has raised more than \$140,000 for charity.

Last night's gala event was held at Fairy Meadow Fraternity Club where 400 people remembered and praised Ms Lawson's work.

Her parents were invited to the ball as special guests by close friend and committee chairman David Ainsworth.

PICTURE: Police Commissioner Peter Ryan with his wife Adrienne and Vera and Joe Lawson, parents of the late Bev Lawson, at last night's ball.

Picture: DAVID TEASE



# A look back at 33 years of the Illawarra Police Charity Ball – in photos

It all started when a cop stopped to ponder the difficulties facing cancer patients forced to travel to Sydney for treatment, writes Cydonee Mardon.

Wollongong was home to one of the most influential police women of our time.



Bob Burrage, Susie Elleman, Bev Lawson, Shelley Fort & Darren Kelly

Bev Lawson was the first female superintendent, the first female chief superintendent, first district commander and in 1996 she became the first female deputy commissioner of NSW.



Deputy Commissioner Bev Lawson in 1998.

Not only did she pave the way for women in policing, but she gave birth to a tradition that has raised thousands of dollars and helped thousands of people across the Illawarra.

In 1985, Sergeant Lawson, of the Wollongong patrol, wanted to find a way to bring police and the community together in a social setting.

But her main purpose was to help people in need.



Money raised from the 2011 police charity ball went to Motor Neurone Disease Services at Port Kembla Hospital. Motor Neurone sufferers Cathy Buzak, and Paul Nixon with Superintendent Wayne Starling got to experiment with iPads to communicate.

A survivor of breast cancer, then Sgt Lawson was all too familiar with the struggles that people in the region had accessing treatment in Sydney.

The emotional and physical burden of distance was something that concerned her.

So she set about organising a charity ball to raise funds that could help patients get to Sydney.

The first charity ball became a reality on Friday, August 1, 1986 at The Fraternity Club in Fairy Meadow.

There were 200 guests.

Raffle prizes included a \$1000 travel voucher from Ansett, a microwave oven and \$200 worth of house paint.

*We are really proud of the amount of money we have raised as a community and the help we've been given to so many important services in the Illawarra.*

Money raised was donated to Bulli Hospital's palliative care ward and the Wollongong Cancer Awareness Support Group.

Both causes were close to Bev's heart. She had been in remission for nearly five years.



In 2012, Assistant Commissioner Michael Fuller, Deputy Commissioner Catherine Burn, Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione and Superintendent Wayne Starling.

"When we were considering these options, I thought about people having to travel to Sydney daily for their treatment," she said at the time.

**Read more:** 'No area of policing women can't do': Anne evens the playing field

“I really don’t know how some of them get up there, or more specifically how they cope.”

□The ball then became a vehicle to reach out to the community – a way of encouraging charities to speak up and a way for the police to show they were about more than locking up crooks.

A partnership was born that has so far netted \$320,000.

At the time of her death from a stroke in January 1998, Ms Lawson was Australia’s highest-ranking female police officer and even as she rose through the ranks, she and her family remained strong supporters of the ball.

“Her vision of a community working together to benefit those in need still remains strong and has been adopted by the current committee,” said Inspector John Klepczarek.

“It’s always been the criteria that the ball has to help the local community.

“We tend to shy away from the big charities that get lots of donations and we pick those that struggle or are less heard of,” he said.

“One year we raised money for an entire kitchen to feed the homeless ... another time it was ipads for palliative care patients at Port Kembla hospital.”



Bruce Rowles from Aspect South Coast School in Corrimal with Inspector Bryan Rugg and little Arvon Allott. Picture: Adam McLean

“We had a year where a couple went through bad trots with young babies so we put money towards Wollongong Hospital’s children’s ward.”

One of the committee’s proudest associations is with the University of Wollongong’s graduate school of medicine and clinical skills. Each year the top-placed student who dedicates their services to regional nursing receives the Illawarra Police Charity Ball medal.

Inspector Klepczarek, who was committee president for 15 years and current vice-president, said the most well-attended ball to date was the year police officers farewelled then Assistant Commissioner Christine Nixon.

Some 450 people attended the ball to pay tribute to the Wollongong commander who went on to become Victoria’s police commissioner.

She’s one of many of the top brass who graced the dance floor

over the years.

Commissioners Peter Ryan, Tony Lauer, Ken Moroney and Andrew Scipioni are just a few. Plain clothes notables who've made an appearance include Governor-General Peter Cosgrove, former NSW Governor Maria Bashir and even reality TV personality for a time, Big Brother winner Peter Corbett.

NSW Police Commissioner Mick Fuller will attend this year's ball on July 27 at the Wollongong University Hall. The venue is testimony to the growth and popularity of the event since those early days at the Frat.

Children with autism will benefit. Aspect South Coast School caters for more than 130 students across the Illawarra, Shellharbour, Kiama and Shoalhaven local council areas.

The ball committee meets in January every year to decide which charity will next benefit.

"It's not a police event, it's a community event. We get more people attending who aren't police officers. We are extremely proud we've been able to carry on the work of Bev Lawson and keep her vision alive."

**To have your charity considered, write to the Illawarra Police Charity Ball Committee, PO Box 430, Wollongong 2500. Visit [www.policecharityball.com.au](http://www.policecharityball.com.au)**

<https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/5512673/a-look-back-at-33-years-of-the-illawarra-police-charity-ball-in-photos/?cs=300>

---



Inspectors **Ruth Styles** and **Bev Lawson**

---

**Raymond Keith SMITH**

04/11/2013

---

# Raymond Keith SMITH

late of Maitland, NSW

## New South Wales Police Force

**Regd. # 14157**

Redfern Academy Class – 123

Rank: Junior Trainee from about Monday 11 May 1970 ( " 6 Week Wonder " ) ( aged 19 years, 9 months, 9 days )

Probationary Constable – appointed 22 June 1970 ( aged 19 years, 10 months, 20 days )

Constable 1st Class – appointed 22 June 1975

Senior Constable – appointed 22 June 1979

Sergeant 3rd Class – appointed 20 November 1985

Senior Sergeant – appointed 1990 – death

Stations: ?, Rockdale – Clearway Cyclist, Goulburn for 18 years to become Sgt, Maitland District HWP Supervisor ( SenSgt ), Traffic Co-ordinator Northern Suburbs District Hornsby – 3 years, Parramatta – Traffic Support Group Operations Manager – death

Service: From 11 May 1970 to 13 July 1998 = 28 years, 2 months, 2 days Service

Age at Retirement: 47 years, 11 months, 11 days

**Time in Retirement:** 0 years, 0 months, 0 days

**Awards:** National Medal – granted 8 June 1988

1st Clasp to National Medal – granted 2 December 1995

**Born:** Wednesday 2 August 1950

**Died on:** Monday 13 July 1998

**Cause:** Motor Vehicle Accident – Police motor cycle – Non  
Urgent

**Event location:** F3 Freeway, Calga, NSW

**Age:** 47 years, 11 months, 11 days

Single, unmarried with no children

**Funeral date:** Friday 17 July 1998

**Funeral location:**

**Buried at:** Cremated Woronora Cemetery

**Memorial location:** Police Memorial Wall – Woronora Cemetery,  
Sutherland

**Plot:** Centenary Court, Rose Garden 2, #01



Raymond Keith SMITH



**RAYMOND IS mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance**

On the morning of **13 July, 1998** Senior Sergeant Smith was riding a police motor cycle to work along the F3 Freeway near Calga when a piece of wood fell from a truck, hitting him and causing the cycle to collide with a rock wall. It is thought

that the sergeant was killed instantly.

The sergeant was born in 1950 and joined the New South Wales Police Force on 22 June, 1970. At the time of his death he was attached to the Traffic Support Group, Parramatta.

---



Woronora Cemetery Police Memorial Wall





---

## **Police pay tribute to Sen Sgt Ray Smith 20 years on**

Richard Noone,  
Central Coast Gosford Express Advocate  
July 13, 2018 2:43pm



The motorcycle of Senior Sergeant Ray Smith after he was killed when a piece of firewood fell from a truck hitting him in the head forcing him into a concrete wall on the F3 near Mt White.

TWENTY years ago today we lost one of the state's most experienced police motorcyclists and the public face of road safety.

**Senior Sergeant Ray Smith** was riding to work along the **F3 Freeway (now M1) 3km south of the Calga interchange, near Mount White**, at 6.10am on **July 13, 1998**, when a 30cm by 40cm piece of wood fell off the back of a truck in front.

The wood bounced off the road and into the 47-year-old's helmet as he travelled 100km/h.

The impact sent his bike into a concrete wall, killing him instantly.



Police inspect the scene where Senior Sergeant Ray Smith was killed.

Today, two decades later and the state's top traffic cop **Chief Inspector Phil Brooks** said the dangers to motorcyclists and other vulnerable road users was as real now as it was then.

"Primarily it certainly highlights the risks police face every day of the week," **Chief Insp Brooks** said.

"Police leave home and their families expect them to come home after their duties."



**Traffic & Highway Patrol Command** held a tribute to mark the 20th anniversary of **Senior Sergeant Ray Smith's** death this morning.

**Chief Insp Brooks** was a relatively junior officer when **Sen Sgt Smith** was killed but remembers well the profound sense of loss which swept through the entire NSW Police Force.

At the time **Sen Sgt Smith** was one of **26 police motorcyclists** patrolling NSW roads.

Today **Chief Insp Phil Brooks** said of the fleet of **680 Traffic and Highway Patrol vehicles**, **100** were motorcycles.

# THE Daily Telegraph

Sydney, Tuesday, July 14, 1998      Weather: Showers, 15-20deg      www.dailytelegraph.com.au      PG 1/10      \$4

OFFICIAL NRL COLLECTOR'S ALBUM

**MANLY TEAM  
PHOTO TODAY**

SPECIAL OFFER PAGE 3



## **Sergeant Ray Smith devoted his life to making our roads safe. Yesterday, the road turned against him**

**ROAD KILLS**

**Police officer**

**Ray Smith**

**was killed**

**in a crash**

**on the M1**

**last night**

**after a**

**long**

**career**

**of**

**service**

**to**

**the**

**force**

**for**

**20**

**years**

**and**

**for**

**the**

**past**

**decade**

**of**

**his**

**life**

**in**

**the**

**force**

**for**

**the**

**past**

**decade**

**of**

**his**

**life**

**in**

**the**

**force**

**for**

**the**

**past**

**decade**

**of**

**his**



**Police officer**

**Ray Smith**

**was killed**

**in a crash**

**on the M1**

**last night**

**after a**

**long**

**career**

**of**

**service**

**to**

**the**

**force**

**for**

**the**

**past**

**decade**

**of**

**his**

**life**

**in**

**the**

**force**

**for**

**the**

**past**

**decade**

**of**

**his**

**life**

**in**

**the**

**force**

**for**

**the**

**past**

**decade**

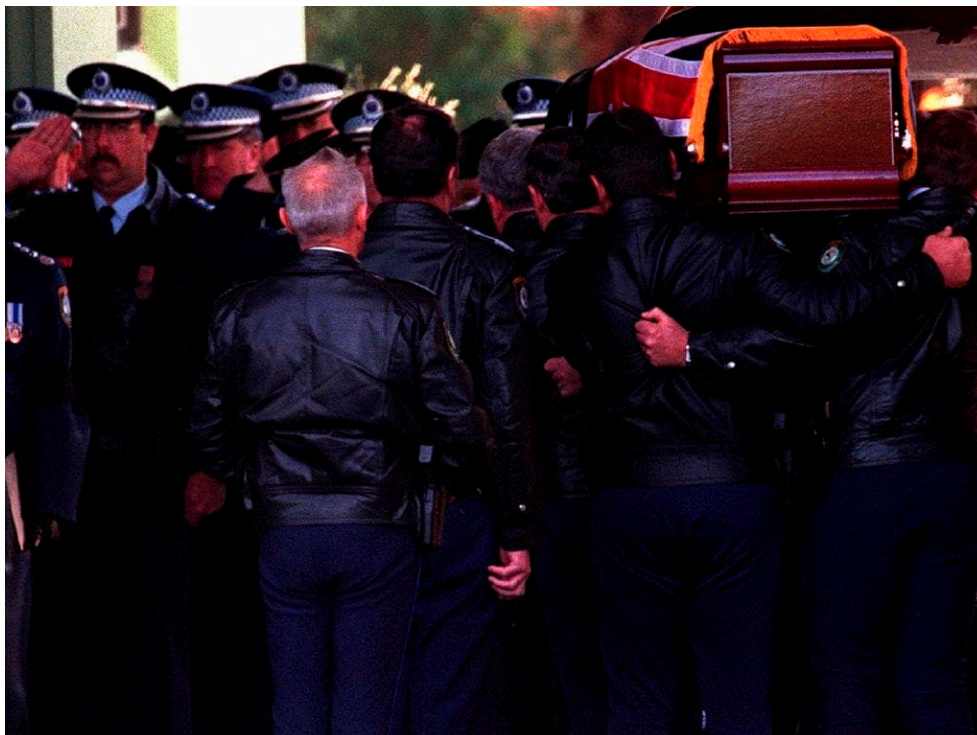
**of**

Phone 0288 2000      Classifieds 0288 2000

The front page of The Daily Telegraph on July 14, 1998

He said they remained an important asset to enforcing road safety and minimising congestion in the event of crashes and other road issues.

He said there were 6.19 million licence holders in NSW driving 6.5 million registered vehicles and the M1 – which has seen vehicle movements increase dramatically in the past 20 years – continued to be a big focus for police.



Senior police officers salute as the coffin of **Senior Sergeant Ray Smith** is carried during procession at his funeral service.

“Our road safety programs are such that cars and Highway Patrol vehicles are tasked to that road every day of the week,” he said.

“While there are significant road works along the M1 the crash risk is minimised by a very visible police presence.”

At 10am today **Traffic & Highway Patrol Command** staff at **Huntingwood** came together to recognise the service of **Senior Sgt Smith**.



Police bikes have changed but the job remains the same.

Staff were welcomed at today's memorial by **Assistant Commissioner Michael Corboy**, who noted the significant service that police motorcyclists give to the community every day.

Meanwhile police on the **Central Coast observed a minute's silence this morning.**

Only yesterday Brisbane Water police found the body and the wreckage of a man who had gone for a ride the previous day along the Old Pacific Highway at Bar Point.

The 34-year-old had left his Ryde home about 2pm on Wednesday.

When he had not arrived home at 11pm his worried partner contacted police.



**Senior Sergeant Ray Smith** uses a radar gun on Parramatta Road, part of the Operation Slow-down campaign in **1997**.

Officers scoured the Old Road where they eventually found his body at 3.30am.

The man had lost control, gone down an embankment and collided with a tree.

Meanwhile the **Coronial Inquest** into the death of **Senior Sgt Smith** found the truck driver – who continued on oblivious to the carnage behind him – “had done everything right” in securing his load.

At the time of his death **Sen Sgt Smith** was a member of the **Traffic Support Group** and the focal point of the previous year’s road safety campaign Operation Slowdown.

But 27 years' riding experience and a life dedicated to road safety were unable to save him from the freak accident.



The motorcycle of **Senior Sergeant Ray Smith** after he was killed when a piece of firewood fell from a truck hitting him in the head forcing him into a concrete wall on the F3 near Mt White.

“There was no way of escaping,” **Sen Sgt Smith’s** colleague of seven years, **Sergeant Graeme Priest** said at the time.

**Sen Sgt Smith** lived at Maitland and was travelling to work at Parramatta when the accident occurred.

He never married and had no children. Fellow officers said his life was dedicated to serving in the police force and he had a love of motorcycles, of which he had a collection.

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/central-coast/police-pay-tribute-to-sen-sgt-ray-smith-20-years-on/news-story/5d94f8a73a158e0ee95de8f426a9be48>



**Traffic and Highway Patrol Command – NSW Police Force**

July 13 2018 at 11:09 AM ·

#Vale Senior Sergeant Raymond Keith Smith #14157

At 10am today **Traffic & Highway Patrol Command** staff, **Huntingwood**, came together to recognise the service of **Senior Sergeant Smith**, who tragically lost his life at **6:10am on the 13 July, 1998, 20 years ago today.**

Staff were welcomed at today's memorial by **Assistant Commissioner Michael Corboy**, who noted the significant service that police motorcyclists give to the community every day, keeping road users safe, as **Senior Sergeant Smith** proudly did during his career. **A/Inspector Clint Williams** acknowledged **Senior Sergeant Smith's** career history, and **Police Chaplain, Father Paul O'Donoghue** told those present that '...those who served alongside **Ray** were his family..', and noted the sad loss that **Ray's** sister must have suffered after this sad event. **Father O'Donoghue** then offered a prayer where those present observed a **minutes silence in memory.**

Featured in these photographs is '**HWP-200**' (Call sign **Traffic 200**) which we struck in memory of the life & career of **Senior Sergeant Ray Smith.**

---



NEWS

# Ray Smith: a big man with a big heart



• Over 60 Goulburn residents attended the funeral of Snr Sgt Ray Smith.

**“To quote one of his colleagues and friends: ‘If there really is a highway to Heaven, Ray Smith will be up there on his bike, making sure it’s the safest highway anywhere.’”**

**VALEDICTORY SENIOR SERGEANT RAYMOND KEITH SMITH**

**Operations Manager - Traffic Support Group August 2, 1950 - July 13, 1998**

Ray Smith lived for two things, the Police Service and motor cycles.

Ray was able to combine these two loves most days of his working life as he devoted so much of his service to reducing the road toll and making our roads safer.

The fact that he, too, became a victim of the roads makes his death so much harder to understand, let alone come to terms with.

Raymond Keith Smith was born on August 2, 1950.

He was 19 when he began his police training at the Redfern Academy and was sworn in six weeks later as a probationary constable.

Ray was in general duties for less than a year before becoming a clearway cyclist at Rockdale.

Less than a year after that he was working as a solo motor cyclist with the Highway Patrol.

It was with the Highway Patrol that Ray was to stay for the rest of his 28 year career. Eighteen years were at Goulburn where he rose through the ranks to Sergeant.

In 1990 Ray was promoted to Senior Sergeant and began four years at Maitland as District Highway Patrol Supervisor.

From there he spent three years as Traffic Co-ordinator, Northern Suburbs District and finally, over the past 12 months, he served as Operations Manager at the Traffic Support Group.

Despite being based at Parramatta Ray continued to live at Maitland.

But those who knew and worked with him weren't surprised that the four hour round trip, from North of Newcastle to the middle of Sydney, didn't phase him.

That indeed he saw it as an opportunity to be out on patrol, travelling the F-3 Freeway and in touch with the work he loved.

But it wasn't unusual, after a particularly long day, for him to pull out his swag as he called it and bunk down in an office storeroom or gym.

To quote one of his colleagues and friends: "Ray would be out on his bike at every opportunity rain, hail, sleet, heatwave and blizzard!"

And it wasn't just a case of enforcing the road rules. Ray carried with him a canvas bag that contained just about every tool necessary to help motorists stranded on the roadside.

And if he couldn't start their cars he'd get someone there who could.

For Ray Smith, policing wasn't just a job, it was his life.

A craft to be learned, perfected, cherished and importantly, to be passed on to others.

Inkded a large number of the State's Highway Patrol officers learned the job from Ray.

It's a true mark of the esteem in which he was held that for many of those young officers, Ray was regarded not just as teacher but mentor.

Although bikes and his Highway Patrol work were high on his list of priorities, there was another side to Ray's life that those closest to him also knew well.

He was a police officer who spent much of his spare time looking out for others.

One of Ray's great joys was to help the young, especially those on the streets or at risk.

This he would do through extra-curricular activities such as Blue Light Discos, which he saw as an opportunity for young people to have

good clean fun in an environment safe from alcohol and drugs.

Ray was a firm believer that the innocence of childhood was a commodity that was all too short and so should be nurtured and prized.

"Kids", he would say, "deserve to be allowed to grow at their own pace, to spend as much time as possible being young and enjoying their childhood."

During his time at both Goulburn and Maitland members of those communities learned quickly that Ray was available day and night, on duty and off, to help sort out problems particularly if they involved the young.

Never married, he had no children of his own and so delighted in seeing those with whom he came in contact safe and happy.

It's probably just as well then that Ray had a sweet tooth, with cream buns and chocolate being special favourites.

Inkded it's said that Ray could list just about every cake shop in a particular area, rating them by the standard of their buns.

Ray Smith was one of nature's gentlemen - a big man with a big heart. Ray was an only child, and to his surviving relatives it is with sincere sympathy on behalf of the New South Wales Police Service.

Since his parents died, the Police Service became his immediate family, a family it's said by many, that was more than 13,000 strong.

He was, say his colleagues, the ultimate policing professional in his area of expertise, passionate, particularly about bringing down the road toll.

If there's any positive to be found from his untimely death it's that Ray Smith died in his police uniform while riding a police cycle.

Again, to quote one of his colleagues and friends: "If there really is a highway to Heaven, Ray Smith will be up there on his bike, making sure it's the safest highway anywhere."

## Service was a moving tribute

About 60 people from Goulburn travelled to Sutherland to attend the late Snr Sergeant Ray Smith's funeral last Friday.

Police, former police, and community members took a bus to the service.

Goulburn's Detective Inspector Matt Casey, said the service was very moving.

He said about 100m down the road leading up to the Sutherland Crematorium, police motorcycles and riders were lined up on one side and the highway patrol vehicles and drivers lined up on the other side.

"About 100 current police and parking patrol officers made up a marching escort behind the coffin, backed up by the com-

missioner, deputy commissioner and former workmates."

Detective Inspector Casey said.

"More motorcycle police formed an escort in full ceremonial dress and there were police caps on top of the hearse."

He said the service was very moving and very powerful.

He said people from all over the state attended and were able to hear two friends of Snr Sgt Smith reminisce about his life.

The service was conducted by police chaplains, Jim Bolland and Graeme Dark.

"It was a very moving tribute to a wonderful bloke," Detective Inspector Casey said.



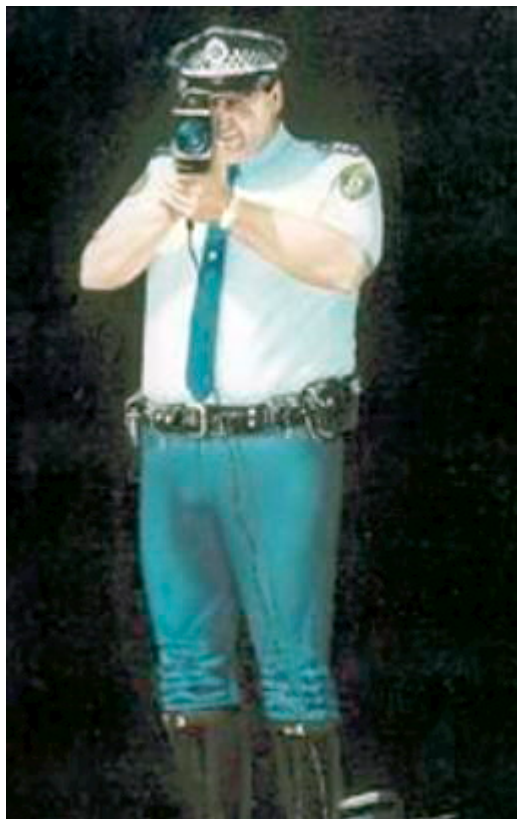
• PACE program facilitator, Denise Lanham (left) with Jillian Fahay, one of the parents who intends to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the parenting program.

**DIABETES?**

**Free health book available from your local Chem mart<sup>®</sup> Chemist**

Did you know that at the moment there are 430,000 people in Australia that know they have Diabetes and another 350,000 people

Article from Goulburn Post, Wednesday 22 July 1998



committee-report-01-october-1996-inquiry-into-ge

---

First published on 22 September 2013

Updated 29 July 2025

---

# Peter Justin FORSYTH

04/11/2013

## Peter Justin FORSYTH

( late of Ultimo )

**New South Wales Police Force**

**Regd. # 29967**

**Goulburn Police Academy Class 260**

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

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

Constable – appointed ? ? ?

**Final Rank:** Constable

**Stations:** Campsie, Leichhardt

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

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

Born: Friday 16 May 1969 in Goondiwindi, Queensland

Died on: Saturday 28 February 1998 @ 12.14am

Cause: Murdered – Stabbed

Event location: Ultimo

Age: 28 years, 9 months, 12 days

Funeral date: Thursday 5 March 1998

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

Buried at: Toowoomba, Qld on Monday 9 March 1998

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

-27.570374° / 151.91914°

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

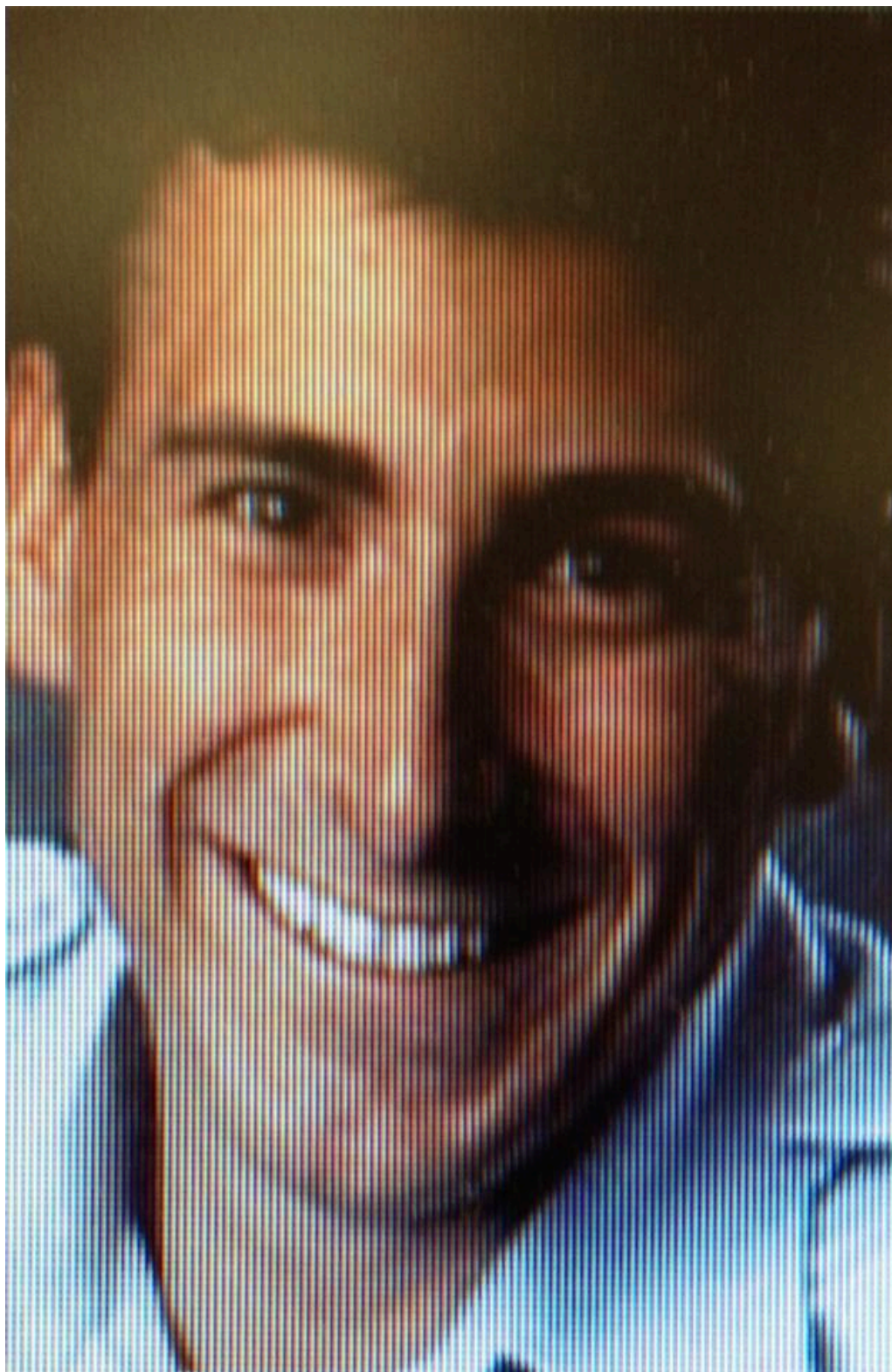
Memorials: 1/ There is an Auditorium in Glebe, NSW, named in  
honour of Peter.

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

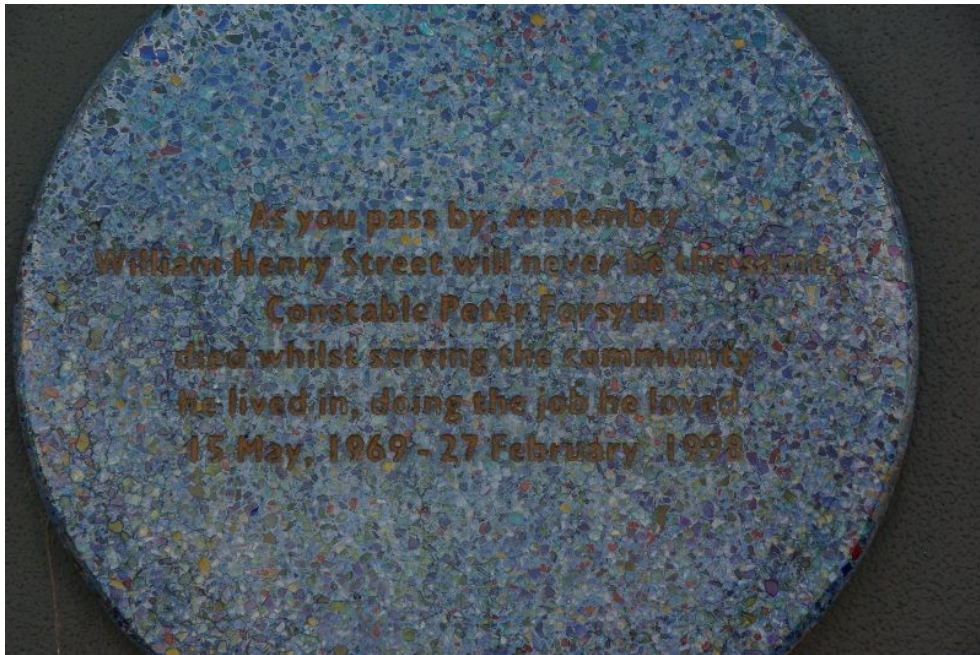
Round blue ceramic plaque approximately 40cm in diameter with  
gold lettering and mounted on a wall.

### **Inscription:**

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



**PETER IS mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance**



Memorial: William Henry Street , Ultimo, 2007







Grave Stone, Toowoomba, Qld

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

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

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

---

---

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

February 15, 2017 2:22pm

### **Murder Uncovered: Officers down**

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **“IT HURTS IN MY CHEST”**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

tell me," Brodie says.

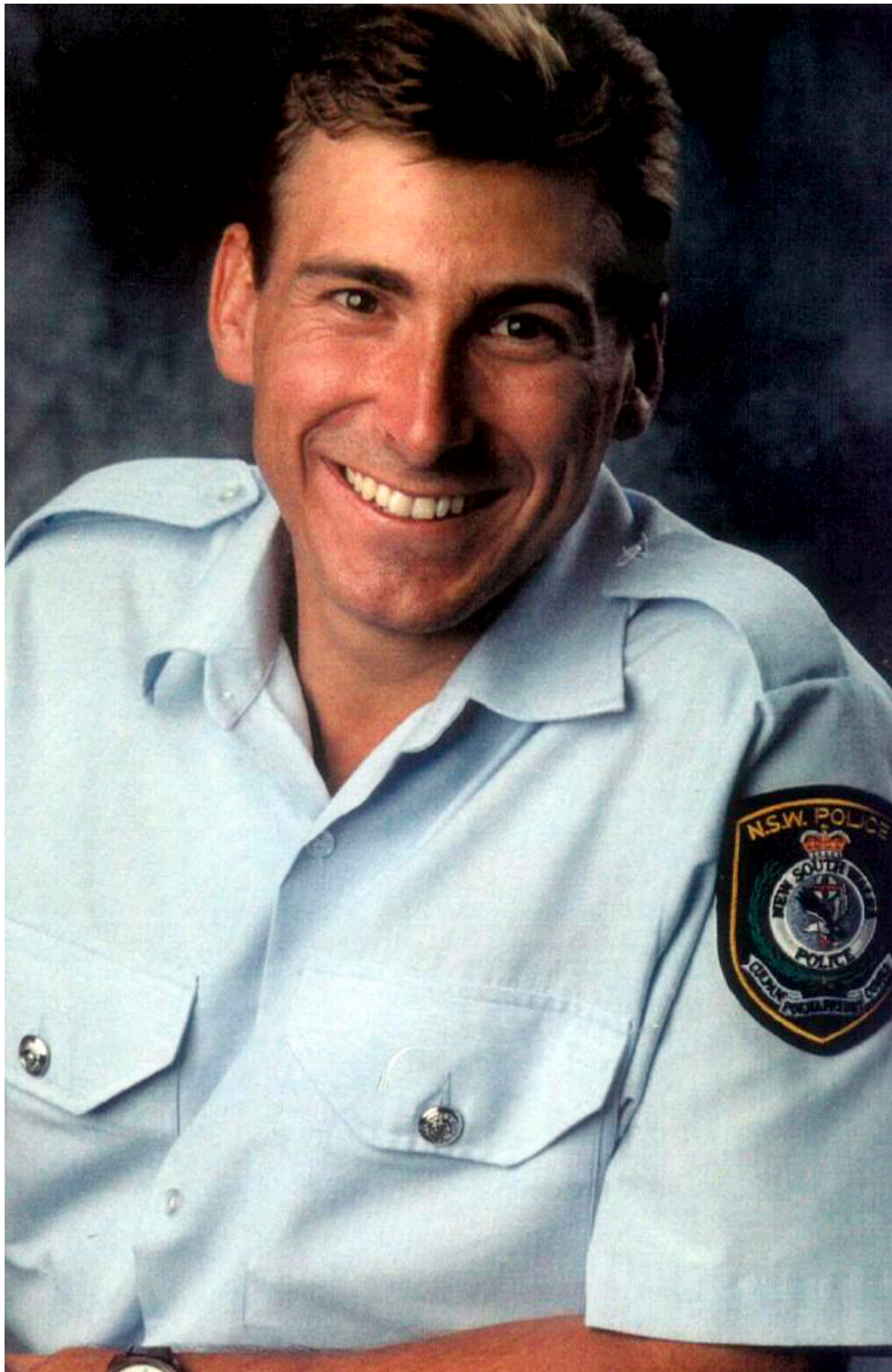
"And then I don't know one thing about Dad.

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

### **THAT NIGHT**

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Suddenly, three off-duty cops were on duty.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

### **'NOBODY KNEW HE'D BEEN STABBED'**

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

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

Until Peter collapsed onto Jason's chest.

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

The tears come.

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

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

Peter was pronounced dead not long after midnight.

And Hearne was on the run.

## THE HUNT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Meanwhile, those that loved Peter, buried him.

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

Jackie tried to keep it together for the children.

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

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

says.



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

## **FACE TO FACE WITH A KILLER**

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

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

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

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

Another blow to those grieving Peter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Peter Forsyth's son, Mitchell is now 22.

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

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

*Murder Uncovered airs at 9pm tonight on Channel 7*



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



Murder Uncovered confronts

Hearne. Picture: Channel 7

Source: Channel 7

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

---

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

Rowan Forster

**15 Feb 2017, 8:30 p.m**



**HEARNE** leaves court  
in 1999



Murray **HEARNE** in Wagga



Hearne's Junee gaol psychologist wife, Bobbie Bermeier

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“It hurts in my chest. It’s a real pain. It’s not just a feeling.”

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

“He was hyperventilating and shaking and sweating,” she said.

“He was really very nervous.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“I rarely speak openly about things, but it’s important to share my story,” he said.

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

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

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

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

---

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

Mead Drive.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

• July 16 2014

# **Prison psychologist struck off for sexual relationship**

# with murderer

## • Louise Hall

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

treating practitioner.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

# Constable Peter Forsyth memorial



Photographs supplied by Peter F Williams

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

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

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

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

forsyth-

---

PCYC Glebe / Leichhardt FB page

## **NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY 29th SEPTEMBER 2013**

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

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

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

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

29 August 2013

---

Support Aussie Cops FB Group

Post by Cameron P

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

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

Post by Nifty N

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sue McDonald Rip. very sad day.

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

Maryann P Parsons RIP xx

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

Susan Ford Pte, miss you mate.

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

Eric Cook rest in peace peter justin forsyth

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

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

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

Lisa Haigh R.I.P. Peter.

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

Stefan Christian RIP

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

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

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

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

March 3, 2013 at 11:24pm · Like · 2

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

February 3, 2014 at 8:53am · Like

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

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

March 14, 2014 at 12:13pm · Like · 1

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

March 14, 2014 at 12:16pm · Like · 2

Rosalee Lang Amen to that! x

March 30, 2015 at 11:55pm · Like

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

September 29, 2015 at 4:45pm · Like

---

## **Constable Peter Forsyth**

**28 Feb 1998**

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

This photo recalls that tragic event.







The monument reads,

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

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

[monumentaustralia.org.au/monument\\_display.php?id=23575&am...](http://monumentaustralia.org.au/monument_display.php?id=23575&am...)

---

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

Date **Fri Mar 06 1998**

Publication **Sydney Morning Herald**

**By KENDALL HILL and TIM JAMIESON**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[http://www.canberratimes.com.au/zoom/archive/rnews980306\\_0439\\_9953](http://www.canberratimes.com.au/zoom/archive/rnews980306_0439_9953)

---

## **Beyond Courage FB page**

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

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

Noor Daudpota won;t forget u Pete x

Like · Reply · February 28 at 12:03am

Ben Campbell Champion bloke.

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

Sue Jackson RIP

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

Ted Collins Rest in peace mate.

Like · Reply · February 28 at 12:15am

Andrew Kenna Rip

Like · Reply · February 28 at 12:17am

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

Like · Reply · February 28 at 12:21am

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

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

Rosie Jackson Rest in peace.

Like · Reply · February 28 at 12:22am

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

Like · Reply · February 28 at 12:25am

David King RIP Brother.

Like · Reply · February 28 at 12:53am

Valda Ritson RIP

Like · Reply · February 28 at 1:34am

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

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

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

Nicole East RIP ?

Like · Reply · February 28 at 3:11am

Patriciogoo Lay Rest in peace.

Like · Reply · February 28 at 3:13am

Ian Borland RIP Brother

Like · Reply · February 28 at 6:22am

Christopher David Rest easy Pete.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cam Gregory #Respect

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Like · Reply · March 3 at 8:43pm

---

## **NSW; Teenager admits murdering policeman**

AAP General News (Australia)

**04-27-1999**

NSW; Teenager admits murdering policeman

By Margaret Scheikowski

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

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

1999 AAP Information Services Pty Limited (AAP) or its Licensors.

Posted 1st March 2012 by liteinternet

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

---

## **NSW: Court told murdered cop had tried to help colleague**

AAP General News (Australia)

**04-29-1999**

NSW: Court told murdered cop had tried to help colleague

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

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

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

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

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

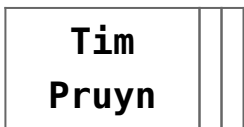
Hearne, 19, has pleaded guilty to murdering Const Forsyth, 28, and to maliciously wounding Const Semple, 25, on February 27, on a street in inner-city Ultimo.

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

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

---

## Widow forces Premier to get tough on killers



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

By SARAH BLAKE

**11 March 2001**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

family.

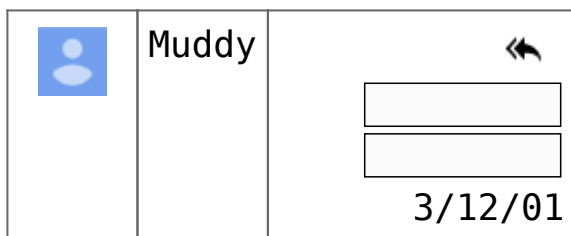
The three Court of Criminal Appeal judges defended the reduced sentence by stating that by the time murderer Murray Walter Hearne was released, he would be almost 35, and that he would not have a wife and child – which was punishment enough.

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

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

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

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



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

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

Stay Safe

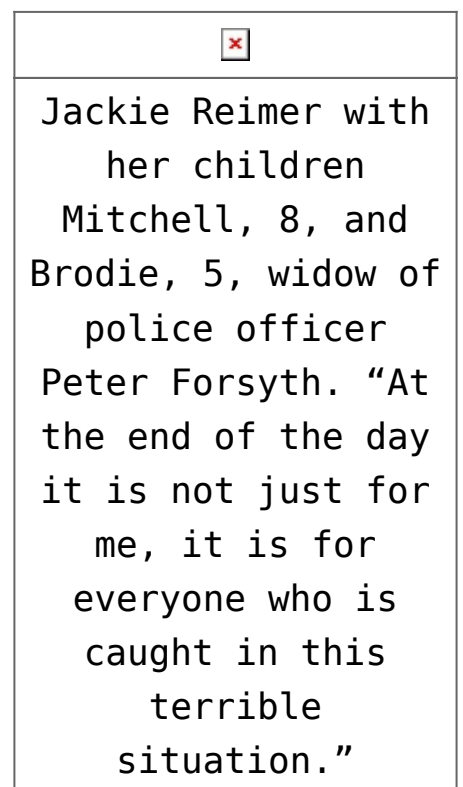
Muddy

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

---

# Widow's fury fuels fight for justice

By Malcolm Brown  
September 5 2002



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

