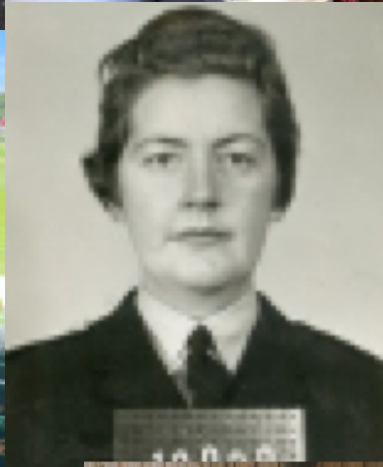




Past & Present Women Police Association

PPWPA Update | Summer 2022



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02 President's Message

Hi Everyone,

Happy New Year to you all. I sincerely hope that 2022 will be better than the previous few years and we continue to look towards living more active and social lives. On that note, we are holding our annual Policewomen's Lunch at the Caulfield RSL on Sunday 20th February 2022. It will be fantastic to be together again and I urge you all to get in touch with your current and former colleagues and friends, put together a table and let's have a bumper afternoon. We are going to hold our Monster Raffle (I have really missed it!!), so please bring along any raffle prizes you wish to donate (wrapped or in a gift bag).

This month's newsletter contains a profile of one of our new committee members, Hayley Atkinson. It's a really good read, honestly told and I'm sure you will join me in admiring Hayley's tenacity through many interesting and challenging times. We congratulate Australia Day recipients of the Australian Police Medal, Raelee Thomson on her induction into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame, report on the ACWAP Award Recipients from the 22nd Excellence in Policing Awards, and advise of a commemorative service to honour Val Walsh, PPWPA Life Member who passed away in 2021.

Finally, we meet Lizzy the Jack Russell/Foxy Cross, our first 'Pets of PPWPA' profile from Val Homan.

Looking forward to seeing you in February,

Kindest regards,

Janet

Janet Mitchell

Detective Senior Sergeant

Crime Command



Upcoming Events

- Val Walsh Commemorative Service – Sunday, March 6 - details page 7.
- ANNUAL FEBRUARY POLICEWOMEN REUNION LUNCH - 20th February - details page 8.



03 Committee Member Profile

This month we profile Haley Atkinson, who is a new member to the PPWPA Committee.

Haley joined VicPol in December 1988 (Squad 36/88) and retired in December 1999. Haley has provided poignant responses to our questions.

Academic qualifications:

Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) (Deakin University)

Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) (Cairnmillar Institute)

Master of Play Therapy (Charles Darwin University)

Master of Counselling (Monash University)

Graduate Diploma Child Protection (Harvard University)

Graduate Certificate Health and Community Services (The University of Melbourne)

Advanced Diploma Clinical Skills Child Centred Play Therapy (Play Therapy Australia)

Registered Play Therapy Supervisors Course (Deakin University)

Professional Associations:

Registered Play Therapist (APPTA)

Certified Clinical Counsellor (PACFA)

International Clinical Play Therapist (APT – USA)

Provisional Psychologist (APS)

You are about to embark on further study, can you tell us about that?

I am fortunate enough to be accepted into a Master of Clinical Psychology at the Australian Catholic University. I intend to add the double degree of an additional PhD after the first year as I have burning research question I want to answer that needs the additional scope of a PhD dissertation over a Master's thesis. This research question takes my newfound learnings in psychology and adds legal questions that I would like to deeply research that continue to mean a great deal to me. These include child witnesses in court and my personal belief that the Evidence Act and Crimes Act need to be more cognisant of developmental trajectories and impacts of trauma on the developing brain and how these intersect with the ways that children are currently required to deliver testimony in a chronological, comprehensive verbal narrative that does not align with how children remember, report and recover from trauma. Basically, I think that the way the judicial system responds to child victims is not currently in alignment with what psychology tells us about children and what is best for them. My research passion is to see if I can try and start a conversation on what may be better ways of doing that.

I have also just applied to my play therapy registering body for registration as a Registered Play Therapist – Supervisor. So many amazing clinicians were so gracious in helping me along my way in this profession and now it is time for me to pay it forward to those entering the field.

Can you outline the places you worked during your policing career?

My training station was Brunswick and I loved working there from the moment my feet landed. There was never a dull moment and I had to learn fast. I was lucky to learn from some brilliant operators and I credit those members with setting me on a path to ethical practice, a strong work ethic and honouring those reasons we probably pretty much all joined the job for in the first place – to genuinely help people. My first gazetted station was Broadmeadows uniform. I then went back to Brunswick as I had loved it so much the first time. I had always intended to go back to Brunswick again as a sergeant, but I left the job before I attained that rank. After my second stint at Brunswick, I was fortunate to gain a brevet rank and transferred to Greensborough CPS. Following that I went to Blackburn CPS which then transferred to the old court buildings at Box Hill CPS. I retired from there.



04 Member Profile *cont.*

What were the highlights of your career?

The highlights of my career are, without exception, the times that members of the public acknowledged my work with cards, or flowers or a call. I think if I had ever become a sergeant, I would have made it my mission to ensure I acknowledged good work by members and for those messages not to only come from the public. I think policing has become so intent on ensuring compliance from members that the niceties and support for members have been forgotten to some extent. I am a strong believer that if you look after your people well, the great work will follow.

What was your biggest challenge?

Being the senior member responding to a child who had been killed in a bus accident. It was a horrific scene and emotions were high. I was the only policewoman there and was tasked with delivering the death message. There were many other factors that made this a really difficult job. I still think of that child and that family to this day. Giving evidence in the coroner's court in front of that child's family was one of the hardest things I have ever done in my life.

In another sphere the most difficult challenge I faced was when I and my dear friend, who happens to be the father of my children, were charged by Victoria Police for accessing infertility treatment services when it was only open to heterosexual couples. Having tried to conceive for near five years it was clear that assistance was needed, and my GP referred me to a Melbourne IVF clinic. My partner and I went and booked into a hospital when I fell pregnant as you do once you know your delivery date. It just happens that the very next person to book into that hospital after us was also a police member and saw my name in the booking above hers. She chose to go back to the office and advise them that the boss and her girlfriend were having a baby. And that was all it took. It absolutely devastated me and I never went back to policing after it.

The charges were dismissed at court and costs awarded. The Police Association generously funded our defence, and I will always be grateful for that. And for anyone that is wondering, we never lied at the IVF treatment place. We were asked how long we had been trying and an hour later were on the programme. When it came time to sign consents there was a form we signed. Where I signed it said, "the woman" and where the father of my children signed it said, "the husband". When he said, "but I am not her husband", the clinic responded, that it was ok as they were old forms from when you used to have to be legally married to access the service. And that is what we were charged on. I was later told that my entire medical file from the IVF clinic seized under warrant had been faxed to a Melbourne newspaper and the very next day the front page of that paper salaciously read, "Two gay cops and an IVF baby" along the lines of the movie, "Three men and a baby". But there was nothing funny in that for me. And the thing that hurt most about that is that my partner and the father of our children and I had not yet decided if we were even going to tell people that information. But that choice was taken away from us. So, along with a single woman who was fighting Victorian IVF laws we agitated for law reform of the Victorian Infertility Treatment Act. This was achieved and now any person requiring fertility services is not excluded on the basis of sexuality or gender.

Cont.



05 Member Profile *cont.*

Around this time my partner went through a battle for her life with leukemia and required a bone marrow transplant. They did not deny her medical services based on her sexuality. But somehow for me seeking treatment for a medical problem with infertility, my sexuality did matter. This will never make sense for me.

And I suppose this lengthy last example has been my most difficult challenge as I never returned to policing and it sent my life on a whole new trajectory. This took me many years to recover from.

What job/jobs are the most memorable to you and why?

I am probably going to be talking out of school here, but it is a tale that I think deserves hearing. I was working with a very creative member on one occasion and we were asked, again, to visit a woman living in the community who was having some significant mental health issues. We were going around each day until a mental health inpatient position became available to her. The woman was struggling with the belief that her house was bugged and the thought that her every move and word were being watched and analysed was causing her significant distress. My creative partner drove us to the TOG and borrowed their radar gun. We took that to the woman's house and may have led the woman to believe that that device was ridding any problematic bugs that may be present. From that moment she was able to calm and ended up being in a safer condition until her place was found in the hospital. I think back on this job sometimes, particularly now I have studied so many units of ethics at university and have conversations with myself about that job. Was it ethical? How do you answer that? But the actions we took gave that woman some peace. Maybe the ethics lay in seeing a person suffering and taking creative action to alleviate that suffering.

Another most memorable job, seeing as I always look for the positive in situations, is that had I not left policing I never would have ended up moving to the Northern Territory and working as a child protection practitioner flying in tiny planes into remote Indigenous communities to work each week. The privilege of working in that capacity with Aboriginal peoples has been some of the most humbling and rewarding work I have done.

In what way do you think policing changed you?

People who know me and who are about to read the words that come next might say they are not true.... But when I entered the police academy, I was actually quite a shy person. And I remember the very moment that changed. I was on the police academy range and there was a video screen playing a scenario in front of me which I had to respond to as though it was real. All of a sudden, I heard this booming voice from behind me, "RECRUIT – IF YOU CANNOT ISSUE THE POLICE CHALLENGE LOUDER THAN THAT, MAYBE THIS ACADEMY AND THIS JOB IS NOT FOR YOU!" Felt brutal at the time, but whomever that instructor was, I want to say thank you, because I came out of that scenario stronger, holding my head higher and knowing I could do this.

Cont.



06 Member Profile *cont.*

My biggest change involved me deeply understanding that everyone in this life has their struggles and rarely do people get up and decide to make really poor choices with potential for hurt for themselves and others. I learned to have empathy for people making poor choices and my psychology training leads me to deeply believe that most of those poor choices come about due to a person's unresolved trauma history. Not always. But a great deal of the time.

What advice would you offer policewomen starting their careers today?

To remember the privilege you hold to go to people in adverse circumstances and to be able to make a meaningful difference in that moment that can alter their lives, sometimes, the very worst day of their lives. To always remain humble. Remember why you joined and always honour that. I love a quote passed on to me where previous Chief Commissioner S.I. (Mick) Miller said, "Being a police officer is like having a front row seat to the greatest show on earth". Right there – that front row seat – that is privilege. No job is too small or too insignificant because to the people you respond to, it may be the most difficult thing that person has ever faced. Treat people like you would want your loved ones treated if they were in the same circumstances. To always try your best to level the power imbalance wherever you can, because a lot of power is bestowed on us as sworn members. Vulnerable people need to feel heard and respected, no matter what they have done. And if you think you know all there is to know in the job...get out because you are dangerous.

What is the most valuable advice you ever received?

That as a woman in the job you are going to have to be really damn good with your words because most times you are not going to out wrestle, out punch or be stronger than many violent or aggressive people you respond to. I think this is where my psychology bug started.

That as a woman in the job you do not have to play by the rules of the boys or lower your standards for yourself in your personal choices. You actually earn respect in a whole different way. I wish I had learned that a bit earlier in my career. But I did force myself to like beer so I was not ordering "girlie drinks" (what even is that anyway?) and now I love a cold beer on a hot day – so there is always that...

When you are not working or studying, what do you like to do?

I have always wanted to play the double bass, so I have recently started that. Over the last year I have taken up boxing three times a week and gone back to my first love of tennis. I found our extended lockdowns really difficult as I am a very social person. I strongly believe that living through these unprecedented times that the physical activity has been a huge factor in maintaining good mental health for me. And we only need to look at the neurobiology to understand why that is important. If I ever stop studying (I will after this next degree!) I would love to learn to speak, read and write Mandarin. But I actually think that is a pretty ambitious task, so I will just have to see. I dream of gaining a post-doctoral university fellowship in New York City and living and working there for a while. My time spent studying in Cambridge Massachusetts inspired me in this dream. I never sit still. And I am beginning to worry that I am running out of time for everything I would still love to do. Maybe I need to talk to a good therapist about that...

Cont.

07 Member Profile cont.



Cap badge 1994 – I remember graduating in 1989 and thinking 1994 would take a very long time to arrive!

Citation — author personal photo archive



I opened my own private practice as a Registered Play Therapist and Clinical Counsellor three years ago. I work with children with high end trauma and grief. Here I am sitting in the reception of my practice

Citation — author personal photo archive



NEWS

THURSDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2000 THE AGE

Appeal by murderer dismissed

... appeal who stabbed his ex-girlfriend rather than pay child maintenance yesterday failed to win his murder conviction and sentence. Court of Appeal dismissed appeal by Robert Clive Parsons, 56, received a 25-year minimum sentence for murdering Ms Parsons by stabbing her during a lunch break in their sitting room at the Sanderson Court. Victoria's Chief Justice, Justice Hatcher Phillips, yesterday said the killing was one of the most heinous murders he had seen. Her appeal court judge, Justice Brooking, said it was an appeal against a murder conviction. Parsons, determined to pay \$1 million to his wife on 10 December, rather than face a court that he feared was imminent, had been considering an option to order Parsons, for \$700,000 into a trust fund as a potential future maintenance. Parsons, who had \$400,000 in cash under a trust to control his assets, can be visited by Ms Parsons, 50, and stabbed her.

Gay women call for IVF law reform



Haley Atkinson with baby Haydn and her partner Joy Murphy.

A court dismisses IVF charges against a former policewoman.

By KAREN KISSANE

Haley Atkinson hadn't planned on becoming a figurehead for gay rights. All she wanted was a baby. When she and a gay friend failed to conceive conventionally, they turned to IVF, which in Victoria is forbidden to gays. They achieved the baby, notoriety and a court hearing. Ms Atkinson and Haydn's father, Sergeant Mark Keet, then both police officers, were charged with having provided false information or failing to provide relevant information when applying for IVF treatment.

On Tuesday, they sat holding hands as the charges were dismissed by Mr John Hardy in the Melbourne Magistrates Court. He found there was no evidence against Ms Atkinson and insufficient evidence against Mr Keet. He awarded costs in their favor.

The media could not report the case until a suppression order on the proceedings was lifted yesterday.

Ms Atkinson, who has since resigned from the force, said she was relieved to have the ordeal over. "I have no regrets that I have a beautiful baby, but I wish it hadn't had to have been such a big event." She said it was time the law was changed. "Every single person I have come across in shops or whatever has said (the charges) were a load of nonsense. People who know us say, 'You're good people; you deserve to bring up a child because you have a lot of love to give'."

Ms Atkinson lives with her partner, Ms Joy Murphy, but Mr Keet is also involved in raising six-month-old Haydn. Both women regret that Ms Murphy has no legal rights over the child. She cannot adopt him without Ms Atkinson giving up her rights as a mother.

Ms Murphy said, "Legally, I don't exist. But I see the look in Haydn's eyes when I walk in the room. He loves me, and Haley knows it and Mark knows it."

"I may have no legal rights but I have ever met. He wanted to buy a high chair when Haydn was born and he checked with Haley first about whether it would offend me. We are all good friends."

Both women said that the Infertility Treatment Act, contravened

the Equal Opportunity Act, which forbids discrimination in provision of services on the grounds of marital status or sexual orientation.

Dr Ruth McNair, convenor of the Fertility Access Rights Lobby, called on the State Government to make artificial insemination and IVF available to lesbians and single women.

She said New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania did not confine such treatments to married or de facto heterosexuals. International human rights covenants signed by Australia obliged governments to provide equal access to fertility services.

But the secretary of the Australian Family Association, Mr Bill Muehlenberg, said the rights of the child should also be considered, and the traditional family unit was the best way to raise children. Mr Muehlenberg said the risk of child sexual abuse doubled in families where the child was not being brought up by his biological father, and that in a homosexual relationship, only one partner could be a biological parent to the child.

The Minister for Health, Mr John Thornley, was unavailable for comment yesterday.

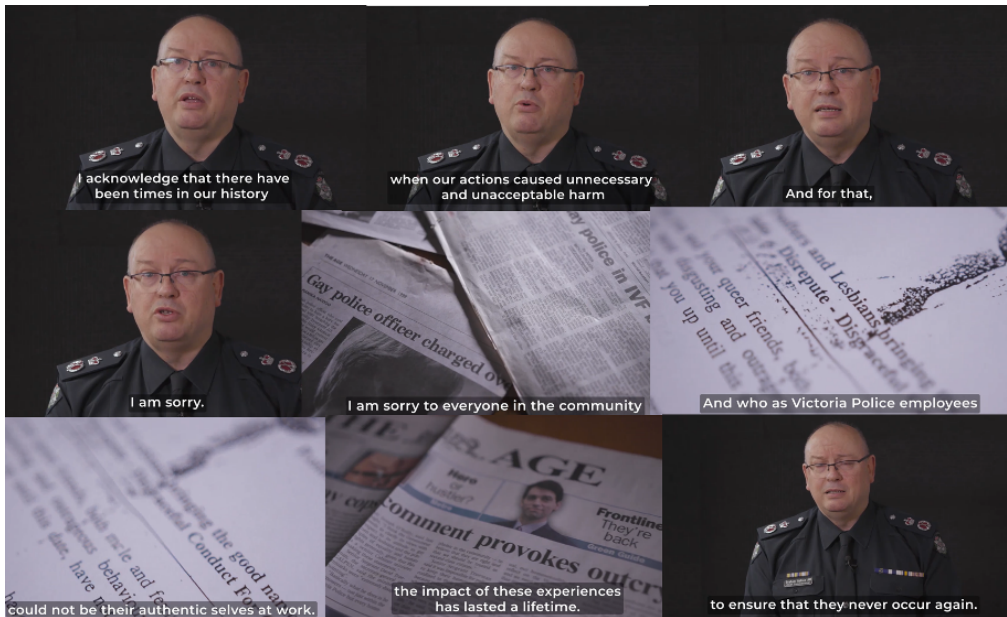
Ms Atkinson would like more children, but she will probably travel to NSW for treatment.

One of the many newspaper articles that appeared at the time of the court hearing – Citation = Kissane, K. (2000, February 24). Gay women call for IVF law reform. The Age. <https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/123590464/>





08 Chief Commissioner's Apology



Snapshots from Chief Commissioner Ashton's apology to LGBTIQ+ members – still images taken from video source as follows –

citation = Victoria Police (2019, August 19). 20th Anniversary of LGBTI Portfolio Reference Group Apology [Video File]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=baebr4btXMO>



ANNUAL FEBRUARY POLICEWOMEN REUNION LUNCH

Now that we are finally out of lockdown we have booked the *Caulfield RSL, 4 St Georges Road, Elsternwick* on **Sunday, 20 February, 2022** for the annual policewomen reunion lunch. There is street parking available, or catch public transport as it a 3-5 minute walk (270 metres) from Elsternwick Railway Station. The No 67 tram also stops at the Railway Station.

The cost is \$50.00, which includes canapés and a drink upon arrival, main meal, dessert, tea and coffee. Purchase your own drinks.

This is a subsidised price for members and guests. We are looking forward to catching up with everyone as it has been two years since we last got together.

Book and pay for your seat via this Try booking link. <https://www.trybooking.com/BWGEN> (Please advise of any special dietary requirements)

Just a reminder, this is the lunch with the world's longest raffle draw, so it is appreciated (but not compulsory) to bring along 'something' for a raffle prize.

If you do not have access to electronic booking, please contact Wendy Cowling via email ppwpacontact@gmail.com or contact Gerry McKenna 0419 534 333.

All attendees will need to be fully vaccinated and show their vaccination certificate upon checking in. Face masks must be worn, unless seated, eating or drinking.





09 Val Walsh Commemorative Service

Val Walsh Commemorative Service – Sunday, March 6.

Val Walsh, our good friend, colleague and life member passed away in August 2021, during lockdown. A commemorative service to honour Val is being organised by Val's long-time friend, Margaret Swann (Swanny), together with military friends Jude Pinkerton-Treloar OAM and Heather Fry and also Phil Parson of the RPA. The service will be held at 11.30am on Sunday, 6th March, 2022 at the Nurse Edith Cavell Memorial, Birdwood Avenue, Kings Domain, Melbourne.

There will be an opportunity to lay a wreath at the Eternal Flame, Shrine of Remembrance Second World War Memorial Forecourt, following the service.

Tributes for inclusion in the service booklet may be emailed to Heather at hfry44@bigpond.com

Refreshments following the service will be held at the Mulgrave Country Club, corner of Wellington and Jells Roads, Wheelers Hill. Numbers attending plus any special dietary requirements, please contact Jude on 0411 955 557.



2022 Australia Day Honours

We congratulate the following PPWPA members on being awarded medals in the 2022 Australia Day Honours.

Superintendent Sharon McKinnon – awarded an Australian Police Medal

Superintendent McKinnon has held various roles in her 32-year-career with Victoria Police, including in specialist roles at the Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Unit and Criminal Investigation Unit. She has managed the Witness Protection and Organised Crime Intelligence Units and been responsible for leading policing services to the Kingston, Glen Eira and Bayside local government areas.

Deputy Commissioner Wendy Steendam APM

Deputy Commissioner Steendam has been recognised as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to the community through emergency response organisations. Joining Victoria Police in 1984, her dedication to policing saw her awarded an APM in 2011. Deputy Commissioner Steendam's diverse policing career has included significant involvement in development and implementation of the Violence Against Women Strategy and Victoria Police Illicit Drug Strategy, and she is currently a Board Member of the Victorian Sentencing Advisory Council and the Victorian Coronial Council.



Cont.



10 2022 Australia Day Honours cont.

We also congratulate the following VicPol and AFP members on being awarded Australian Police Medals.

Superintendent Kelly Lawson

Superintendent Lawson joined Victoria Police more than 30 years ago. Since then she has worked in a variety of policing roles, including as a prosecutor, and formed part of an Australasian police leadership team in responding to the Black Saturday bushfires.

Superintendent Lawson also had significant involvement in managing the response into the murder of 21-year-old Aiiia Maasarwe, which attracted significant media attention nationally and overseas. She remained as the conduit between Victoria Police and the family, providing them reassurance throughout the investigation.

Inspector Caroline West

Inspector West has provided an excellent police service to the community over a broad and varied career of more than 40 years. She has held investigative roles in the Nepean Sexual Crime and Child Abuse Unit and has an extensive career providing policing services to the diverse communities within Southern Metro Region. Most recently, Inspector West has been responsible for driving and leading a number of high-profile recruitment campaigns which included recruiting more than 4000 people since 2017.

Detective Superintendent Anita Van Hilst

Detective Superintendent Anita Van Hilst joined the AFP in 1998, beginning her career in ACT Policing, City Station. In 2002, she transferred to national investigations and served in Economic and Special Operations, and deployed to New Zealand in 2006. She moved to counter terrorism in 2014, and deployed to Jordan in 2017 where she oversaw an increase in operational tempo due to the Syrian Civil War.

Detective Sergeant Louise Denley

Detective Sergeant Louise Denley joined the AFP in July 1985 and, after recruit training, was posted to ACT Policing as a general duties officer. In ACT Policing, she became the first female police motorcyclist, pursuit driver, full-time rescue squad member, and was later promoted to Sergeant in Traffic in 1996. In February 2002, Detective Sergeant Denley deployed as part of the 70th contingent for the United Nations peacekeeping mission to Cyprus. She has also worked in Transnational Sex Offenders and Child Protection teams.

Kim Crimmins - Public Service Medal (PSM), awarded to public servants for outstanding service.

Kim Crimmins began her career with the AFP in August 2002 in the ACT Policing North Criminal Investigation Team. She has deployed, led or engaged with AFP Family Investigative Liaison Officers in response to various critical incidences, including the downing of MH17, the Christchurch terrorist attack in March 2019, and the New Zealand White Island Volcano eruption in 2019. In 2021 she was named as the Most Outstanding Female Practitioner as part of the Australian Council for Women and Policing 22nd Excellence in Policing Awards.



11 Sandy Langlands Well Being Grant recipients 2021

- Joan Paffett for general health and psychological well-being. (Spa treatment)
- Elizabeth Batten for rehabilitation and strength conditioning following recent bone fractures. (Yoga/pilates)
- Karene Keehan for health and wellbeing support - strength conditioning to assist in carer role. (Exercise/yoga)
- Sharon Harvey for continued management of back injury. (Swimming pool membership)
- Melinda Edwards for continued management of back injury. (Stretching program)
- Carmel Elliott to support health and well-being with increased fitness. (Pilates/yoga).
- Tracy Meyer for general mental and physical well-being in carer role and Taskforce Salus role.
- Karin Parson for rehabilitation requirements following knee surgery.(Physiotherapy)

The committee thanks BankVic for their ongoing support of this initiative that supports members, whilst perpetuating the memory of Sandy Langlands, Life member and inaugural PPWPA President.



PPWPA Membership

Just a reminder that the membership fee was due on 1 July, 2021 for the 2021/2022 financial year. **The fee increased to \$20 from 1 July, 2020**, however we still have some members who are only paying \$10. If you are paying your membership by annual direct debit, please check with your bank to ensure that the amount is \$20.

If you have doubt about your current membership status, please send an email to ppwpacontact@gmail.com

Account name – Past & Present Women Police Association

Account No - 912774S1 for BankVic members or 100050864 for other banks.

BSB - 704230

PPWPA Face masks

We still have a limited amount of face masks for sale at \$9.00 including postage.

Send an email to ppwpacontact@gmail.com to order.





12 Australian Cricket Hall of Fame inductee Raelee Thompson

Cricket trailblazer Raelee Thompson has been named as one of this year's inductees in the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame.

An eight-person panel, brought together by the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame Committee, Cricket Australia (CA) and the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) selected Justin Langer and Thompson to become the 58th and 59th inductees respectively, since the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame was established in 1996.

Thompson, hailing from Shepparton in Victoria's north-east, is one of the pioneers of the women's game.

A fast bowler who played 16 Tests and 23 One-Day Internationals between 1972 and 1985, she captained the team four times. Thompson is the oldest player – male or female – to take a maiden five-wicket haul in Test matches at 39 years and 175 days of age.

Her final Test match in 1985, the fifth and deciding Test match of the 1984-85 Women's Ashes series played in Bendigo, saw her lead the Australians to reclaim the Women's Ashes trophy after a 30-year hiatus. Thompson took 57 Test wickets at an average of 18.24 and 24 One-Day International wickets at 18.66.

Thompson took 57 Test wickets at an average of 18.24 and 24 One-Day International wickets at 18.66.

Thompson also represented Victoria on 45 occasions before serving as a selector for many years. She has continued mentoring future generations of female cricketers at her home club, Essendon Maribyrnong Park Ladies Cricket Club and accepted Life Membership from Cricket Victoria in 2018.

"Justin and Raelee are extremely deserving inductees and it is wonderful to acknowledge and celebrate the immense achievements and contributions of these legends of our game," said CA CEO Nick Hockley.

"Justin has had a tremendous impact on Australian cricket, both at the top of the order alongside Matthew Hayden, as a coach of Western Australia and more recently as Head Coach of the Australian men's team.

"Raelee has been a leader and champion of cricket as a sport for women and girls through an incredible period of evolution, both as a proud player and captain of her country and continuing that passion towards ensuring that the game continues to progress and flourish for future generations."



Cont.



13 Australian Cricket Hall of Fame inductee Raelee Thompson *Cont.*

All inductees in the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame must have been retired from international cricket for a minimum of five years to be eligible for selection. (Courtesy of Cricket.com.au)

In 1995, Raelee was inducted into the Victoria Police Sporting Hall of Fame. Congratulations Raelee on your outstanding sporting achievements.



In early December, Barbara Brand visited one of our members, Carol Inglis, 14779 in her lovely residence near the seaside at Mornington. Carol was delighted to receive a Christmas gift of a wonderful gingerbread house made and kindly donated by the very talented Kathleen Leahy (McCabe) – Once Upon A Time Gingerbreads @OnceUponATimeGingerbreads

Carol talked about her different postings from Russell Street, Dandenong, Heidelberg and Ballarat. Carol was in very cheerful spirits, even though she deals with several health issues. She is still able to get around on her scooter to visit the shops and she keeps busy knitting “Dude” dolls for a local charity.

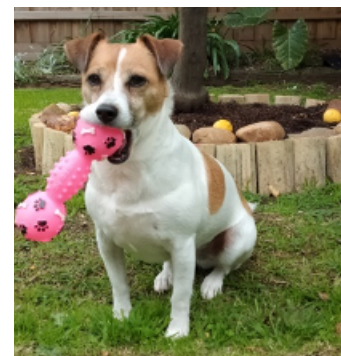


Pet Profile

Hi there, this is Lizzy, my Jack Russell/Foxy Cross. I got her from Pet Rescue, online, when she was 5 months old. She was born in May 2017 and I picked her up in October 2017. She chewed many things including my mobile and iPad. She was an absolute horror for 12 months, but I wouldn't be without her. She has been great company during COVID. I even had Australia Post stamps made with her photo on them. Val Homan

How to create and order Australia Post MyStamps

1. Visit www.auspost.com.au/mystamps
2. Upload your image
3. Select your stamp shape
4. Edit your image (zoom, rotate, crop)
5. Preview your stamp sheet
6. Select the postage type (domestic or international)
7. Select the denomination
8. Select the number of sheets - the more you buy, the more you save
9. Accept terms and conditions
10. Complete the check-out process – cost from \$26.00 per sheet.



For personalised products please allow up to 10 business days for printing. If you wish to receive your personalised product by a certain date, please ensure that you allow sufficient time for the order to be printed and delivered.

Help is available on 1800 331 794



14 ACWAP 22nd Excellence in Policing Awards

Recently the 22nd Annual ACWAP Excellence in Policing Awards were celebrated at host events across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. Congratulations to all those nominated by their peers for all the outstanding work being done across Australasia and the Pacific.

The following Awards were presented:

The Audrey Fagan Memorial Award, sponsored by the Australian Federal Police, honours the memory of Assistant Commissioner Audrey Fagan APM who was the ACT's Chief Police Officer at the time of her death on the 20 April 2007. The Audrey Fagan Memorial Award recognises outstanding women who have shown exceptional qualities as a mentor, role model and leader of men and women in policing and law enforcement and is chosen by a selection panel from the nominees across all Award categories. This year the Award was presented to **Teresa (Karen) Poutai- Struginski** with the New Zealand Police. Karen is the driving force behind the police Youth Development Program (YDP) which was established to work intensively with families of young people who are offending or at risk of offending. The purpose is to support families and communities of the program's clients to reduce risk factors most associated with offending and enhance those protective factors that reduce its likelihood. The program provides positive mentoring, motivation and encouragement for high needs 'at-risk' youth. Karen builds a connectedness and purpose, along with a sense of belonging to enable them to embrace a life free from crime and associated behaviours. Karen is incredible at breaking down barriers between the police and communities, building a foundation of trust, going above and beyond and working tirelessly over many years to improve outcomes for all women she works with.

The Bev Lawson Memorial Award sponsored by FC Lawyers is the Council's most prestigious award and recognises the most outstanding woman who has been first in any policing or law enforcement activity or support service. The Award is in honour of the ground-breaking achievements of **Bev Lawson**, who as a former Deputy Commissioner of the New South Wales Police Force was Australia's most senior woman in policing until her untimely death in 1998. This year the Award was presented to Sandra Venables with the New Zealand Police. Her ability to influence and enable others was evident from the outset, graduating from the Royal New Zealand Police College with the Commissioner's Award for Leadership. In 2014 Sandy was appointed Eastern District Commander, the first woman to hold the role. In 2017 Sandy once again made history when she became the first woman to be appointed Assistant Commissioner, the highest-ranking constabulary woman ever in New Zealand Police at that time. With a special and deep commitment to supporting Māori, Pacific and ethnic women to thrive in police. She is an innovator, proactively identifying opportunities for women to develop their skills and abilities, particularly in leadership. She enables women to support one another by creating a culture of trust, mutual respect, and inclusion. We are all, unquestionably, better off for her courageous and selfless leadership.



15 ACWAP 22nd Excellence in Policing Awards *cont.*

Katherine Taylor with the New Zealand Police was recognised with a **Highly Commended Award** in this category.

The Champion of Change Award is sponsored by Tait Communications. This award acknowledges men's individual and/or collective influence and commitment to improving policing for women. It also acknowledges the importance of men's role in increasing women's representation in leadership within policing and how policing is delivered to women in the community. Areas of particular focus are how the Champion has achieved a real change in workplace culture and mindset and empowered both women and men within law enforcement to advance gender equality and improve policing for women. This year the award was presented to Fuiavaill'i Egon Keil, the former Commissioner of Samoa Police, Prisons and Correctional Services. Former Commissioner Keil is a leader who has driven cultural change with dedication and resilience to enable the Samoa Police, Prisons and Correctional Services to become a standard bearer for gender equality and empowerment of women in leadership across Australasia. Since his appointment in 2015, Former Commissioner Keil has tackled entrenched gender discrimination and has actively promoted women into senior leadership roles, and through all operational divisions. His drive for gender equality is reflected in recruitment, with sworn female officers increasing by 40% and in the Senior Executive Service where women represent 70%. He has also enacted policies designed to change the day-to-day culture within the force, creating an equitable and safe workplace allowing women to succeed.

Michael Fitzgerald with the New South Wales Police Force and **Ben Martain** with the Queensland Police Service were recognised with **Highly Commended Awards** in this category.

The Integrity and Courage Award is sponsored by QBank and acknowledges the courage required to make the community and law enforcement better for everyone. Whilst we are unable to publicly share the details of this winner you can be assured that this person is an outstanding exemplar of everything this award stands for and is a worthy winner. **Kate Maxwell** with the Queensland Police Service was recognised with a **Highly Commended Award** in this category.

The Most Outstanding Female Leader Award is sponsored by Australian Institute of Police Management and is awarded to a member who demonstrates dynamic and innovative leadership, mentored and guided others and contributed significantly to their field. This year the award was presented to **Melanie Aitken** with the New Zealand Police. During her 22-year policing career, Mel has proven her exceptional ability to lead in a number of influential positions nationwide. A leader in change management, she is truly dedicated to improving the safety and wellness of people. Since 2018, Mel has led the redesign of New Zealand Police's approach to health and safety services, creating the Safer People workgroup and associated structure, with a continued and evident cultural shift in how health and wellbeing is now seen.

Jennifer Hurst with the Australian Federal Police was recognised with a **Highly Commended Award** in this category.

Cont.



16 ACWAP 22nd Excellence in Policing Awards *cont.*

The Most Outstanding Female Investigator Award is sponsored by Queensland Police Union of Employees and this year the award was presented to **Kylie Bell** with the Western Australia Police Force. Kylie demonstrated persistence, integrity, and outstanding investigative talents by successfully investigating a series of legally complex sexual assaults whilst providing exceptional support to the victims involved. Kylie has worked as a Detective in the Child Abuse Unit, State Crime Squads and across Regional Western Australia. She has a passion for investigating child abuse crimes and is widely acknowledged by her -supervisors and peers for providing guidance and leadership to junior officers. This includes developing probationary Detectives and uniformed staff on their chosen career path. Kylie is also an accomplished ultra-marathon runner having competed in numerous high-profile international events. Kylie has a proven track record of mental endurance which is displayed in her policing career. Coupling this with her exceptional physical endurance she has also applied this attribute to raise funds to support victims of crime, child abuse and neglect.

Naomi Maidment with the South Australia Police and Amy Scott with the New South Wales Police Force were recognised with **Highly Commended Awards** in this category.

The Most Outstanding Female Administrator Award was awarded to **Marina Simoncini** with the Australian Federal Police. Marina's work has made positive impacts to the lives of Australian women and children through her leadership in driving awareness and fundraising for the White Ribbon Association in Australian Capital Territory Policing, community and stakeholder engagement across Australian policing jurisdictions in Missing Persons and Exploited Children, and her contributions to, and leadership of the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation. Marina has spent over a decade developing, implementing and leading large-scale projects to support law enforcement. Marina joined the Australian Federal Police in 2007 to lead campaigns for the then newly established National Missing Persons Coordination Centre. It was after the wrongful detainment of Cornelia Rau and Vivian Alvarez, her role quickly evolved, establishing the centre, as well as working closely with the families of long-term missing persons and a variety of stakeholders, including the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

Leonie Smiley with the New Zealand Police was recognised with a **Highly Commended Award** in this category.

Cont.



17 ACWAP 22nd Excellence in Policing Awards *cont.*

The Most Outstanding Female Practitioner Award is sponsored by Police Association of New South Wales and this year was awarded to Kim Crimmins with the Australian Federal Police. Throughout her career Kim consistently demonstrates her strong commitment to working with victims of crime both domestically and internationally and ensuring that victims are provided with the support and relevant information to assist them to navigate our complex criminal justice and coronial process. Within this role she guides, leads and mentors police in an operational space to undertake this role more effectively. She remains focused on ensuring victims are treated with compassion, dignity and respect. Kim provides outstanding mentoring, support, positivity, and guidance to members of the Australian Federal Police Family Investigative Liaison Officer network in supporting victims and families who have suffered harm and/or lost loved ones offshore, always demonstrating integrity and resilience.

Raquel Vogel with the Victoria Police was recognised with a Highly Commended Award in this category.

The Most Outstanding Female Intelligence Practitioner Award is sponsored by the Australian Institute of Professional Intelligence Officers and this year was awarded to Bianca Handyside with the Victoria Police. Bianca has been a senior intelligence analyst, with Victoria Police since 2012. She is highly respected by her peers and is a proven mentor of both peers and less experienced analysts. She is a subject matter expert in counter terrorism and sits on a number of national level counter terrorism committees as a Victoria Police representative. She identified that within the counter terrorism space little focus was put on the role of females in violent Islamist extremism. As a Churchill fellow she conducted extensive research on this topic that has led to learnings for law enforcement that have been shared with local and international partners. In doing this important work on a previously ignored subject she has boosted the profile of Australian police female intelligence analysts globally, whilst bringing focus onto the gender issues inherent in terrorism.

Danielle Gardiner with the Australian Federal Police and Kyah Hester with the New South Wales Police Force were recognised with Highly Commended Awards in this category.

The Excellence in Law Enforcement for Women Initiative Award is sponsored by TripleZero Property Group and this year was awarded to Project SKYWARP, a collaboration between the Australian Federal Police and Anti-Slavery Australia, with the support of Sydney Airport. Project SKYWARP is an Australian Federal Police -led airport-based initiative to raise awareness and prevent the trafficking exit of children and women in Australia. Through successful multi sector coordination with other Australian and international government agencies and partnering with expertise at the University of Technology Sydney and Anti-Slavery Australia, Project SKYWARP has delivered an anti-slavery message to a substantial audience at Sydney's Kingsford-Smith airport and demonstrated to domestic, regional and international audiences Australia's commitment to prevent the trafficking of women and girls. Project SKYWARP is a world leading proactive airport-based initiative to identify, prevent, deter and disrupt trafficking of women and girls facing forced marriage utilising a multi-sector approach.

Te Wānanga Mana Wahine with the New Zealand Police was recognised with a Highly Commended Award in this category.

Cont.



18 ACWAP 22nd Excellence in Policing Awards *cont.*

The Excellence in Law Enforcement in the Asia Pacific Region Award is sponsored by the Pacific Faculty of Policing and this year was awarded to **Eileen (Rose) Nala** with the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force. Rose is a dedicated and compassionate leader and a tenacious investigator. This tenacity and dedication is mirrored by her team of predominantly female detectives. Due to her leadership, guidance and mentoring, her team tirelessly and consistently achieve results in the field of sexual assault investigations, often with extremely limited resources. Rose's Sexual Assault Team has the highest arrest and conviction rate in the National Criminal Investigations portfolio. Making the Solomon Islands a safer place for women and children is her highest priority. Rose is a most dedicated and professional police officer, who consistently provides the highest standard of leadership, and is a source of inspiration for women in the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force, she always leads by example.

Ruth Tusela with the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary was recognised with a **Highly Commended** Award in this category.

The Excellence in Research on Improving Law Enforcement for Women Award is sponsored by Queensland Police Service and this year was awarded to **Kate Linklater** with the New South Wales Police Force. In completing her Doctoral Thesis, Kate has developed the theory of "Inclusion Capital" – the currency by which members of police agencies gain, maintain and lose inclusion – setting an informed knowledge base for policy frameworks to increase diversity and inclusion in policing agencies, including for female police. Kate has been a police officer since 1999. She completed her PhD in 2019 and has worked with the Police Association of New South Wales since 2018, and the Western Sydney University since 2010. She has personally experienced and studied various issues affecting female police officers across her career, including balancing work and having children. Kate was selected as an Emerging Scholar for the 2020 International Conference on Diversity in Organisations, Communities and Nations, where her work was also presented.

The Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation with the Australian Federal Police was recognised with a **Highly Commended Award** in this category.

The Griffith University Women in Policing Scholarship was awarded to **Katelyn Pomroy** with the Australian Federal Police. As a general duties officer Katelyn interacts with a wide range of people in the community every day and investigates a range of different crime types. Her studies provide her with a broad view of different aspects of crime, including victims, offenders, crime trends and new approaches to punishment and rehabilitation. Katelyn is particularly interested in undertaking subjects relating to young people and crime, and restorative justice practices, as she regularly encounters young people in her role. Katelyn's goal is to be better informed as a general duties officer by incorporating knowledge she acquires whilst studying at university, enabling her to recognise opportunities for diversion when interacting with young people.



19 VALE

Helen Flynn (nee Collier) – 13928 (PW 69)

Helen served in Victoria Police from 1961 to 1964 and she was stationed at Russell Street and “X” District. She passed away on 21 December, 2021 at the age of 84 years. Helen was buried at Ballarat on 5 January, 2022. Helen was a member of the PPWPA for 28 years, being an inaugural member.



Leone (Lee) O’Brien – 14004 (PW 70)

Lee served in Victoria Police from 1961 to 1982. Lee was stationed at Russell St, ‘X’ District, Wangaratta, Heidelberg, Flemington, Frankston, Nunawading and ‘O’ District. I understand that Lee was a great mentor for many police women during her career, attaining the rank of Senior Sergeant. She passed away on 24 August 2021 at the age of 84 years.



Anne Bell (nee Hardy) Constable 15165 (PW 80) & 15966 (PW 19)

Anne first joined VicPol on 21 February, 1966 and was stationed at Russell Street. She resigned on 13 January, 1968. Anne re-joined on 11 November, 1968 and was stationed at Russell Street and Warrnambool. She resigned on 6 March, 1971.

Anne passed away on September 26 and was privately cremated on October 1. Anne's daughter Kerry, is a Sergeant at Dandenong Police and when Kerry graduated in 2000, Kerry and Anne became the fourth mother-daughter sworn members for Victoria Police. Anne rejoined PPWPA in 2017 and attended the 2019 February lunch.



*We extend our sincere condolences to their family and friends.
May they rest in peace.*

