

### President's Message

Lots has been happening since our last newsletter.

At the October AGM lunch at Riverside, we welcomed 3 new members to the committee, Sue Davis (Nolan), Gill Wilson and Sue Weinbergs. Their experience will add another dimension to the committee. Their Bios are included in the PPWPA October Lunch and AGM article.

In November, I was privileged to speak at the retirement of our Past President, Janet Mitchell, and present Janet with her PPWPA Life Member badge. Janet is to be commended for her dedicated VicPol career, her time as first female president of The Police Association (TPAV) and her support for the PPWPA membership. I wish Janet all the very best for the next chapter.

Christmas has come and gone, I hope that you enjoyed receiving your Christmas card. We sent out nearly 400 cards to our members and supporters, all hand written by a committee member.

I wish to congratulate, Deb Robertson, who has been appointed the Chief Executive Officer of Police Legacy, Tracy Meyer who was awarded an Australian Police Medal and Raelee Thompson who was appointed a member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the recent Australia Day Honours.

Happy reading,  
Gerry



#### In this update:

1. President's Message

2. Committee

2. - 6. PPWPA Oct 24  
Lunch & AGM

7. - 8. Australia Day  
Honours

8. - 9. Wills

10. - 11. Moira Prosser  
turns 90

11. Sandy Langland's  
2024 Grant  
Recipients

12., 13. Janet Mitchell  
Retires +  
Angela Taylor  
walk/run +  
Val Walsh Grant

14., 15. -16.  
Memories of Maggie

17. Membership 24/25  
2025 Event Dates

18., 19. 20, - 21.  
**VALE**



**Contact Us: PO Box 104 Sandringham 3191 |**

**E: [ppwpacontact@gmail.com](mailto:ppwpacontact@gmail.com) |**

**Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/PPWPAVictoria/](https://facebook.com/groups/PPWPAVictoria/)**

**W: [www.ppwpa.com](http://www.ppwpa.com)**



## Committee

**President – Gerry McKenna (Inspector 28942)**

**Vice President – Susan Davis (Nolan) (Inspector 26160)**

**Secretary - Wendy Cowling (Retired 22836)**

**Treasurer - Sue Byrne (Retired 23826)**

**Membership Secretary - LEEANNE TRUSLER (Det. Sergeant 34206)**

**Barbara Brand - (Retired 20695)**

**Kaye Murphy - (Retired 17097)**

**Cathy Patching - (Retired 22867)**

**Sharon Watson - (Retired 22877)**

**Gill Wilson - (Retired Inspector 23319)**

**Susan Weinbergs - (Sergeant 32032)**

**You may contact any of the committee members via  
[ppwpacontact@gmail.com](mailto:ppwpacontact@gmail.com)**



## PPWPA October Lunch and AGM

The October AGM lunch was held at Riverside, Golf and Sports Centre, Ascot Vale, where guests enjoyed another wonderful day catching up with each other. It was great to welcome first time guests; Madison Dibb, Angie Sant, Laurell Macmillan, Tahlia Nolan and Sue Weinbergs as well as the dedicated regulars.

The memorial candle was lit by Elizabeth Elliott, inaugural Treasurer and committee member and a special birthday acknowledgement was made to Moira Prosser, who had turned 90 a few days before. CONT>





## PPWPA October Lunch and AGM

Membership pins were presented to:



Elizabeth Elliott - 25 & 30 years



Fiona Webster - 30 years



Robin Pennington - 30 years



Janet Mitchell - 30 years

The raffle was well supported with the major prize of two tickets to the 2025 Australian Open quarter finals won by Tracy Cullen. Thanks to the Australian Open Tennis Foundation, Gerry McKenna and Kath Leahy for their generous prize donations.

A motion to award life membership to Janet Mitchell for her exemplary service to the association was unanimously approved by all present. At the end of the day the candle was extinguished by Gill Wilson.

CONT>



## PPWPA October Lunch and AGM<sup>cont.</sup>

The lunch also included the election of office bearers for the 2024/2025 year and the following were elected unopposed:

**President – Gerry McKenna**

**Vice- President – no nominations were received. Now filled by Sue Davis**

**Secretary – Wendy Cowling**

**Treasurer – Sue Byrne**

**Membership Secretary – Leeanne Trusler**

**Committee – Barbara Brand, Kaye Murphy, Sharon Watson, Cathy Patching, Gill Wilson and Sue Weinbergs**

**We welcomed three new members to the committee, Sue Davis (Nolan), Gill Wilson and Sue Weinbergs. Sue Davis has accepted the role of vice president.**

As you can see from their biographies below, they bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the committee.

### **Sue Davis (Nolan)**



I am privileged to have been recently welcomed into the PPWPA both as a member and onto the Committee. I am inspired by the experience and diversity, not just of the committee, but of the broad network of members. The depth of commitment and willingness to share stories, knowledge and experience for the benefit of all is fabulous.

I am a career police member, the first in my family and commenced with Vic Pol in 1987, graduating as part of a triple squad and one of the last groups of women to receive the 'black handbag'. I am now delighted to be sharing the policing experience with my daughter Tahlia, who has taken a different path to me and is rookie detective at Counter Terrorism.

CONT>





## New Members to the PPWPA Committee cont.

### **Sue Davis (Nolan)**

I continue to thoroughly enjoy my police career and have spent most of my time in legal roles including as a Prosecutor, a Coroners Assistant, a Discipline Advisor, managing civil litigation and inquests and now leading the Counter Terrorism Legal Unit. I became a lawyer along the way and my life outside Vic Pol includes running a boutique law firm specialising in Wills and Estates. I have another child, Jack, who has taken a separate pathway and is a horticulturalist, hoping soon to advance into being an arborist. My husband is also foreign to policing. With him being a career Mariner and Sailor, we are fortunate to spend a great deal of time on the water, sailing in both Australia and the Mediterranean with our most recent trip being to Turkey where we sailed the Turquoise Coast.

I am passionate about the role of women and ensuring we are recognised as significant contributors to policing both in the past and into the future. I am really looking forward to working with all members to continue to raise our profile, advance policing for women and continue to acknowledge those who have paved the way before us.

### **Gill Wilson**



I retired from VicPol 2021 at the rank of Inspector after 37 years - having previously spent 5 years in the UK Police. I worked in a variety of areas but my favourites were 9 years at the old Community Policing Squad and numerous years working in the different intelligence areas in Victoria Police. My great passion was intelligence and how it was used so I spent lots of time at the Intelligence and Covert Support Command at different levels. Prior to joining the police in the UK, I gained great value from being one of few selected to participate in the renowned management program with Marks and Spencer in England.

I have a very positive attitude to all things and I love working in teams and seeing others succeed. I look forward to using my experience and skills for the PPWPA.



## New Members to the PPWPA Committee cont.

### Gill Wilson

I am a volunteer Board Member of the Australian Institute of Professional Intelligence Officers (AIPIO) and am Vice Chair on the Committee of Management for the building where I reside. Since retiring I work as a Chief Supervisor for VCE exam invigilation and I drive courtesy cars for the Australian Open Tennis each year.

I was awarded the Australian Police Medal in 2017; AIPIO Life Membership in 2018 and named by the Australasian Council of Women and Policing as "The Most Outstanding Female Leader" in 2011.

I have been married for 45 years to the lovely Steve Wilson (ex-Detective Inspector Sex Crime) and when we are not travelling the world we delight in spending time with our 2 daughters, son in law and 2 grandsons. Our eldest daughter joined VicPol in 2023 continuing the family tradition.

Gill Wilson APM MAPIO(Life)

### Sue Weinbergs



Hi there! I'm Sue Weinbergs, a sergeant attached to Mooroolbark Police Station. I've been with the police force for 25 years, and here's a fun fact: I was the very last person to graduate from the Police Academy at the turn of the millennium!

Most of my career has revolved around detective work, including stints in Sex Crimes and elsewhere, like the drug squad and various Crime Investigation Units. Eventually, I took a leap into a different role and became a sergeant.

When I'm not working, I love doing reform Pilates, which keeps both my mind and body in great shape. I've got three wonderful guys in my life: my partner Baz, who keeps me grounded, and my two dogs, Rex and Busta, who make sure I get my daily walks. Saturdays are all about netball for me!

I've been involved in the sport for around 46 years now, coaching an Under 13 team and recently getting back into playing myself. It can be a bit tough on the body, but my mind is loving it! I might not be as fast as I used to be, but I'm definitely giving it my all. After all, they say if you don't use it, you lose it!



## 2025 - Australia Day Honours

Congratulations to PPWPA members, Tracy Meyer and Raelee Thompson, who were recognised in the recent Australia Day Honours. Tracy was awarded an Australian Police Medal (APM) and Raelee Thompson was appointed as a member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the recent Australia Day Honours.

**Detective Senior Sergeant Tracy Meyer** has worked on the frontline for most of her 40-year career and is renowned for her care and compassion towards victims of crime.

As officer in charge at Somerville Family Violence Investigation Unit she personally manages a process to ensure perpetrators are held to account. She served in a similar role leading the Dandenong Sexual Offence and Child Abuse Investigation Team.



Tracy drove meaningful cultural change within the force as a member of Taskforce Salus, established in 2014 to investigate sexual offences and predatory behaviour committed by Victoria Police employees.

While at Professional Standards Command she helped develop and deliver face-to-face training to more than 8000 police employees to enhance their ability to conduct investigations into allegations of police misconduct.

Tracy has shown an enduring commitment to member welfare. Her support, care and guidance has proved crucial in supporting colleagues after numerous traumatic events including the 2017 Bourke Street attack.



**Raelee Thompson** has made an immense contribution to the game of cricket as a player and administrator. As a pioneer, she helped pave the way for the growth of women and girls' cricket that we see today.

A fast bowler, who played 16 Tests and 23 One-Day Internationals between 1972 and 1985, Raelee captained the Australian Women's National Team four times.

CONT>



## 2025 Australia Day Honours cont.

### Raelee Thompson

Remarkably, Raelee is the oldest player – male or female – to have a maiden five-wicket innings in Test matches at 39 years and 175 days of age. In her final Test match at the fifth and deciding Test match of the 1984-85 Women's Ashes series, Raelee led the team to reclaim the Women's Ashes trophy after a 30 year hiatus.

At the national level, Raelee took 57 Test wickets at an average of 18.24 and 24 One-Day International wickets at 18.66. At a State level, Raelee represented Victoria on 45 occasions before serving as a selector for many years.

Her impact on women and girls cricket continued after her playing days where she played a mentoring role at her home club of Essendon Maribyrnong Park Ladies Cricket Club, helping to develop the next generation of talent.

Raelee was inducted into the Victoria Police Sporting Hall of Fame in 1995.

Her contributions to Australian Cricket culminated in her induction to the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame in 2022.



## Have you made a will – or need it updated?

Sue Davis (Nolan), is an experienced lawyer in many areas of law and has a specialisation in Wills, Probate and Estates.

Sue has made a special offer to all PPWPA members for a free 45-minute consultation with her (which can be on-line), as well offering fixed price Wills (including a review of a current will) or appointing an enduring Power of Attorney and Medical Treatment Decision Maker to act on your behalf if the need arises.

The importance of having a Will at any age cannot be underestimated. A valid Will ensures your family members are considered, your assets are accounted for and allows you to distribute your estate as you wish. This cannot be guaranteed if you do not have a Will when you die or if your Will is out of date.

Sue can review and update your current Will or make a new Will after discussing your needs and concerns with you in absolute confidentiality. You may also wish to include wishes about who you would like to care for children or pets, or your burial or cremation wishes.

CONT>





## Have you made a will – or need it updated? cont.

Sue will also ensure that your choice of executor is well suited to be able to manage your estate and that your Will is drafted to avoid challenge by advising you on matters such as who might be legally entitled to benefit from your estate and who may be eligible to contest your will if you don't include them.

Sue also prepares Enduring Power of Attorney appointments and Medical Treatment Decision Maker appointments. An Enduring Power of Attorney allows you to choose who will make important financial and personal decisions for you if you are not able. A Medical Treatment Decision maker allows you to decide who can make medical treatment decisions for you if you cannot. Both will give you peace of mind that your personal values and wishes will be considered if the need arises.

Sue's offer will remain valid up until 30 June 2025. Prices below:

- **Free 45-minute consultation:** on any area of law or issue, and can include a review of your current Will, to determine if it needs to be updated.
- **Will Preparation:** \$295 (single) or \$495 for couples. More complex wills requiring trusts, guardianship, or life interests will be more and will be quoted as the need arises.
- **Bundle including Power of Attorney + Medical Decision Maker:** \$90 per person. \$65 per person per document if done singularly.

If you would like to get in touch with Sue to arrange the 45-minute consult, please email her at [info@anmarlegal.com](mailto:info@anmarlegal.com) or call 0451188455 and Sue will get back to you promptly.

You can also visit Sue's website at <https://anmarlegal.com>





## Moira Prosser turns 90



On 19th October, 2024 Moira Prosser celebrated a special 90th birthday with an afternoon tea at Windy Hill Football Club.

Moira Prosser nee Godfrey was 24 when she was sworn in at the old depot, on St Kilda Road, August 1959, she passed out on 8th January 1960, Registered No 13495, Cap badge no PW48. Moira resigned in 1964 as back in the 60's once you fell pregnant you needed to leave the Police Force but Moira thought if she wore a coat she could work for a bit longer.

When she did retire she was a full time mother raising her 4 children until 1981 when she went back to work as a sworn in Reservist. She initially started in Maribyrnong, then moved to the new Broadmeadows station and finally Moonee Ponds where she worked until she retired in her 70s.

At her 90th birthday she was presented with a very special gift and this is a copy of a speech that was made on the day.

"First of all, thankyou to you all for coming to help celebrate mum's 90th. What do you get a 90 year old that has everything she needs or will buy it herself! We had a thought about a present but was unsure whether we could pull it off. A little background information first, most of you will know that mum joined the police force in her early 20s and had to leave once she was married and expecting, what some of you don't know is that she had her bag stolen from St Mary's church in Ascot Vale while doing the flowers one morning in 2016. In her bag was her police badge that she was able to keep once she retired.

I remember several times when she was pulled over for a random police check, licence check and or possible speeding ticket her badge Freddie always appeared out of her bag while talking to the officer, I think maybe she kept her licence tucked away behind it. That's what I seem to recall.

So back to what to get her for her 90th!

We were a little sneaky and we were not even sure we could organise it but with the help of Shelley Vale, Janine Lindsay and the commanders, we were able to get a duplicate badge made to give to mum for her birthday. Apparently it's not easy to get a replacement so mum, please look after it and don't take it to church! Again, thankyou to everyone that made it possible".

Moira was speechless when presented with her replacement badge and is incredibly grateful to be reunited with her Freddie!

Article provided by Moira's daughter, Sue Williams.



## Moira Prosser turns 90 cont.



(From left Shelley Vale, Barbara Brand, Peter Egan, Moira, Val Homan, Janine Lindsay, Denise Blizzard)



## Sandy Langlands Well-being Grants 2024 Recipients

The recipients of the 2024 grants are:-

- Raquel Vogel
- Carlee Upton
- Chris McDonald-Smith
- Cecily Allan

Thank you to BankVic for their ongoing sponsorship of this initiative







## Janet Mitchell has retired.

Janet Mitchell officially retired from Victoria Police on December 12, 2024. At her retirement function on November, 29th, at the Emerald Hotel, South Melbourne, Janet was presented with her PPWPA life member badge by Gerry McKenna, President, in front of her family, friends and work colleagues.

We wish Janet much happiness as she embarks on the next phase of her life.



Janet with her mum & dad and Wayne Gatt



Gerry McKenna & Janet



## Angela Taylor Memorial Run/Walk 2025







## Angela Taylor Memorial Run/Walk 2025

### Event Details

**Sunday 13 April 2025- 8am – 11am with official start at 8.30am**

**Location: Albert Park Lake Palms Lawn**

**Entry: Adult \$45. Under 18 years \$15**

**Distance: 5km walk or 5km/10km run**

**You can register with your family, friends or work mates.**

**Your four legged friends are also welcome!**

All Police, Emergency Service and Health Care teams will be eligible to win the Angela Taylor Memorial Shield. The team with the best aggregate time in the 5km and the 10km Run will retain the Angela Taylor Memorial Shield for 12 months.

**Corporate and individual teams can also compete for a shield in the 5km run. When you register you may purchase a limited edition t-shirt, tank top or long sleeve tee, perfect for a cold Melbourne morning. Wear it on the day and celebrate Angela's life and the 36th running of the event.**

(Note: if you plan to mix it up with a bit of walking and running, please enter the run section as medals are awarded in each division, this will ensure genuine walkers receive a medal).

**Register by April 2 to receive your race pack in the post.**

### Refreshments will be provided

The wonderful team at ESSSuper will be hosting a free BBQ for all participants and we will also provide bottled water. Other refreshments will be available to purchase.

Kick start the day by purchasing a coffee at the Bean First Coffee van.

It is hoped to have some doggie treats for the fur babies competing in the event.

**Registrations are now open via this link**

**<https://remember.org.au/events/angela-taylor-memorial-walkrun/>**

**[Angela Taylor Memorial Run Walk registration](#)**

Look out for the PPWPA stand and come and say hello.

## Val Walsh Sports Grant

**Consider applying for a Val Walsh Sports Grant, which will cover your entry fee for this event.**

**Go to [ppwpa.com](http://ppwpa.com) for the application form.** (Conditions apply)

## Memories of Maggie

This special memory has been provided by **Greg Palmer, retired Detective Sergeant 19587.**

*Now retired from the police force, I was recently asked by a close family member "if you had your time over again, would you choose a different career". When I gave a very firm "no" I was asked to explain why. The answer was simple; it was a job that allowed me to make a significant difference in ways that no other job could. I explained -*

*Rebellious and untrusting as a result of years of parental abuse, at the age of eleven I was left in the care of an elderly woman who operated a boarding house in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. Too old and tired to take on the role of a guardian, the woman had no choice but to call the police to ensure that I was given reasonable care and protection.*

*Though many decades ago, I can still vividly recall the tall woman in the dark police uniform telling me that I had to go with her to be placed into a home for neglected children. I sat in the back seat of the police sedan, alone and visibly distressed. The tall policewoman stopped the car, turned around and took my hand and said, "I feel like a nice cold milkshake; how about you?" As we sat in the front seat drinking our milk shakes' she introduced herself as Margaret, put her hand on my shoulder and told me that she would do her best to make sure that I was safe.*

*The first night in the home was a blur of fear and confusion. I was still in bed when the door opened and in walked Margaret holding another milkshake. I asked why she was not wearing her uniform, and she told me it was her 'day off' so she thought she might come to see how I was settling in. I think it was for about an hour that she sat on a chair next to the bed explaining why I was now in the custody of the State and that my life was at a turning point and only I could determine what my future would become. Margaret was by my side during the forthcoming court proceedings that determined my status as a State Ward. Each time, showing the same degree of compassion and care. Once the formal proceedings were finished, I would not see Margaret for another sixteen years, but I would often think about how she treated me. A bond of respect and gratitude had developed to the extent that over the ensuing years I would think of our bedside conversation when tempted to get into mischief. Margaret had made an impact.*

*At the age of 21 I joined Victoria Police, eventually making my way into the Criminal Investigation Branch - Drug Squad. As a young Detective I sought access to my childhood records; discovering that "Margaret" was now Superintendent Margaret McVeigh; known to her friends as Maggie. Her office was situated in the same building as the Drug Squad. I also learned that she carried a reputation of a no-nonsense tough administrator who had the respect of her peers.*

## **Memories of Maggie** cont.

*With some degree of trepidation, I knocked on her office door and received a very curt “yes, come in”. The woman behind the desk had obviously changed with the passing of years but I immediately recognized her. Without introducing myself, I told her that I had come to see her on a personal matter, to let her know that an act of kindness from years ago had never been forgotten. What happened next will be etched in my mind for the rest of my life. She stared at me across her desk for a few seconds and said, ‘My God, it’s you’. Then the tough lady shed a tear. “Maggie” had saved a young child who would eventually follow in her footsteps.*

*Over the ensuing years I would take on the role of a covert operative, associating with drug dealers under the guise of a prospective purchaser in order to gain sufficient evidence for an arrest. At that time, I believed that this would be the most important work that I could do. But that notion was to change significantly.*

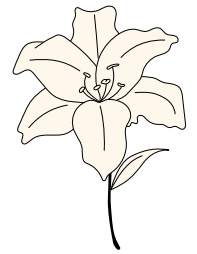
*Later in my career, as a Detective Sergeant, I was approached by two distraught parents who agonizingly told me of how a family member had been sexually abusing their two young daughters, then aged nine and eleven. The perpetrator had fled interstate, and the children were shattered. Over the following three months, with the help of two very dedicated female police officers, we gained the trust and confidence of the children and their parents to the extent that we were ready to proceed to an arrest.*

*I travelled to South Australia, interviewed the suspect and extradited him back to Victoria. In an attempt to have the matter dealt with in the lower courts, I was told by the suspects legal representative that if the criminal matter proceeded to a trial that his cross-examination of the children would be so severe that it would scar them for life and that I would have that on my conscience.*

*The cards were laid bare for the children and their parents, with all the risks explained and all of the options put forward. I would not, could not, proceed with a trial if it meant damaging the children with whom I had by now developed a firm relationship of trust and compassion. To my amazement, the children understood what may lie ahead of them and, with tremendous courage declared that they needed to see this thing through to the end. I told them that I would do my best to keep them safe..... and the memories of Maggie came flooding back.*

*With the children determined to proceed, the suspect pleaded guilty and received a substantial prison sentence. I met with the children and their parents a couple of times after the court case and then, as with most cases, they got on with their lives. I thought the matter had been forgotten, until one day in late December when a Christmas card arrived at my office. It was from the children, thanking me ‘for everything’.*

CONT>



## Memories of Maggie cont.

*The wheel had turned full circle. I had followed in the footsteps of someone from years earlier, making a difference to the lives of vulnerable children. I regard it as the defining moment of my career. I am sure that Maggie, if she were still with us, would agree.*

*My story is not unique, there are so many who served and quietly made a difference. In the same way that I remember 'Maggie', I am sure that many retired members are similarly remembered by those who needed to reach out for help in years gone by.*

### Editor's note:



Catherine Margaret McVeigh, known as Maggie, was appointed to Victoria Police on July, 20, 1956 at the age of 24 years, after serving in the RAAF. She retired on August, 15, 1988 at the rank of Chief Superintendent, being the first woman to achieve this rank and the first woman in Australia to hold this rank.

Maggie was a trailblazer for women in Victoria Police and was involved in many firsts, including being the first woman to attend Airlie and the first female recipient of the Churchill Fellowship (1973), to study integrating women into policing.

She worked at Russell Street and Mildura and was stationed at the Women Police offices in Flemington, Kew and Heidelberg. Maggie married fellow police officer, James Murtagh, who retired as a commander and served with Victoria Police from 1946 to 1981.

*Maggie passed away at the age of 85 years on February 17, 2017.*





## 2024/2025 Membership

The PPWPA membership fee is due on July 1 of each year, irrespective of the date that a member joins the association and is payable in advance. As of 1/7/2020, the annual fee increased to \$20, so please ensure that your direct annual payment has been updated to \$20.

Thank you to the members who have renewed for 2024/2025.

**As a sign of good faith, any member in arrears who pays \$20 for 2024/2025 membership, will be credited with ongoing membership status.**

Members aged 70 years + and anyone who turned 65 years prior to 1/7/2020 are exempt from paying fees.

To ensure that your membership does not lapse, we recommend that you set up a regular payment to occur once on the 1st of July each year.

### **Bank account details:**

**Account number** - 100050864. (For BankVic members 912774S1)

**BSB** - 704230

**Account name** - PAST & PRESENT WOMEN POLICE ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

**Please use your family name and or registered number as a reference.**

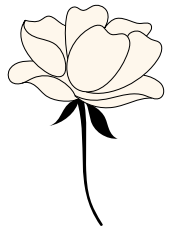
**IF YOU HAVE CHANGED YOUR HOME/POSTAL ADDRESS SINCE JOINING, PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR NEW POSTAL ADDRESS.**



## Events for the 2025 Diary

- Sunday, April 13 – Angela Taylor Memorial Run/Walk around Albert Park Lake
- Friday, September 27 – National Police Remembrance Service with a metropolitan march to the Police Memorial from 10.00am.
- Sunday, September 29 – National Police Remembrance Day
- Sunday, 19 October – PPWPA AGM lunch at Riverside Golf Club, Ascot Vale

## VALE



*Meredith centre with Mary White and Val Homan*

**Meredith Hill retired Senior Constable 24944** passed away on November, 22 2024 at the age of 63 years. Meredith was a PPWPA member for 2 years.

**Dianne Paterson retired Sergeant 19409** passed away on November, 24 2024.

*Sincere condolences to their family and friends.*

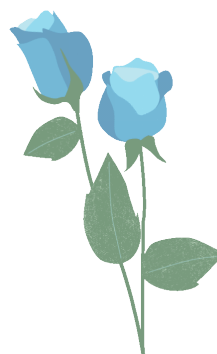


Catherine (Kate) Dwyer, nee O'Neill, retired 15023, P/W 37 was an inaugural committee member of the PPWPA and a strong supporter of our events and lunches.

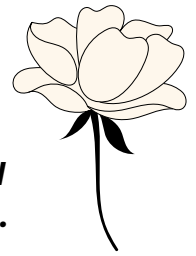
Kate last attended the February lunch in 2022 at the Caulfield RSL, where she was presented with her 25 year membership badge. Kate passed away on Christmas day, 2024.

*Deepest condolences to Lauren, Tim, Fionn and Kaelen.*

CONT>



VALE cont.



**The following RECORD OF CONDUCT AND SERVICE was presented by Leeanne Trusler at Kate's memorial celebration on January 14.**

Catherine Anne O'NEILL was inducted to Victoria Police Depot on 28/05/1965 with T (trainee) number 130. Kate was described as being 5'6" in height, blue eyes, fair hair, fair complexion, occupation – Secretary, general appearance was described as "good".

Born in Brunswick on 26/07/1941. Religion - Roman Catholic, single. Weight 9 stone and 11lb.

On 15/10/1965 was sworn in as a Constable with registered number 15023, cap badge PW 37. Kate came 3rd in her squad of 21 recruits.



At the end of her recruit training, Superintendent G TRAINOR noted on her police record;

"An excellent student with high intelligence and marked ability. A very sincere and reliable member. Attitude and conduct outstanding. Appearance very good. Possesses elementary and proficiency certificate, intermediate star, and bronze medallion."

Upon graduation Kate was stationed at "X" Division Women Police Division (Russell St) where she performed policewomen's duties such as;

- mainly working/dealing with women and children, neglect of children, dealing with children on protection applications, children exposed to moral danger, licensing, undercover work and operational police duties at times.

At this time, policewoman had a POA - same pay and conditions as men but separate seniority list.

During her service in Victoria Police, Kate was described as "well conducted and efficient."

On 26/06/1967 Kate transferred to Geelong Policewomen's division where she continued to perform duties as a policewoman.

In 1968 Kate sat her exams and was promoted to the rank of First Constable.



cont.



## VALE cont.

On 29/02/1968 Kate received a commendatory entry along with 3 other police members for “keen powers of observation displayed, and careful inquiries made which resulted in the arrest and conviction of two troublesome offenders on charges of wool stealing.”

Kate's career with Victoria Police ended prematurely on 26th of November, 1970 after being found unfit for duties by the Police Medical Board.

In 2018, Kate was presented with the Victoria Police Star. The Victoria Police Star is awarded to employees killed or seriously injured in the line of duty.



*“Cop this Kate” — WEG cartoon*

The summary of the incident is as follows;

At approximately 2.30AM on Saturday, 3rd of November, 1968, Constable Catherine O'NEILL in company with First Constable Darrel BLYTHE and another member were transporting a female prisoner from Geelong to Melbourne.

As they approached the intersection of the Maltby By-Pass, a west bound car travelling on the wrong side of the divided highway collided head on with the police vehicle. The driver of the police vehicle, First Constable BLYTHE and the driver of the other vehicle were taken to the Footscray District Hospital, but both died soon after admission. The driver of the other car was affected by liquor and travelling at a high speed at the time of the collision.

Constable O'NEILL suffered injuries to her right hip and right ankle, in addition to this there is mention in some of the sick leave paperwork in her personnel file that she suffered from headaches and neck aches as well as a nervous condition.

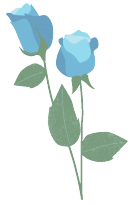
Following the collision, Constable O'NEILL returned to work but on a number of occasions was put on light duties and subsequently ill health retired on 26th of November, 1970 after being found unfit for duties by the Police Medical Board.

The citation for her Victoria Police Star reads;

“In recognition of Catherine's service to Victoria Police and the Victorian Community which came to a premature end as a result of the serious injuries she sustained when the police vehicle she was transporting a prisoner in was involved in a head on collision in Werribee on 3rd of November, 1968.”

cont.





*Leeanne Trusler, Suzanne Krauklis, Wendy Cowling and Kaye Murphy at Kate's Memorial Service*

*Rest in Peace*

