

Glenn Howard STIRTON

09/12/2013

Glenn Howard STIRTON, VA

aka Lenny

late of Thurgoona (Albury) formerly of Central Coast

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 20706

Rank: Sergeant

Stations: Albury, NSW

Service: From ? to 21 December 2012

**Awards: National Medal – granted 20
November 1998**

Valor Award – granted August 2012

Born: 10 September 1960

Died on: Thursday 20 December 2012

Cause: Suicide – Service firearm

Event location: Albury Police Station

Age: 52 old

Funeral date: Friday 28 December 2012
@ 2.30pm

Funeral location: Hillside Chapel,
Palmdale Lawn Cemetery and Memorial Park,
Palmdale Road, Palmdale

Buried at: ?



Sgt Glenn Stirton with his valour award in August 2012

[alert_yellow]GLENN is NOT mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance[/alert_yellow] ***NEED MORE INFO**

[http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/1201 ... cer/?cs=11](http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/1201...cer/?cs=11)

A CRITICAL incident investigation is under way into the sudden death of decorated Albury police officer Glenn Stirton.

Sgt Stirton, a police officer for **more than 30 years**, died after an incident at the Albury police station on **Thursday**.

In **August**, Sgt Stirton received the highest honour for bravery that can be conferred by the NSW Police Commissioner for foiling what police suspect was destined to be a massacre.

Sgt Stirton is the **husband** of **Albury local area commander (Supt.) Beth Stirton**, who has gone on immediate leave.

Three ambulance crews rushed to the scene after an emergency call from the station.

Officers from the Deniliquin local area command will investigate the circumstances of Sgt Stirton's death and prepare a report for the coroner.

Acting Southern Region commander Gary Worboys said the force extended its deepest sympathy and condolences to Sgt Stirton's family "and the wider police family".

"Welfare support and counselling has been offered to the officer's family and colleagues. Police will continue to do their job in this difficult time," acting Assistant Commissioner Worboys said.

Wagga Superintendent Dave Simmons has been brought in to assist the command.

From Monday, **Detective Insp Brad Blanchard** will act as **Albury local area commander** while Supt Stirton is on leave.

Sgt Stirton's bravery was outlined when Police Commissioner

Andrew Scipione presented the NSW Police Force **Valour Award** to him during a ceremony at the police force academy at Goulburn.

Sgt Stirton and a colleague had gone to get lunch at the **Eastwood Shopping centre** in Sydney's north in **2008**.

While on their way, they were asked to check on reports of a man acting suspiciously at the centre.

Sgt Stirton and his colleague followed the man out of the centre and asked him to stop. He ignored their directions, **pulled a pistol** from his waistband and fired at the officers, narrowly missing the pair, who returned fire.

The man, **Christopher Benardos**, turned the gun on himself, and later died in hospital without regaining consciousness.

"It was nice to be recognised, although it is under tragic circumstances," Sgt Stirton said at the time of the award.

Sgt Stirton **transferred to Albury six months ago** to join his wife.

If you need help, telephone Lifeline: 13 11 14, Kids Help Line: 1800 551 800, NSW Rural Mental Health Support Line: 1800 201 123, Upper Hume Community Health Service: 1800 657 573.

STIRTON, Glenn Howard

STIRTON, SGT VA Glenn Howard (Lenny) 10/9/1960 – 20/12/2012
Aged 52 years Late of Thurgoona (Albury). Formerly of the Central Coast Loved husband of Beth (Beryl). Loved father of Rachael & Tim. Much loved son of Mark and Maisie Stirton. Brother of Anthony and Rodney (deceased). Proud, Respected and

Courageous member of the NSW Police family for 30 years. When once you have tasted flight, You will forever walk with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been, and there you will always long to return. Flying above us forever The Funeral Service for GLENN will be held Friday, 28th December 2012, in the Hillside Chapel, Palmdale Lawn Cemetery and Memorial Park, Palmdale Road, Palmdale, commencing at 2.30pm. CREIGHTONS FUNERAL SERVICE Central Coast 4324-1533 "Proudly Australian'

Obituaries

Published in The Daily Telegraph on 27/12/2012

<http://tributes.dailytelegraph.com.au/archivenotice/2509613/view?random=1443460373767>

Officer honoured for bravery

Jessica Grewal | 28th Aug 2012 4:00 PM



Sergeant Glenn Stirton has been honoured with a valour award.

A POLICE officer, who dodged bullets to protect Sydney shoppers from a shooter four years ago, has been honoured with a valour award.

Sergeant Glenn Stirton ran at an armed offender at an Eastwood shopping centre on **March 10, 2008**.

He and his partner narrowly missed several shots fired their way.

They returned fire but the shooter turned his gun on himself and later died from his injuries.

NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione presented Sgt Stirton with the Valour Award, the highest honour an officer can receive for bravery, at last week's attestation ceremony at the Goulburn Academy.

<http://www.northernstar.com.au/news/officer-honoured-bravery/1522115/>

George Bruce STEWART

09/12/2013

George Bruce STEWART

New South Wales Police Force

Regd # 14812

Senior Constable – Retired

Illness – Brain tumour

Born: 9 June 1948

Died: 13 October 2012

Pt Kembla Hospital

64 years

Funeral: 17 October 2012

<http://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/1420243/police-ball-raises-funds-for-palliative-care/?cs=300>

Police ball raises funds for palliative care

By CYDONEE MARDON

April 10, 2013, 4:02 a.m.



George Stewart was in a deep coma but that didn't stop staff at Port Kembla's palliative care centre talking to him all the time, comforting him in his darkest

hours.

"My husband had a brain tumour, was operated on, and died 12 months later," Lorraine Stewart said yesterday.

"When we brought him in they talked to him all the time, they explained things, whether he could hear or not we didn't know, but that didn't matter to them, they were absolutely marvellous.

"I slept there alongside him, they kept me comfortable too. They do seem to be short staffed – no-one said anything but they always seemed to be running, to make sure they do everything they can for everyone."

Mrs Stewart, who lost her best friend six months ago, was thrilled to hear her husband's former colleagues in the NSW Police Force were raising funds for the rehabilitation centre and palliative care unit at Port Kembla.

"They looked after my husband so well. He was several times in rehab, then for the last week or so in palliative care. And they could definitely do with more funding."

Inspector Bryan Rugg, Commander of Radio Operations, said the organisers of this year's Illawarra Police Charity Ball were

happy to give something back to the facility that helped their colleague through his toughest year.

Senior Constable Stewart joined in 1971 and worked in Sydney before transferring to Warilla in 1986. He joined the communications section in 1997 and stayed until retiring in 2006.

He was an avid bowler and received The Australian Sports medal for Service to Bowls (Australian Honours System).

“Whilst the palliative care unit has some fantastic facilities, there is always room for improvement and upgrade of identified equipment utilised by the staff for the benefit of the patients,” Insp Rugg said.

“The rehabilitation section has a limited recuperation area for the patients waiting to undergo or after having received treatment.”

Some of the funds will go towards improving the outside sitting area and garden of the rehab centre.

Tickets for the July 26 ball have been snapped up, but auctions and raffle items are needed. Donations can be left at the NSW Southern Region Command, 84 Crown Street, Wollongong, or call Annemarie on 4226 7734.

**Retired SenCon George Stewart, VKG2, in W’G Hosp – brain op.
Posted 10 Oct 2011.**

For those of you who know George Stewart, Retired member from VKG2 Warilla, George is currently in Wollongong Hospital. On 071011 – George was operated on for a brain tumour. It came very quick and the symptoms very sudden. He is currently in Wollongong Hospital, Ward C4, Bed 31 where he is recovering.

Recovery is pretty good but sight and speech affected at this stage but should improve (that message was on the 7 October)

Today, 10 October, I spoke with George via phone at the Hospital and he sounds to be in good spirits.

Although he has various things hanging out of him, the one thing that isn't hanging out anymore is the old gaspa. He has given up the cigarettes. He said that the Doctor was fairly savage with what he took out (in relation to the tumour).

Lorraine and family are by George's side and he will have to undergo Radio / Chemotherapy in the coming weeks and will remain in Hospital for a short time before he gets back out onto the Bowling paddocks.

I am sure that George would appreciate some visits from his old mates.

**Re: Retired SenCon George Stewart, VKG2, in W'G Hosp - brain
Posted on 6 August 2012**

For all of you who know retired SenCon George Stewart, I went and visited him at home for a short time on Saturday. He is still living in the Illawarra. He still looks like his old self but let me tell you now - he ISN'T. He has now lost his peripheral vision and needs to wear sun glasses when he is outside in the brighter light. George, who is suffering from a TERMINAL brain tumour, knows what he wants to say but sometimes forgets what it is that he wants to say if he doesn't get the message out straight away. A symptom of the tumour.

I would **STRONGLY** suggest and **ENCOURAGE** any of his old friends to take the time and take a drive and visit George and Lorraine at their home and **DON'T** wait until the **END** of **SEPTEMBER** to do it either. Do it **NOW** !

He would dearly love to say g'day to his old mates **BEFORE** the

tumour takes its final toll.

He isn't looking for sympathy. He is simply looking to say g'day to his old mates before his life is cut prematurely short.

Cal

Retired SenCon George Stewart Posted 8 October 2012

Letting all those who know Retired SenCon George Stewart who was last stationed at VKG2 (Warilla) NSW. As of Saturday 6 October 2012, George was admitted to Port Kembla Hospital in a "very ill" condition as a result of a brain tumour he suffered earlier this year. If you wish to visit George – that you do it sooner rather than LATER.(copied off an email sent by Cal.)

Re: Retired SenCon George Stewart Posted on 8 October 2012

George has now slipped into a coma and has his family by his side at Pt Kembla Hospital.

Re: Retired SenCon George Stewart Dear All Posted on 14 October 2012 I have been advised George Stewart passed away at 4pm on the 13th October 2012.

Re: Retired SenCon George Stewart, VKG2, in W'G Hosp – brain George Bruce Stewart

Born on 9 June 1948

Passed away on 13 October 2012

Aged 64 years

Funeral service will be held at Hansen & Cole Funerals, 634 Northcliffe Drive, KEMBLA GRANGE on Wednesday, 17th October 2012 at 1:00pm.

[http://www.heavenaddress.com/George-Bru ... rt/423739/](http://www.heavenaddress.com/George-Bru...rt/423739/)

George Bruce STEWART

Tribute

<http://tributes.dailytelegraph.com.au/obituaries/dailytelegraph-au/obituary-preview.aspx?n=george-bruce-stewart&pid=160467469&referrer=2581#fbLoggedOut>

STEWART, George Bruce Passed away on 13th October, 2012. Late of Windang.

Dearly beloved Husband of Lorraine. Loving Dad and Father-in-law to Matthew and Shellie and Stepdad to Craig and Jill. Adored Poppy to Harrison.

“will always be thinking of you your big sister Lilian” – **Lilian Stewart**

“To Lorraine and family, our condolences and best wishes to you. Your loss is our loss, George was a great workmate and a great bloke. He will be missed by everyone who knew him, but he will never be...” – **Ron Padgett**

Will be sadly missed by family and many friends. Aged 64 Years
The relatives and friends of GEORGE are warmly invited to attend his Funeral Service to be held at the Northcliffe Chapel of Hansen and Cole Funerals, 634 Northcliffe Drive, Kembla Grange on Wednesday 17th October, 2012 commencing at 1pm. The family requests in lieu of flowers, donations be considered to Garvan Research Foundation. A bowl will be located at the chapel for this purpose.

Bryson Charles ANDERSON

09/12/2013

Bryson Charles ANDERSON

AKA Bryce ANDERSON, Bryson ANDERSON

Son of Rex ANDERSON, NSWPF # 8681

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 23020

Academy Class: 222

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

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

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

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

Time in Retirement: 0

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

NSW Police Medal together with 1st & 2nd Clasps

Commissioner's Unit Citation – 2003 for Highly professional investigations

1st Clasp to the National Medal – posthumously

3rd Clasp to the NSW Police Medal – posthumously

Valour Award – posthumously

Born: Monday 16 January 1967

Died on: Thursday 6 December 2012

Cause: Murdered – Oakville, NSW

Age: 45 years, 10 months, 20 days

Funeral date: Wednesday 12 December 2012

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

Buried at: Cremated

Memorial location: Outside of Windsor Police Stn, NSW

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

BRYSON IS mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance



The Commissioners Press conference.

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

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

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

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

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<p>Det Insp Bryson Anderson killed with an axe on Thu 061212</p>	
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After treatment by paramedics he was rushed to **Windsor Hospital** in a critical condition but died a short time later.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RIP Bryson

A tribute from our Commissioner

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

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

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

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

Andrew Scipione

12 December 2012

Valedictory for Detective Inspector Bryson Anderson

Date **December 12, 2012**

As delivered by NSW Police Force Commissioner Andrew Scipione
APM

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

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

It was not to be.

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

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

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

November 1986.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

rising to the rank of Deputy Captain.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There can be no doubt Bryson will be missed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In part the valour citation reads:

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

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

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

A loving husband and father.

A prized friend and colleague.

A police officer.

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

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

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

Wednesday, 12 December 2012 02:57:38 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

live lives of service and self-sacrifice.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

who gave him to us.

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

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

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





RIP Detective Inspector Bryson Anderson

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

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

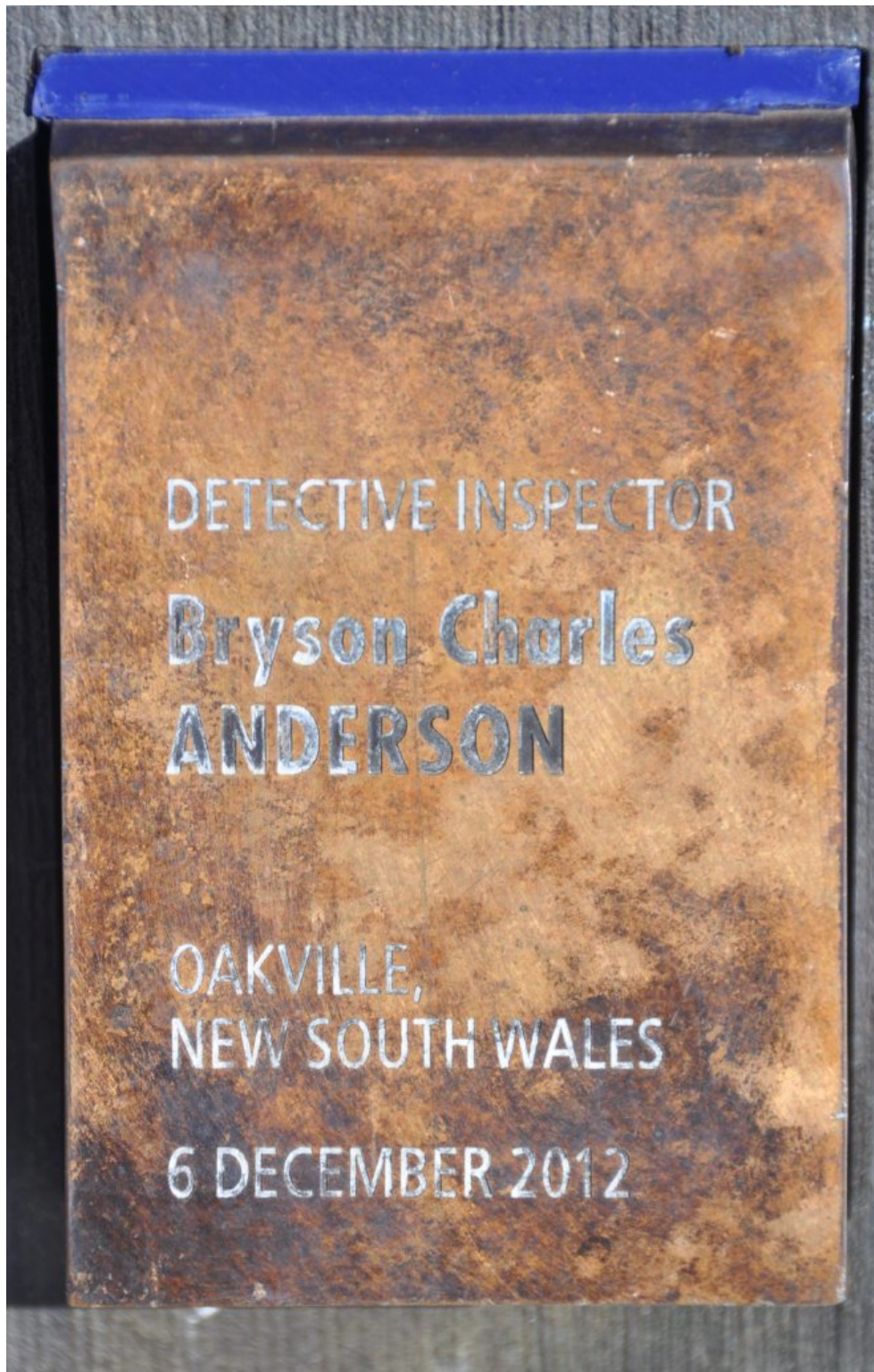
And as he took his final breath and
 the Angel took his hand
 The Angel whispered in his ear
 "Mate, you fought valiantly, for this
 great land".

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

Alexandra Stewart







National Police Wall of Remembrance



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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Family and friends of murdered Detective inspector Bryson Anderson and police



Grave of Bryson Anderson

David James RIXON VA BM

09/12/2013

David James RIXON, VA BM

New South Wales Police Force

Goulburn Police Academy Class # 247

Regd. # 27947

Rank: Commenced Training at Goulburn Police Academy as a Junior Trainee on Sunday 28 October 1990 (aged 19 years, 2 months, 30 days)

Probationary Constable – appointed 26 April 1991 (aged 19 years, 8 months, 26 days)

Constable – appointed 26 April 1992

Senior Constable – death

Stations: Hamilton, Belmont G.D's, Waratah HWP from 12 February 1995, Gunnedah HWP from 7 May 1995, then Tamworth HWP from 14 July 1996 – Death

Served: From 28 October 1990 to 2 March 2012 = 21 years, 4 months & 3 days Service

Awards: Commissioners Valour Award (VA) – posthumously
Bravery Medal (BM) – posthumously awarded

Born: Saturday 31 July 1971

Died: Friday 2 March 2012

Age: 40 years & 7 months

Cause: Shot – Murdered

Event location: outside 10 – 12 Lorraine Street, West
Tamworth, NSW

Funeral date: Thursday 8 March 2012 @ 10.30am

Funeral location: St Paul`s Anglican Church, Church St.
Tamworth

Grave location: lawn portion of the Tamworth Regional Council
Cemetery, Showground Rd. Tamworth.

GPS: -31.0903969, 150.9007111

David IS mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance



Rest in Peace
S/Cst David Rixon



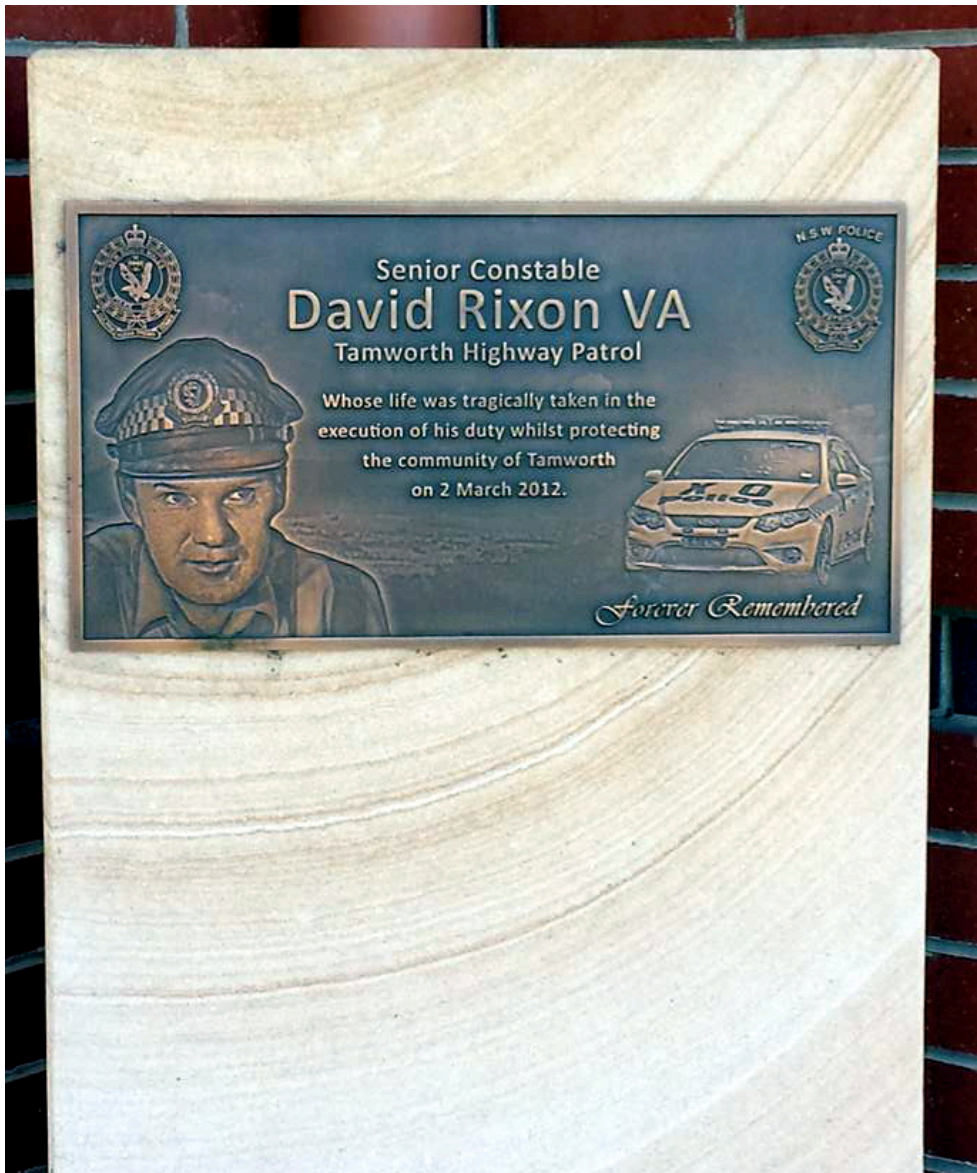
David RIXON



David RIXON



Funeral for David Rixon



memorial plaque at the front of Tamworth Police Station.





Stubby cooler

SenCon David Rixon

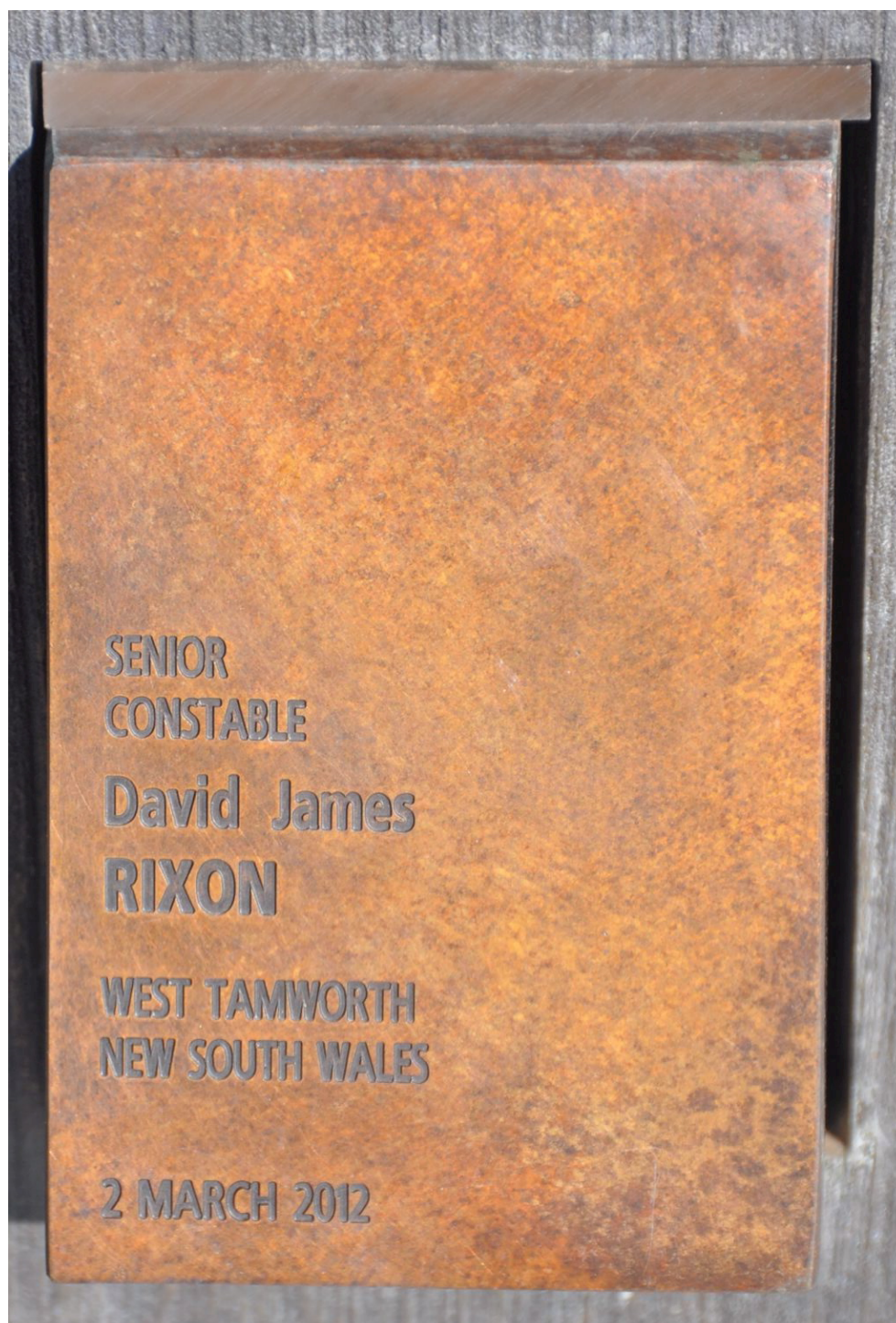
Senior Constable

Father of six, shot and killed at Tamworth, NSW, Australia, today Friday 2 March 2012. May you forever Rest In Peace with the rest of our Brothers and Sisters who have paid the ultimate price in Policing.

There is a memorial fund to support the family of S/C Rixon

who are dealing with a loss at this time. Donations can be made to this fund with the following details: Account name: David Rixon Memorial Fund, Account number : **269978** (add S1 at the end for Internal transfer by PCU members) Police Credit Union BSB: 815000

David and Fiona Rixon have six children.



David James RIXON – touch pad at National Police Wall of Remembrance, ACT

Details of Death:

Shortly before 0800hr on **Friday, 2 March 2012**, Senior Constable Rixon from Tamworth Highway Patrol stopped and spoke to the driver of a vehicle at **10-12 Lorraine Street, West Tamworth** for the purposes of a random breath test. As Senior Constable Rixon approached the vehicle, the offender drew a firearm and shot him. Senior Constable Rixon was able to return fire from his service pistol, which hit the offender. Senior Constable Rixon was able to place **a handcuff** on the offender, before he collapsed from his injuries and died at the scene. He was unable to be revived.

Senior Constable Rixon **joined** the New South Wales Police Service as a **Trainee** on **28 October 1990** and was attested as a probationary Constable at the New South Wales Police Academy, **Goulburn** on **26 April 1991**.

He was initially posted to **Hamilton Patrol** in Newcastle and soon after was posted to **Belmont** Patrol.

He was **confirmed** as Constable on **26 April 1992**.

He commenced duties in **Highway Patrol** at **Waratah** in the Hunter area on **12 February 1995**, and shortly afterwards, on **7 May 1995**, he transferred to **Gunnedah** Highway Patrol.

On **14 July 1996**, Senior Constable Rixon transferred to Tamworth Highway Patrol, where he remained posted until the time of his death.

He was **posthumously** awarded the **Commissioner's Valour Award**.

RIXON, David James

Dearly loved husband of Fiona

Loving father of Renae, Jemma, Scott, Mathew, Hayley and Patrick.

Loved son, stepson and son-in-law of Gwen & Max Russell, Ken Rixon, Kathryn & Robert Brooking, loved step brother and brother-in-law of Katie and Beau, Tammy, Leanne (dec), Rachelle, Nadina and Damien.

The relatives and friends of David Rixon were respectfully invited to attend his funeral.

The Service was appointed to commence at 10.30 am, **Thursday, 8th March, 2012**, at St Paul`s Anglican Church, Church St. Tamworth, thence for interment in the lawn portion of the Tamworth Regional Council Cemetery, Showground Rd. Tamworth.

Presented to the family.



The inscription reads:

27947

Senior Constable

David James Rixon

Oxley Local Area Command

NSW Police Force

2nd March 2012

* * * * *See flyer for a huge fund-raising evening that we are holding at City Diggers Club, Wollongong, on the 2 June. As you can see the entertainment line up is unbelievable. Please feel free to share this flyer with your friends. \$5,000 from the evening will be donated to the Senior Constable David Rixon Memorial Fund. David left behind a wife and 6 children when he was tragically killed recently. His friends from within the New South Wales Police have set a target of \$1,000,000. This is our way of showing support. Please do not put off getting your tickets as we are capping the evening at 250.

**NSW
policeman
honoured
after on-
duty death**

By Helen Velissaris

August 19, 2015, 7:47 am

It was meant to be a regular day for Tamworth police officer and father-of-six David Rixon.

The NSW highway patrol officer was carrying out a routine breath check in 2012 when the driver, **Michael Jacobs**, pulled out a revolver and shot him in the chest.

He returned fire, hitting Jacobs in the abdomen, leg and shoulder, called for back-up and **handcuffed Jacobs** before collapsing.

His killer went on to receive life-saving surgery and a **life sentence**.

But **Senior Constable Rixon** died at the scene, leaving behind a heartbroken wife and six children.

Three years later, he has been honoured for his bravery.

Sen Const Rixon is **one of 25 people** to receive an Australian Bravery Decoration on Wednesday from **Governor-General Peter Cosgrove**.

Mr Cosgrove says **Sen Const Rixon** and the other recipients are a source of courage, support and inspiration, but he acknowledged there can be devastating consequences resulting from their bravery.

“Sadly, there are those whose brave acts mean they are no longer with us,” he said.

“Today, to their families, I express the nation’s sadness at your loss but pride in your loved ones’ actions.”

The Australian Bravery Decorations recognise acts of bravery by members of the community who selflessly put themselves in jeopardy to protect the lives or property of others.

The recipients are nominated by members of the public, with the governor-general deciding the awards.

They vary from Mustafa Ruhi Akkan and Nattapat Penpanussak, who helped police apprehend a man who stabbed three backpackers in 2000, to Jamie Alan Strong, for helping rescue two people trapped in a burning house in 2014.

One of the highest honours, the Star of Courage, is awarded to a 21-year-old RAAF pilot named James Wallace Hocking.

In 1944, he saved his crew and the English township of March by flying his stricken bomber away from civilian danger. He

died when the plane crashed into a nearby field.

There are four levels of decoration and a Group Bravery Citation, an award for a group of people involved in a single incident. They are the Cross of Valour, the Star of Courage, the Bravery Medal, Commendation for Brave Effort and the Group Bravery Citation.

AWARDS SINCE 1975

- 5 Cross of Valour
- 146 Star of Courage
- 1217 Bravery Medals
- 1926 Commendations for Brave Conduct
- 157 Group Bravery Citations

7 News Sydney

National Bravery Awards: Tamworth Police Officer David Rixon honoured after on-duty death.

STORY: <http://yhoo.it/1J2dT4F>

Police Commissioner statement: "The NSW Police Force Commissioner, **Andrew Scipione**, has commended Senior Constable **David Rixon** for his service as a NSW Police Officer, following the announcement that he will receive a posthumous Australian Bravery Award.

Snr Cst **Rixon** died after being shot during what should have been a routine traffic stop in Tamworth on 2 March 2012.

Snr Cst **Rixon** stopped the man, believing him to be a disqualified driver, when the man produced a gun and shot him.

Despite being critically injured, Snr Cst **Rixon** returned fire and arrested the man.

Commissioner **Scipione** said Snr Cst **Rixon** was a deserving recipient of a posthumous Australian Bravery Award.

“Snr Cst **Rixon** died under tragic circumstances while protecting the community in what should have been a routine traffic stop,” Commissioner **Scipione** said.

“His death affected his family, friends, the local community, and the entire NSW Police Force; and today’s award is testament to the fact that his sacrifice will never be forgotten.

“Snr Cst **Rixon**’s courage and conviction under incredibly difficult circumstances continues to inspire us and strengthen our resolve to protect the community,” Commissioner **Scipione** said.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Police **Troy Grant** said this award is testament to the courage and dedication the men and women of the NSW Police Force display every day.

“Senior Constable **Rixon** put his life on the line to protect the community and he paid the ultimate price. “This award recognises his actions and his bravery on that day. “My thoughts are with Senior Constable **Rixon**’s family and the NSW Police Force.”

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/nsw/a/29293039/nsw-policeman-honoured-after-on-duty-death/>

An officer and a gentleman: Remembering Senior Constable David Rixon a year on

By Kitty Hill

March 1, 2013, noon

A SOMBRE anniversary falls today as police officers and community members join the family in remembering fallen Tamworth police officer Senior Constable **David Rixon** a year after his death.

On March 2, 2012, Senior Constable **Rixon** was fatally shot on a routine traffic stop in West Tamworth.

Senior Constable **Rixon's** wife Fiona and their children will be joined by officers from across the state to mark the anniversary, many of whom have spent the past week completing a charity walk in his honour.

Officers will form a sombre march to Tamworth Police Station to arrive at 8am, where the flag will be lowered to stand at half mast.

NSW Police Commissioner, **Andrew Scipione**, will unveil a plaque honouring Senior Constable **Rixon**, during a ceremony at Tamworth Community Centre at 11am.

Fiona Rixon said she will take a private moment during the day to remember her husband, the man who she described as her "other half".

"He was my best friend, we did absolutely everything together, everything," she said.

About 60 police officers of the 140 who walked arrived in Tamworth last night after a 370km journey titled "Our Mates, Our Families," which began in Wyong last Monday.

Rainy weather welcomed the walkers as they completed the last

few kilometres of their 10-day trek, ending at the Longyard Hotel.

Senior Constable **Rixon's** stepdaughter and Probationary Constable **Jemma Galea**, who walked alongside four officers from the Oxley Local Area Command, said today's memorial services would be bittersweet for her and her family.

"I guess it's hard to say how it will affect you until the day," Probationary Constable **Galea** said.

Completing the last of the walk alongside her mother yesterday, she was wearing the bright pink cap she wore for the the duration of the walk.

The cap was the subject of a personal joke between her and her stepfather.

"**David** said to me when I bought it, 'When are you ever going to wear that hat?'" Probationary Constable **Galea** said.

"So now I wear it, to remember him."



Senior Constable David Rixon's

stepdaughter and probationary constable Jemma Galea who wore a bright pink cap as a joke between her and David. Photo: Marina Neil

Ms **Galea** said the walk was harder than expected, and she was full of “sore muscles, blisters and a bit of sunburn”, and everyone was looking forward to a hot shower before the fundraising event at Wests’ Diggers last night.

The walkers camped along the way, passing through six police local area commands, many of whom sent officers to Tamworth to help out in the days and weeks after the tragedy.

Organising police from Tuggerah Lakes said they were inspired by the Cooee recruitment march, a famous walk that began in Gilgandra in 1915 with 35 men, its ranks swelling to 265 by its end in Sydney, all eager to join the Australian war effort for WWI.

Oxley Local Area Commander Superintendent **Clint Pheeny** said his officers were honoured to take part in the walk, and ceremony, to remember their former colleague.

“**David’s** death was heartbreaking for all of us at Oxley Local Area Command,” Superintendent **Pheeny** said.

“But when a police officer is killed it’s not only the local police and their immediate colleagues who are touched, it’s the entire police force and community as a whole.”

“I’m extremely proud of all the officers who have taken part in the gruelling walk as it shows their resolve and determination to honour their mate, and to raise funds for not only his family, but the families of other fallen officers.

“I’m particularly proud of all of **David’s** colleagues here at Tamworth who have continued to do their job on a daily basis since his death, even though all their hearts have been

broken.

“**David** has never been far from our minds and this will certainly be the case tomorrow, especially during the ceremony. The plaque will serve as a permanent honour to him in the community and one I’m sure all who knew him will be extremely proud of.”

Commissioner **Scipione** said the relay-style walk from Wyong Police Station to Tamworth was raising money for both the NSW Police Legacy and the **David Rixon Memorial Fund**.

“Last year we experienced the tragedy of losing two of our officers and so we all have extremely heavy hearts today,” Commissioner **Scipione** said. “However the ceremony gives us the opportunity to reflect on Senior Constable **Rixon’s** life and career, and to remember the outstanding husband, father, friend and colleague that he was.

“The walk and ceremony are testimony to the honour that exists among those who have chosen to become part of the police profession. It also demonstrates our respect, our grief and our resolve to continue, despite the hardships that may confront us.”

The official ceremony will take place at 11am at Tamworth Community Centre in Darling St.

Michael Allan Jacobs becomes first person jailed for life without parole for killing police officer, Senior Constable David Rixon

- *Amy Dale, Chief Court Reporter*
- *The Daily Telegraph*
- **October 04, 2013 2:45PM**

THE man who shot Senior Constable David Rixon has become the first person jailed for the term of his natural life for murdering a police officer.

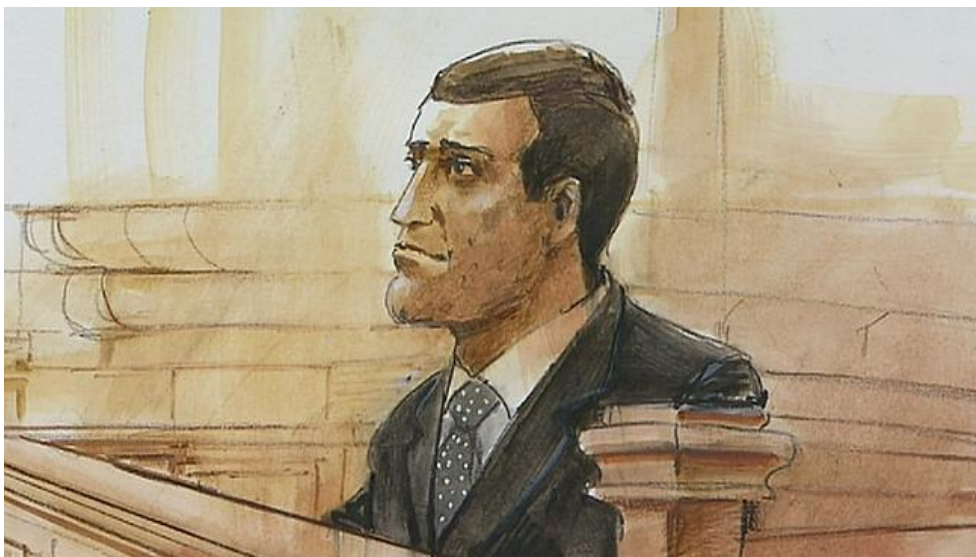
Michael Allan Jacobs has this afternoon been sentenced to life with no parole for murdering Sen-Constable **Rixon**, the crime described by Justice Richard Button as “a life irrevocably taken”.

Jacobs is the first person to be convicted of murdering a police officer since the O’Farrell government introduced legislation in 2011 to ensure such an offence is punished by a sentence of life with no parole.

He said the murder of a police officer “is a direct assault on the system of parliamentary democracy and the rule of law.”

“The offender informed the intention to kill him,” Justice Button said.

“That intention may have been held utterly fleetingly and irrationally ... but it has been established to a criminal standard.”



Court artist sketch of Michael Allen Jacobs.

Police Commissioner **Andrew Scipione** and NSW Police Minister **Mike Gallacher** joined more than 20 police officers in court

for the landmark sentence.

Sen-Constable **Rixon** was shot once in the chest with a bullet fired from a .38 calibre revolver after approaching Jacobs' stopped Holden Statesman for a random breath test early on March 2 last year.

The policeman returned fire and hit **Jacobs** three times, leaving the man with "an out of control drug addiction" critically wounded, before he collapsed from his injuries.

"The offender almost died from his injuries," Justice Button said, adding that in his dying moments Sen-Constable **Rixon** had handcuffed Jacobs to arrest him.

The court heard **Jacobs** screamed "ah die, I'm sorry sir, sorry" just after the shooting and while "lying gravely wounded could be heard repeatedly saying 'I'm sorry.'"

But Justice Button said he couldn't be more satisfied "that the offender is responsible for this murder."

Police arrived shortly after the shooting but Sen-Constable **Rixon** couldn't be revived, while **Jacobs** received lifesaving surgery and eventually recovered after spending more than a month in hospital.

The Crown claimed he was high on ice at the time, making him more prone to aggression, and shot the policeman to avoid being locked up and convicted for repeatedly driving unlicensed.

Justice Button said of **Jacobs**'s motive to avoid "being briefly refused bail or at worst a sentence of a matter of months ... the offender saw fit to fire a handgun at a police officer."

He said Sen-Constable **Rixon** would have had "less than a second before the shot was fired."

David Rixon murder: Michael Jacobs gets life in jail

Date **October 4, 2013**



Paul Bibby

Court Reporter

The sun had only recently risen over the roof of Tamworth police station when the white, dark-windowed bus arrived.

One by one about 30 officers filed on and settled in for a six-hour journey that they hoped would end with justice for a fallen comrade and perhaps a small measure of closure for those left behind.

Eight hours and 400 kilometres later, a NSW Supreme Court Justice gave the family, friends and colleagues of murdered police officer Senior Constable **David Rixon** the result they desired – a life sentence for the man responsible for his death.

In a landmark decision, **Michael Alan Jacobs**, 49, became the **first** person **sentenced to life in prison** under new laws requiring a mandatory life sentence for anyone who murders an on-duty police officer in NSW.

"Let this serve as an example to all those in the future who think it's OK to harm our police officers," NSW Police

Minister Mike Gallacher said after the sentence was handed down.

"This decision today draws a line in the sand."



NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione after the sentencing at Darlinghurst Courts with Fiona Rixon, (and family) wife of Senior Constable David Rixon and his colleagues from Oxley LAC. Photo: Dallas Kilponen

Nearly a quarter of the Oxley Local Area Command were present to hear the sentence, forming a guard of honour as Senior Constable **Rixon**'s widow, Fiona Rixon, and their children left the court.

"I'm very proud of my children – we've been through this hurricane, tornado, roller-coaster ride, whatever you want to call it, for the last 18 months," an emotional Mrs **Rixon** said.

"Hopefully now life will be a little bit more quiet."



NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione with a family member after the sentencing at Darlinghurst Courts. Senior Constable David Rixon was killed while on duty. Photo: Dallas Kilponen

On March 2 last year, Jacobs shot and killed Senior Constable Rixon, a 40-year-old **father of six**, during what was to have been a regulation breath test on **Lorraine Street, West Tamworth**.

During a month-long trial earlier this year, the court was told that the experienced highway patrolman had recognised Jacobs as a disqualified driver and followed him from nearby Gunnedah Road to the quiet side street.

Senior Constable Rixon's police microphone recorded him saying "G'day mate, how you going?"

In an increasingly distressed voice he is then heard to say: "I'm just gonna breath test you, buddy."

Jacobs then fired a single shot from a **.38 calibre pistol** that went straight through Constable Rixon's **left wrist** and into his **chest, puncturing his heart and lung**.

The officer returned fire, hitting **Jacobs** in the leg, abdomen and shoulder. He collapsed soon after.

Jacobs is heard to say "die ... I'm sorry sir, sorry, sorry".

The officer's last act was to handcuff his killer.

Jacobs later claimed that it was not he but a local drug dealer, Terrence James Price, who fired the fatal shot after the policeman "interrupted" them in the middle of a drug deal, but this was rejected by the jury.

In sentencing Jacobs to life in prison, **Justice Richard Button** said the 49-year-old had no apparent motive for committing the crime and had shown little or no remorse.

"It is almost impossible to believe that, in order to avoid a short period of being denied bail or, at worst, a sentence of a matter of months for driving whilst disqualified, the offender saw fit to fire a handgun at a police officer," he said.

"The murder of a police officer in such circumstances is a **direct assault upon our system of parliamentary democracy and the rule of law.**"

As well as providing some relief to Senior Constable Rixon's family and fellow officers, the life sentence represents a landmark decision for the state's mandatory life sentencing laws.

Jacobs' case was seen by many as a test of the laws, **introduced in 2011**, which require judges to impose a life sentence on any offender found guilty of murdering an **on-duty police officer**.

Crucially, Justice Button found that Jacobs' crime met all the criteria set out in the mandatory life sentence legislation, including that he had acted with the intention to kill the officer.

"That intention may have been held only fleetingly and utterly irrationally, but nevertheless I consider that it has been established to the criminal standard," he said.

"The result is that the mandatory life sentence is to be imposed."

Read more:

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/david-rixon-murder-michael-jacobs-gets-life-in-jail-20131004-2uz2l.html#ixzz41kKeWje2>

Parliament of New South Wales

Legislative Council

NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY – 2012

Page: 15631

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: My question is addressed to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Will the Minister inform the House about National Police Remembrance Day?

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: I thank the honourable member for her question and I again welcome the opportunity to share the details of this significant day for the New South Wales Police Force with the wider community. National Police Remembrance Day was observed on Friday 28 September 2012. It is a day held in memory of police officers across the country who have died in the line of duty. On that day I had the honour of attending a service held at the New South Wales Police Wall of Remembrance in the Domain at which the 251 officers who have given their lives to protect the people of New South Wales since the formation of the New South Wales Police Force 150 years ago were rightly honoured.

It was a solemn reflection of the ultimate sacrifice those officers made and their legacy. The service included special acknowledgement of Senior Constable **David Rixon**, who was

killed on **2 March 2012** whilst on duty in Tamworth. Senior Constable **Rixon**'s tragic death was a salient reminder of the dedication police give to the service and protection of our communities. In upholding the law and keeping the people of New South Wales safe, police put their lives on the line on a daily basis. National Police Remembrance Day honours the courage and bravery of all police officers across the country. It is also an important day to remember police officers who have lost their lives as a result of illness and in other circumstances.

National Police Remembrance Day recognises the families of all serving police officers and the families of those who did not make it home at the end of their shift. New South Wales Police Legacy is a not-for-profit organisation that looks after the families of deceased police officers in New South Wales. The organisation does an invaluable job providing financial and emotional support to more than 1,000 widows and widowers and 200 children across New South Wales. Importantly, New South Wales Police Legacy ensures that these families remain part of the wider police family. The police family is a close-knit group of people who support each other and their families.

Also in attendance at the service at the Wall of Remembrance was 12-year-old **Elayna Day** and her **grandmother**. **Elayna** was only six years old when her **father, Sergeant Graham Clifford Day**, died but she remains a firm member of the police family. She is the proud recipient of the 2012 Commissioner's Scholarship. The New South Wales Police Legacy scholarship will assist **Elayna** as she enters high school next year to pursue her dream of becoming a veterinarian. She is a prime example of the fine work undertaken by New South Wales Police Legacy in supporting the families of our fallen police officers. The need for an organisation like Police Legacy highlights the risks associated with being a police officer. It is a difficult, stressful and dangerous job. In informing the House on the significance of National Police Remembrance

Day, I would like to take this opportunity to thank police officers across the State, all of whom are serving and protecting the people of New South Wales. Their commitment is acknowledged and respected, their bravery and courage is honoured and admired and I thank them for their contribution in ensuring that we have a safe community.

<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/hansart.nsf/V3Key/LC20121016019>
