

Past & Present Women Police Association of Vic.Inc

# news

PPWPA UPDATE | SUMMER 2024

- 1 President's Message
- 2 President's Message cont.  
February policewomen's  
reunion lunch cont. p3
- 3 October 2023 AGM
- 4
- 5 Sandy Langlands  
Wellbeing Grant 2023 &  
PPWPA Membership
- 6 30th Anniversary
- 7 Celebration cont.
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11 Joy Murphy Retirement cont.
- 12
- 13 Victoria Police Legacy  
Luncheon cont.
- 14 Restorative & Engagement
- 15 Redress Scheme cont.
- 16 Angela Taylor Memorial Run  
cont.
- 17 Vale
- 18 Events 2024

## President's Message

We are now mid-February and I would still like to wish everyone a happy New Year.

Firstly I would like to welcome Sharon and Cathy to the PPWPA committee, can't wait to start working with you both.

I have heard so much positive feedback on the October Lunch, which is fantastic and brings me to the February lunch, which is fast approaching. Please make sure you have booked your place and if you bring along a non PPWPA member who may like to join and we could sign up we have a little surprise for you.

Before closing I would like to thank everyone for their support while I have been unwell and especially our amazing committee that has been supporting me during my tough time.  
cont.

### Contact Us:

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# President's Message cont...

I will continue to get better and can't wait to catch up with you all at Bells Hotel South Melbourne on the 25th of February

Stay safe always  
Gerry



Inspector Gerry McKenna  
President PPWPA



## February policewomen's reunion lunch

From 12.00pm for 12.30pm on Sunday, 25 February 2024, in the "Main Hall" at Billy Bells Hotel, 157 Moray Street, South Melbourne.

Lunch will be three (3) course feasting - entree, main and dessert shared in the centre of the table, tea and coffee for \$65.00. Purchase your own drinks.

Organise a table of friends and book your seat via <https://www.trybooking.com/CONMO>

**Bookings close on Sunday, February 18.**



# February policewomen's reunion lunch cont.



We will have the world's longest raffle draw, so it is appreciated (but not compulsory) to bring along a gift for the raffle.

There is free parking available in the surrounding streets. Alternatively catch the No 12 tram at Southern Cross Station, Spencer Street and get off at stop 127 at Clarendon & York Streets. It is a 4 minute walk (350 metres) east along York Street and then right into Moray Street.



If you do not have access to electronic booking, please contact Wendy Cowling via email [ppwpacontact@gmail.com](mailto:ppwpacontact@gmail.com) or 0411 146 048.



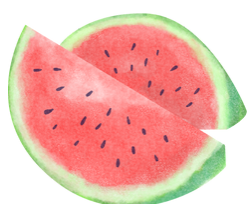
## October 2023 AGM

At our 2023 AGM we farewelled Janet Mitchell and Jo Turner from the committee.

Janet had been on committee for 8 years, 2 years on general committee and 6 years as president. We thank Janet for her leadership overseeing the first Action Plan 2019 to 2022 and the instigation of many new initiatives such as the Sandy Langlands Well-being Grants, PPWPA masks during COVID and PPWPA Christmas cards.

Jo Turner was on general committee for 3 years assisting as newsletter editor.

We welcomed Cathy Patching and Sharon Watson to the committee and their profiles follow on the next page - cont.



# October 2023 AGM cont.



## Cathy Patching

Hi everyone,

My name is Cathy Patching (nee Rudolph), and I'm one of the newest members of the PPWPA committee. I served as a member of Victoria Police between May 1981 and July 1998. During that period I worked at the IBR, the CPS, general duties and Neighbourhood Watch. I was also fortunate to be accepted into the 'Part time Trial' which was introduced in 1992.

After leaving the police force I returned to uni and have been working as a mobile phlebotomist for the last 22 years.

My family life has been full on since I married in 1985. My husband and I have 6 children and now 3 grandchildren. I have served on a number of committee's over the years such as school, sporting clubs and Heart kids. I am looking forward to being part of PPWPA and meeting all of you.

Cathy

## Sharon Watson

I joined the job in 1981, squad 10/81, a girl from Ballarat. I am widowed with 2 sons and 2 grandchildren.

Stations I worked at include Russell Street and Brunswick. I was the first female officer to work at a country highway patrol office at Wodonga. I then transferred to Rutherglen Police Station. I was retired ill health in 2001.

I have always been interested and concerned re welfare of other officers and their families. In 2017 I became a Police Veteran Support person and I am heavily involved with the Ballarat veterans. My interests include football (Lions) Rotary, golf and Police Legacy.

I am looking forward to a great year on the Committee.

Kind Regards,  
Sharon





# Sandy Langlands Well-being Grant recipients 2023

The recipients of the 2023 grants are:-

- Susan Thwaites
- June Plant
- Glenys Russell
- Karen House
- Megan Dobbs

Once again we thank BankVic for their ongoing sponsorship of this initiative.



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## PPWPA Membership

The membership fee was due on 1 July 2023 for the 2023/2024 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.**

We are continually reconciling our membership list and have been emailing any member who is in arrears with membership. Thank you to the members who have responded. Members who are not financial will be removed from the Facebook group and will not have the benefit of ongoing membership for the awarding of 25 & 30 year membership pins.

Account name – Past & Present Women Police Association

Account No - 912774S1 for BankVic members or 100050864 for other banks. BSB - 704230

**If you have changed your home/postal address since joining, please let us know your new postal address.**

# 30th Anniversary celebration lunch



Over 100 guests gathered to celebrate 30 years of PPWPA at the Riverside Golf and Sports Centre, hosted by Neary Ty, Reporter from Channel 9. Going by the chatter and laughter in the room, everyone had a great time catching up with friends. It was especially nice to see Jill Wood after many years.

We welcomed four special guests, inaugural committee members, Maggie Fehring (Junior Vice President), Suzanne Krauklis (Membership Secretary), Joy Murphy and Jill Wood (Committee), who were invited to light the memorial candle. A moments silence was observed to remember PPWPA members Lil Irwin and Jo Rae, and S/Sgt Michelle Kerley, who had passed since we last met. Senior Victoria Police Chaplain, Annette in't Hout, offered a Prayer of Thanksgiving



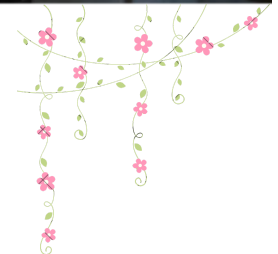
Each attending guest received a commemorative pen.

Rochelle Jackson (Crime Couch podcast) was our guest speaker, entertaining us with her anecdotes of interviews with “crooks” for her books.

Rochelle is an investigative journalist/TV producer who has worked in Australia’s electronic media all her life. She began her career in country Victoria and Sydney in television and radio. She has worked as a TV producer and investigative journalist for “Today, Tonight”, “Australian Story”, George Negus’s “New Dimensions”, Channel 9’s “Watchdog”, SBS TV and Radio services and TV NZ’s “60 Minutes”. She won a Special Citation for a Channel 7 story in the United Nations Association of Australia’s Media Peace Awards 1996 and was part of the ABC “Investigators” team that won a TV Week Logie Award for a special report on the NSW Homefund Scheme.



She specialises in crime and police stories and wrote In Your Face – the life and times of Billy “The Texan” Longley, ABC Books. This biography was short listed in the 2006 Ned Kelly’s True Crime awards. Rochelle published her second true crime book, Inside their Minds – Australian Criminals with Allen & Unwin in 2008. Her third true crime book Partners and Crime – The true stories of eight women and their lives with notorious men (Allen & Unwin) was published in 2012. Cont.



# 30th Anniversary celebration lunch cont.



Rochelle was a producer in Seven's "Murder Uncovered" true crime documentary series and a producer in the network's "Code 1" program. She is a board member of the Australian Crime Writers Association (ACWA).

She is currently hunting for her fourth book and producing the weekly "The Crime Couch" podcast

A highlight of the day was the presentation of 25 and 30 year membership pins recognising members loyalty to the Association.



Moira Prosser - 30 years



Sharon Watson - 25 years



Leeanne Trusler - 25 & 30 years



Liz Steuten - 25 & 30 years



Giovanna Campana - 30 years

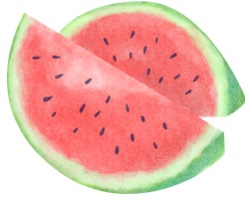


Jean Harben - 30 years





# 30th Anniversary celebration lunch cont.



Maggie Fehring - 30 years



Laraine Brown - 25 & 30 years



Val Homan - 30 years



Kathy Leahy - 30 years



Sue Thwaites - 30 years



Mary White - 30 years



Suzanne Krauklis - 30 years



Joy Murphy - 30 years



Haley Atkinson - 30 years



# 30th Anniversary celebration lunch cont.



Jill Wood - 25 & 30 years



Pierina May - 25 years



Robin Pennington - 25 years



Julie Floyd - 25 years



Susan Bodger - 25 & 30 years



Viv Daniels - 3- years



Lindy Kerr - 30 years



Tania Lewis - 30 years



Lisa McMeeken - 25 years



Linda Musika - 25 years



Barb Rudd - 30 years



Maureen Blue - 25 years



# 30th Anniversary celebration lunch cont.



Edna Meadows – 30 years



Ruth Norris - 25 & 30 years



Lyn O'Keefe - 30 years

Leslie Ridgeway - 25 years.

Pins were posthumously awarded to Lil Irwin 30 years and Jo Rae 25 years.

Our raffle was a huge success. Thank you to those who kindly made a contribution to the raffle.

Gerry McKenna – iPad won by Liz Steuten.

Australian Open - Quarter final tickets to 2024 Australian Open night session won by Rhonda Brown.

Kath Leahy - Gingerbread House won by Cathy Rudolph.

Lisa Edwards – jewellery won by Wendy Ribbands, Jill Wood & Laraine Brown.

Maureen Blue – Tealight burner won by Annette in't Hout

Candle won by Gill Wilson

Chocs & a bottle of Red won by Tony Nestor

To close a wonderful day, the memorial candle was extinguished by the current committee, followed by a blessing from Annette.

To commemorate the 30 years the committee struck a special Challenge Coin. The coins come in a clear container and are available for purchase.

## What is a Challenge Coin?

Challenge coins are small, medallion-like tokens, often adorned with the emblem or insignia of the presenting organization. Challenge coins serve as a symbol of membership, belonging, and camaraderie, forging a strong bond among those who possess them. Additionally, they are used to acknowledge an individual's achievements, dedication, or exemplary service, and serve as a tangible reminder of the appreciation and respect of their peers and superiors. Cont.





Receiving a challenge coin is a great honour, as it signifies that the recipient has played a special role, making a significant impact on their peers and the organization as a whole.



We also produced some new merchandise, a notebook, pen and coffee mug.



Notebook - \$5



Pen - \$3



Coffee Mug - \$15

Challenge Coin - \$15.00 or 3 for \$40

To order any of these items, simply email: [ppwpacontact@gmail.com](mailto:ppwpacontact@gmail.com) to organise.



## Joy Murphy retirement function

After 51 years serving the Victorian community, Joy Murphy OAM APM – retired on August 17, 2023. On Wednesday, November 15, Joy was fittingly farewelled by family, friends, colleagues past and present at Casa Abruzzo. At the time of her retirement Joy was the longest serving policewoman in world history!

Inspector Mark Keen was Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

Deputy Commissioner Neil Paterson spoke about Joy's service with VicPol and presented Joy with her Certificate of Service.  
cont.



# Joy Murphy retirement function cont.



Karl David (President) & Alex O'Toole (Asst. Treasurer) of the Police Association of Victoria Executive presented Joy with a gift and TPAV medallion.



Personal testimonials were given by Christine McIntyre, retired Detective Sergeant and Haydn Schobel, retired Detective Inspector.



It was my pleasure to be involved in organising the evening together with Detective Sergeant Leeanne Clinton from Mernda SOCIT.

# Victoria Police Legacy MCG Luncheon



As a volunteer for Victoria Police Legacy, I was invited along to the Christmas Lunch at the MCG on Saturday, November 23. The luncheon was amazing with police widows/widowers coming from all over Victoria and a few from Interstate. I had the privilege to sit with the parents of a member who had passed away whilst still serving. The reason I say that I was privileged was because their son had been one of my members and I had been mentoring him to become a Detective. Unfortunately, he had passed away prior to his dream being realised. It was great to finally meet them and hear all about their son.

The staff and volunteers of Police Legacy do an amazing job and at the luncheon, nothing was missed. The view from my table was of the ground at the MCG. Whilst looking out across this great ground I desperately tried to remove the memory of Collingwood winning the Grand Final this year and replacing it with KISS playing on this hallowed site.

The food was delicious, and my plate was so clean it would not have needed to be washed. The atmosphere was electric and there was a lot of chatter and laughter in the room. Everyone was chatting away and making new friends or catching up with old friends. I also got to meet one of my mother's (Gwen Fowler) squad mates. They went through the Depot together in 1956.

BankVic provided each attendee with a gift of knife, fork and spoon in a BankVic container (similar to the old style oblong wooden pencil case). I will use mine often as police station forks always go missing. 😊 One person from each table was lucky enough to win the beautiful fresh flower display from the table.

As members, I feel we are blessed to have Police Legacy to support our blue family and look after our colleagues' husband/wife/parents/children when their loved one's pass.

Police Legacy have been very good to me over the years with members of my own family joining the widow and widowers list. I know firsthand how much Police Legacy do for our members and their families. We are very fortunate to have them.

Below are a couple of happy snaps of me at the MCG and a photo of some PPWPA members who were at the Police Legacy City Getaway.



cont.



# Victoria Police Legacy MCG Luncheon



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all. I look forward to seeing you at the February policewomen's reunion luncheon on Sunday, 25th of February, 2024.

Leeanne TRUSLER  
Detective Sergeant 34206  
PPWPA Membership Secretary



## Restorative Engagement and Redress Scheme

Supporting Victoria Police employees, former and current, who have experienced workplace sex discrimination or sexual harassment.

About the scheme:

The Restorative Engagement and Redress Scheme is available to former and current Victoria Police employees who have experienced workplace sex discrimination or sexual harassment.

[Applications opened on 12 December 2019 and will close on 30 April 2024.](#) cont.

# Restorative Engagement and Redress Scheme cont.



Redress is about making an acknowledgement for wrongs that happened in the past. The scheme offers a range of options for eligible participants, including:

- counselling and therapeutic services
- a restorative engagement process
- financial payments

The scheme is independent of Victoria Police and is being delivered by a dedicated support team who are available to:

- explain if you are eligible
- guide you through the application process and timeframes
- discuss options available in the scheme and what may be suitable for you

Our support team is available to answer any questions you may have:

- phone: 1300 389 521, 9am-4:30pm, Monday-Friday (excluding public holidays)
- email: [thescheme@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:thescheme@justice.vic.gov.au)

Your privacy will always be protected in line with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic).

Apply to the scheme:

Applications for the Scheme can be made up to 30 April 2024.

The scheme is open to all former and current Victoria Police employees including:

- Victorian Public Sector employees (including administrative officers)
- uniformed members, Protective Services Officers and Police Custody Officers

You can choose to apply to the scheme if:

- you are a current or former Victoria Police employee, and
- you experienced workplace sex discrimination and/or sexual harassment before 12 December 2019, and
- the behaviour occurred while you were working or at a location connected to a Victoria Police workplace, and
- was perpetrated by a person who was a Victoria Police employee at the time.

The standard of proof for the scheme is plausibility. This is lower than the criminal and civil standard.

An account of an experience is plausible if there is enough information, supported by a properly witnessed statutory declaration, to reasonably satisfy a person undertaking an assessment that the behaviour occurred.

cont.

# Restorative Engagement and Redress Scheme cont.

Applications for the Scheme can be made up to 30 April 2024.

If you are considering applying, we encourage you to get in contact for a confidential discussion. You can:

- phone: [1300 389 521](tel:1300389521), 9am-4:30pm, Monday-Friday (excluding public holidays)
- email: [thescheme@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:thescheme@justice.vic.gov.au)

Apply online - Restorative Engagement and Redress Scheme  
<https://redresspoliceemployees.cammsgov.com.au/Public/Index>

Further information re the Scheme can be found at  
[Restorative Engagement and Redress Scheme](#)



**Date:** Sunday 21 April 2024

**Time:** Event Village is open from 7.30am and run/walk commences at TBC

**Location:** Albert Park Lake Palms Lawn

## Event Info:

You can register as an individual or you can register as a team with your family, friends or work colleagues. If you cannot join us at Albert Park Lake there is also the option to do a virtual registration and you do can your run/walk in a location that suits you.

Medallions will be presented by Arthur and Marilyn Taylor (Angela's parents) with the Chief Commissioner Victoria Police Shane Patton to the individuals with the best times in the various categories and age groups.

cont.



# Angela Taylor Memorial Run/Walk



## Categories:

5km Run – 10km Run – 5km Walk (all entries)

Nipper – Under 12, Junior (13-18yrs), Adult (19-38yrs), (39-54yrs), (55 & over)

Angela Taylor Memorial Shield is open to all Police, Emergency Service and Health Care teams (5km & 10km run) – The team with the best aggregate time in the 5km and the 10km Run will retain the Angela Taylor Memorial Shield for 12 months.

Current holders of the Angela Taylor Memorial Shield – 5km run Team Craigieburn Vic Pol and 10km run Team AFP Melbourne

## Entry Fees:

Adults: \$38 Under 18: \$15

Registrations are now open via this link [Angela Taylor Memorial Run Walk registration](#)

Consider applying for a Val Walsh Sports Grant to enter this event. Go to [ppwpa.com](http://ppwpa.com) for the application form.

## Vale

Barbara Anne Robertson nee McNamee – 14866 PW 42  
Barbara joined Victoria Police in 1964 one of seven policewomen recruited that year.

Barbara passed away on February 5 at the age of 82 years after a short illness. Barbara has been a PPWPA member since 2010.

Condolences to Ken and family. May she rest in peace.



# Events for the 2024 Diary

- Sunday February 25 – Annual policewomen’s reunion lunch at Bells Hotel
- Sunday April 21 – Angela Taylor Memorial Run Walk
- Friday September 29 - Blue Ribbon Day and National Police Remembrance Day
- Sunday October 20 – October lunch and AGM at Riverside Golf and Sports Centre



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**[www.tobinbrothers.com.au](http://www.tobinbrothers.com.au)**

This newsletter is sponsored by Tobin Brothers Funerals