

AUTUMN 2024

Police Journal

"This was people coming together
to do a job and they did it
extremely well."



FIRST RESPONDERS AT THEIR BEST





Police Journal





POLICE ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA



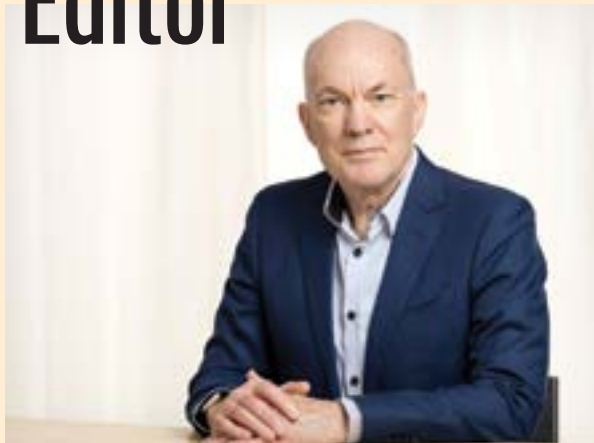
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Editor



Few could believe that a father, drunk and enraged, had gunned down his own son and his son's girlfriend in country South Australia. But that was the grotesque outcome for Lukasz Klosowski and Chelsea Ireland at the hands of Pawel Klosowski at Mount McIntyre back in 2020.

The country cops who responded to the call had so little information to go on from the outset and so faced extraordinary challenges. What was the exact location? Where was the shooter? Who had he fired on? Had he killed anyone? Was there more than one offender?

These determined first responders knew that, on the scene, they might – and did – come face-to-face with an armed murderer. But, knowing only of Chelsea and her triple zero call, and thinking there was still a chance to save her, nothing could dissuade them.

Disaster struck for a Police Association Victoria member when she became the victim of an explosion and wound up with burns to much of her body. She fought her way back to work and now reflects on the 10 years since the life-changing incident.

The Police Association has capitalized on its vacant space with the acceptance of a new tenant. Lifestyle Plus Group is a community-service business in disability and aged care. And by arrangement with the association, it is set to provide its services to members.

Dr Rod Pearce looks at the circadian rhythm and how the defiance of it affects shift workers; lawyer Daniel Weekley explains how “the game has changed” in respect of the use of force; Jim Barnett road-tests the BT50 Thunder Pro and the Kia EV6 GT.

Police Association president Mark Carroll explains the intricacies of the enterprise bargaining process as the time for new negotiations approaches.

And, in our new last-page feature, *That Photo*, we find out that what looked to be happening, or about to happen, was not the case.

Brett Williams

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Police Journal

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COVER: Senior Sergeant First Class Nick Patterson and Sergeant Matt Hirlam. Photography by Steve McCawley.



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Police Association of South Australia

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Mark Carroll

The realities of enterprise bargaining

Of all the critical roles the Police Association fulfills, our most important – by far – plays out at the enterprise bargaining table.

No industrial issue is more important to our members and their families.

It's the one issue we simply have to get right – every time. And it demands the best research, strategies, skills and experience.

One of the biggest misconceptions in the industry is that the outcomes of previous enterprise agreements are somehow cumulative.

That isn't the case.

We don't come to the negotiating table in 2024 with all the entitlements of the 2021 agreement already secured.

We have to re-negotiate and secure those existing entitlements.

Then, and only then, can we work to improve upon the status quo.

As always, the first step in the process is simply to ask members what they desire in respect of the new agreement.

So, late last year, we conducted a member-wide survey as a way of best understanding members' individual and collective views in respect of the upcoming negotiations.

Members made it abundantly clear that salary increases, improvements to Police Service Leave and retention allowances were three of the most important issues.

The stark reality is these issues also underpin one massive, all-encompassing problem.

That problem is the critical need to retain existing police officers.

This all points to one obvious fact: the new enterprise agreement must make policing an attractive occupation once again.



SAPOL can't continue to recruit and train police officers, only to have them walk out the door at an average length of 10 years' service.

Attrition rates have been well above average and the SAPOL recruiting effort is facing its biggest ever challenge insofar as attracting young people to the job.

This all points to one obvious fact: the new enterprise agreement *must* make policing an attractive occupation once again.

Also compelling in this round of bargaining is the need to attract more officers to serve in our regional communities.

To succeed in this regard, we must review the existing incentive packages for country members.

Enterprise bargaining has historically proved successful for the association, irrespective of the political party in power at the time of negotiating.

Since enterprise bargaining began in 1995, association member wages have tripled while CPI has doubled.

This is even without accounting for increases in rank or increment.

Securing existing entitlements, and then greatly improving upon them, has been a hallmark of every EA this organization has negotiated.

We expect this to continue in 2024.

In the meantime, members can access all the latest EB information and updates on the association website.

• • • **Fair play for the Doig family**

Oversights in the industrial and legislative arenas sometimes come with such an impact that they demand our immediate action.

One such oversight is a clause in the return-to-work legislation, and it leaves the family of fallen brevet sergeant Jason Doig ineligible to receive the standard entitlements set out in the *Return to Work Act*.

This is because Brevet Sergeant Doig, murdered in the line of duty last November, had neither dependents nor a spouse.

The existence of this anomaly is clearly unfair, and I have immediately taken it up with Attorney-General Kyam Maher.

It's a partnership that promises to pay significant dividends. It will be a practical service to members, and an investment in the future of the association.

Brevet Sergeant Doig's immediate family members are, by any fair judgement, entitled to the same monetary compensation normally provided to a spouse or children.

I have urged AG Maher to intervene so as to facilitate swift amendments to the act.

• • • **Another service for members**

Members might soon notice an additional logo on the street-facing wall of the Police Association building in Carrington St.

Police HomeCare Services – a specialized arm of the Lifestyle Plus Group organization – has partnered with us to deliver NDIS and My Aged Care services to association members.

And the business now has a home in our Carrington St building, by way of a lease on the ground floor and level one.

It's a partnership that promises to pay significant dividends. It will be a practical service to members, and an investment in the future of the association.

Members have always known they can approach the association on industrial matters, and now they'll have the added benefit of using face-to-face NDIS and My Aged Care services in the same building.

Police HomeCare Services is set to be launched in April and, in the coming months, we'll be providing more information to members about the services that will be available.

You can read more about the genesis of this partnership and the experience of its managing director, Wayne Boden, on page 28 (*Specialized support for police*).

• • • **Promotions: right of review**

The lack of a legislative right of review for promotional decisions above the rank of inspector is an issue I've recently raised with Attorney-General Maher.

In the *Police Act*, the rights of review above the rank of senior constable, and below the rank of inspector, are clearly set out.

However, in respect of review rights above the rank of inspector, clarity in the act is missing.

Be it promotions to officer-level ranks (inspector and above) or any other rank, all should be dealt with in the same manner.

SAPOL, however, has made it abundantly clear that it does not find any issue with the current system.

The association disagrees. We have appealed to the AG to initiate amendments to the *Police Act*, both as an anti-corruption measure and a simple issue of fairness.

• • • **Select committee on mental-health services**

In February I was invited to make a submission to *The Select Committee on Support and Mental Health Services for Police* in the upper house of the SA parliament.

A working party which included delegates, the committee of management and Police Association industrial staff informed the substance of our submission.

Some of the key aspects of the submission included:

- Exploring whether the services provided by the SAPOL Employee Assistance Program are sufficient.
 - Determining whether an annual psychological review is sufficient for employees in roles in which there is a higher psychological demand.
 - Assessing the Early Intervention Program to ensure its suitability for psychological injury.
 - Determining whether additional mental-health support for police officers and their families is required.
 - Exploring strategies of boosting police morale to make sure members have the support they need to perform their duties.
 - Exploring resourcing and recruitment within SAPOL.
 - The prevalence, cause and effect of post-traumatic stress disorder among serving and retired police officers and prevention strategies to mitigate risk.
- We have also included in the submission a proposed change to the return-to-work legislation.
- The proposal prescribes that when a serving or former police officer is diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, it is presumed to have arisen from his or her employment, in the absence of proof to the contrary.
- Members can read the full submission on the association website.

FIRST RESPON



The scene of the Mount McIntyre double murder presented police with uncertainty and extremely high risk. But, with what they thought was a life on the line, they confronted an armed killer – and then discovered his innocent victims.

MURDERERS AT THEIR BEST

BY BRETT WILLIAMS

There on his bare arms was the blood of an innocent young woman. Only now, around 2am, had Sergeant Matt Hirlam noticed it as he rolled up his uniform shirt sleeves. But he knew the blood was that of 19-year-old murder victim Chelsea Ireland, whom he had found just a couple of hours earlier.

Hirlam had lifted her lifeless body out of a spa bath in the upper-level bathroom of a two-storey home in Mount McIntyre. That was how her blood transferred to his arms – and symbolized the barbarity of the criminal who took her life.

Now convicted murderer Pawel Klosowski had shot Chelsea dead with a shotgun after killing his own son, Lukasz, also 19. He had gone on an insane, inexplicable rampage from which Chelsea, terrified and desperate, had tried to shield herself in the bathroom.

In there, at 11:21 on that Saturday night, she made a frantic triple zero call for help. She managed to give the operator critical details, like the rage Klosowski was in, the gunshots she had heard, and her position in the house.

The one detail Chelsea was never able to make clear, however, was the exact address.

Hirlam and then-Millicent sergeant Nick Patterson got word of the incident from police communications at 11:22pm and 11:24pm respectively. But the most they and their patrols had to go on, as far as an address, was Mount McIntyre Road.

“When the call first came in, there was so little information,” Patterson says. “I was doing another job at the time with a juvenile (and his parents). But, when I heard this job, someone shot, I just dropped everything and left.”

“My first thought was that I needed to get going towards that area while other people did some enquiries to narrow down where it (the house) was.”

The initial request of Hirlam, who was dealing with a custody matter at the time, was simply to monitor the job. He knew that heading for Mount McIntyre Road from Millicent was Patterson and then-Constable Kim Wilson, as was then-Constable Matt Carvosso from Penola.

Hirlam, who saw the job as shrouded in “so much uncertainty”, requested one of his Mount Gambier patrols to “start heading

north” as well. In that crew were Brevet Sergeant Andrew Lock and then-probationary constable Cooper Ashwood.

Patterson and Wilson understood the need for an urgent response. In separate cars, each drove at high speed with lights and sirens activated. Conscious of their safety, however, they pulled over halfway through the journey, donned their ballistic vests, and resumed the charge toward Mount McIntyre Road.

“At that stage, we were getting a bit of an adrenaline rush,” Wilson says. “But Nick was very calm, very controlled, and I had a great deal of confidence in him. So, I went off of what he was doing.”

Operating in the South East back then, in August 2020, were roving COVID patrols. In one of them was Constable Jack Barry (not his real name), who also headed for Mount McIntyre.

The challenge police still faced was to break through the wall of uncertainty surrounding the address Chelsea had not been able to indicate fully. Every responder was desperate to find her in the hope of saving her.

Police communications undertook a telephone triangulation; officers on the ground looked for links to Chelsea on social media sites.

And, once on Mount McIntyre Road, Patterson, Wilson and Carvosso launched into a process of checks on property after property.

"We just started methodically moving our way through farmsteads," Patterson explains. "I went into an organic apple orchard, knocking on the doors, and actually woke up German backpackers who were working as pickers."

With that property thoroughly checked, Patterson "got out and kept going".

"It was incredibly frustrating," he says, "the thought that there's a girl somewhere who's possibly been shot and in need of immediate assistance. You've just got to get there."

Hirlam, whose gut began to tell him that "something bad had happened", felt that same intense frustration.

He had himself started heading for Mount McIntyre and employed urgent-duty driving to get there. As he drove, he received continuous contact from police communications and individual colleagues via radio and mobile phone.

Police from near and far all wanted to help the responders find Chelsea. Even a sergeant 340km away in Murray Bridge had undertaken checks on names, addresses and vehicles and kept contact with Hirlam.

But, with every passing minute, that gut feeling which had struck Hirlam grew stronger. A breakthrough was critical – and it finally came.


Says Patterson: "It was actually one of the border patrols, Cassie Broadbent, who was listening on the channel. She ran some checks on social media."

Those checks linked Chelsea with her boyfriend, Lukasz Klosowski, and further checks linked his surname with 916 Mount McIntyre Road, Mount McIntyre.

What came to light then, through police communications, was that registered to Klosowski at that address were five firearms. That meant the alarming possibility of Klosowski, or some other unknown offender, firing on police.

Still, the objective now, at 12:10am on that dark winter night, was for the responders to gather and prepare to enter the property.

"We staged just outside of 916," Patterson says. "We didn't have a briefing; we didn't get out of the cars. The urgency (of our response) was the priority and we spoke over the radio.



"It was all a complete unknown. We didn't know the extent of anyone's injuries, whether anyone was still armed, how many people might be armed. But there's an expectation (of us as) police and, in those circumstances, we go in."

1. The house of the double murder at Mount McIntyre

"I gave everyone a direction to ensure they had a safe route out because you couldn't see the house from the road. It's set back quite a way and it's quite a long driveway.

"You've got no idea what you're driving into. And, as a supervisor, I was concerned that we could have been going into an ambush.

"It was all a complete unknown. We didn't know the extent of anyone's injuries, whether anyone was still armed, how many people might be armed. But there's an expectation (of us as) police and, in those circumstances, we go in."

Of course, going in came with so many complicating factors. One was that some of these seven first responders had never worked together – or even met. It might have seemed a bizarre time and place for introductions, but the few that were necessary happened anyway.

Then, at 12:14am, the responders made their move. In their police cars, they entered the Klosowski property and travelled its 300-metre unsealed driveway up to the house. Now came their first opportunity to get a perspective of the layout.



“That’s when I ran in ... My first thought was: ‘If Matt’s calling out “gun”, and he’s already got his (own) gun out, someone might get shot in there.’ ”

Once at the back of the house, he spotted and approached an open door to his right and, at the same time, heard a female voice. And that sudden vocal sound, coming out of the darkness, startled him.

He could see no one at first but then noticed an alcove to the right of a door leading into the house. And in the corner of that alcove was a woman and two young children huddled under what looked to be a blanket or towel.

Hirham thought he had found Chelsea and, indeed, asked the woman: “Are you Chelsea?” It shocked him when she said: “No.”

Under that covering was Monica Klosowski. The children were hers from a relationship before her marriage to Klosowski. She and the children were uninjured.

“When I saw her, I just had 500 questions I wanted to ask her,” Hirham says. “Questions like: ‘Who’s got guns? Is anyone hurt? Are my people at risk?’ ”

Hirham did indeed ask those questions, but Monica claimed not to know if Klosowski was armed or had fled. It was a brief exchange between the two before Hirham told police communications of the mother and children he had found.

And, while he was active at the *back* of the house, Carvosso and Barry had come face-to-face with Klosowski *inside* the house.

After they had made their entry through the open front door, Patterson saw them move to the right and into a downstairs living area. Then came shouting from Carvosso. First it was a command for someone to raise his arms – and then it was: “Gun!”

“That’s when I ran in,” Patterson says. “I was only about two or three metres outside the front door. My first thought was: ‘If Matt’s calling out “gun”, and he’s already got his (own) gun out, someone might get shot in there.’ ”

Patterson had drawn his own pistol from its holster, stepped into the living area, and spotted Klosowski, seated on an L-shaped lounge, facing away from him.

“Matt Carvosso was to my right,” he recalls, “and he’s got his gun pointed directly at (Klosowski).”

And from Klosowski, who appeared drunk, came no words or reaction to the police. From his face was nothing but a blank straight-ahead stare, and only when Carvosso told him to raise his hands did he respond.

The police had had good reason to draw their firearms and keep them trained on Klosowski: on his lap sat a loaded 12-gauge double-barrel shotgun.

The challenge was to get it away from him. Were he to make a sudden grab for it, he might have forced police to fire on him.

So, from behind the lounge, Barry reached over, grabbed the weapon, and left the room with it. Now, with the shotgun gone, so too was the risk of another shooting.

But Klosowski was still unrestrained. Carvosso wisely kept his pistol trained on him, while Patterson, who had *holstered* his gun, moved in from behind to cuff Klosowski.

After he had applied the cuffs, he took hold of them between the strands to prevent Klosowski from moving his raised hands. Then, when Barry reappeared in the room, he momentarily took over control of the cuffed Klosowski as Patterson looked to reposition himself.

“I wanted to safely arrest him,” he says. “So, I told Matt I would move to the front of (Klosowski) so we could secure him. Matt put his gun down, I came round, took over the handcuffs again, and talked to Klosowski.

“I warned him that if he gave me any resistance, it would be met with force. I was trying to reason with him to come off the couch, but he was just looking straight ahead, not even acknowledging what was happening.

“So, I pulled him off the couch to the other side of the loungeroom where we restrained him on the floor. At that point I left him with Matt Carvosso and (Jack).”

They noted the expanse of farm-like land around the house, the many trees, the looped end of the driveway, a shed, and three parked cars.

Carvosso was the first to head for the open front door. Just beyond it, on the floor inside, he could see spent shotgun casings and pointed them out to Patterson.

As the adrenaline charged through every responder on the scene, Patterson gave Carvosso and Barry the word to enter the house. As they moved in, he and Wilson stayed outside to keep the front of the house cordoned.

Not lost on Hirham was the need to secure the back of the house, too. He had headed there when he saw his colleagues move on the front.

“Everybody kind of knew what they needed to do,” he says. “I was the only one to go to the back. (Out there) it was 50 metres that I could see one way and, towards the back fence, another 50 metres, with a few trees in the way.”

One of countless concerns to Hirham was the possibility that an armed Klosowski could, in the pitch black, be hiding in or behind a tree. His concern was natural enough but did not in any way dissuade him.

“We knew but we didn't know (what we would find), if that makes sense. You have that copper's sense, and my gut feeling was that: ‘I'm about to find a body.’ ”

What remained for the responders to do, and do urgently, was find Chelsea.

Owing to some broken transmissions, Hirlam had not heard that his colleagues had arrested Klosowski until Ashwood alerted him. He then had Ashwood remain with Monica and the children while he headed for the front door.

When he got there, Carvosso and Barry were escorting Klosowski out of the house, where Hirlam sought to confirm his identity. “What is your name?” he asked him.

Says Hirlam of the one-sided exchange: “He was completely non-responsive and had been the whole time. He was just glass, just nothing, emotionless. It was almost like they (Carvosso and Barry) were carrying a statue.

“He obviously didn't give me his name, and there was still the uncertainty of how many people were in the house. Was he this person with the gun or was there another person? Did we still have an armed offender inside? We just didn't know.”

And that was the next challenge: to find out exactly who or what was in the rest of the house. Patterson gave Wilson and Lock the word to search the ground floor, where they would find an open gun safe.

As that search took place, Patterson and Hirlam headed to the upper level with their pistols drawn.

“We knew but we didn't know (what we would find), if that makes sense,” Hirlam says. “You have that copper's sense, and my gut feeling was that: I'm about to find a body.”

“But there was still that uncertainty that there could be someone else armed in this house. So, we treated it as an active armed-offender situation.

“We got probably three quarters of the way up the stairs when I saw an open bedroom door to the right. I could see some blood by that door and that's when I knew that we were likely not to find another shooter but (rather) a body.”

Hirlam stepped into the bedroom, saw blood on the carpet, and found Lukasz lying face down across the foot of a bed. As Patterson covered the hallway leading to other rooms, Hirlam checked Lukasz for signs of life.

He took hold of the young man by the shoulder of his puffer-style vest, turned him slightly, and felt his neck and wrist for a pulse. But Lukasz had neither pulse nor breath. He had died. And, in police-speak, Hirlam alerted his colleagues, shouting: “Black! Black!”

Still to check was the rest of the upper level so

Hirlam stepped out of that first bedroom into the hallway. There, to one side of the bedroom door, he noticed a spent shotgun shell on the floor. He left it untouched and resumed the search with Patterson.

With adrenaline still charging through their bodies, they crept along the hallway in which they spotted more spent shotgun shells on the floor. Then, after checking two other bedrooms and declaring them “clear”, they approached a bathroom.

Hirlam could see obvious gunshot damage to the door and, once he stepped into the room, blood on the outer side of the bath. And, in the bath, was Chelsea, who had not survived. She had curled her body into the foetal position and died leaning against an inner side of the bath.

Hirlam checked her neck and wrist for a pulse but could find none. Nor could he detect any breathing or get a response from shouting out to her.

Her extensive wounds were clear to him and Patterson, who had also stepped into the bathroom. And, in the bath, next to Chelsea's hand, they could see the phone she had used to call for help.

The risk facing the two officers now was that two bedrooms remained unchecked.

“We still didn't know whether there was a second person involved, or if there were other victims who needed assistance,” Patterson says. “We now had two deceased, so I didn't want to turn my back and leave two rooms uncleared.”

Hirlam called out for help from one of his colleagues and Wilson responded. She got to the bathroom, where Hirlam lifted Chelsea out of the bath, positioned her on the floor, and again checked her for signs of life.

“We laid her down on her back and, straight away, you could see the gunshot wound,” he says. “She was hit in the body. No facial injuries but, straight away, you could tell that she was gone.”

As Hirlam and Wilson had cared for Chelsea, Patterson had checked the remaining two bedrooms and found no one in them.

The first responders still had more to do but they had at least concluded the dangerous and most gruesome aspects of their on-scene work. They had discovered the bodies of the victims, arrested Klosowski, and searched the house for threats.

The priority now was to preserve the crime scene, so Patterson gave the word for his colleagues to vacate the house. It was critical to leave items like spent shotgun shells undisturbed.



2



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4

With the house cleared and the scene preserved, Patterson established a forward command post at 12:24am and assumed the role of forward commander. He also rang his then-inspector, Campbell Hill, whom he briefed on the incident, and got Wilson to begin an operations log.

But Patterson would still have to bring paramedics in to check the bodies of Chelsea and Lukasz to confirm life extinct.

He had initially had paramedics staging at Kalangadoo but directed them to move closer and closer as the police response progressed.

But now they were on the scene. Patterson escorted them into the house and up to the upper level where they indeed declared the lives of Chelsea and Lukasz extinct.

Carvosso and Lock, who had Klosowski in their custody, began the 30-minute drive back to Mount Gambier police station around 1:15am.

Hirlam headed back too. And, at the station, Hill wanted him to deliver a conference-room briefing, with Major Crime participating by phone and local detectives and crime-scene staff in person.

He was, of course, up to the task but first took a 10-minute breather in the bathroom. It was then that he discovered Chelsea's blood on his arms.

And, later, around 3:20am, he would take a statement from one of the children, a 15-year-old. That boy did not then know that his stepbrother, Lukasz, had died.

"I took a statement ... and that gave me an insight into the two young people and what they were like. She (Chelsea) had stood up for Lukasz and that said something about her as a person."

2-3. Innocent victims Chelsea Ireland and Lukasz Klosowski.
4. Chelsea Ireland.

"How do you tell a 15-year-old that he's just witnessed a double homicide?" Hirlam asks. "Something I hope I never ever have to do again."

And then there was Magda Pearce, the shattered mother of Lukasz back in Adelaide. Hirlam took several phone calls from her and her partner through the early hours of the morning. He confirmed the death message a local patrol had already given them but could share few other details.

"That was hard," he says. "I remember the sun coming up when I was still speaking to her. They had so many questions I just couldn't answer at the time."

Wilson was by then back at Mount Gambier police station as well. She had left the crime scene around 2:10am and taken Monica and the children with her.

"I took a statement from (Monica) and that gave me an insight into the two young people and what they were like," Wilson says. "She (Chelsea) had stood up for Lukasz and that said something about her as a person."

Back at Mount McIntyre, Patterson had continued to manage the forward command post with Ashwood assisting him. Before he left to head back to Millicent police station around 4am, he briefed Hill who had arrived on the scene a short time earlier.



THE IMPACT

The focus, courage, and professionalism of these first responders was obvious to most. Even the responders themselves marvelled at each other's expertise.

Says Hirlam: "The three guys who went in and arrested him (Klosowski)... it was top shelf. Matthew Carvosso, with his efforts and communication, was just on point."

Hill, too, speaks of the "exceptional job" the first responders did and remembers watching video footage from body-worn cameras.

"It was just amazing to watch it and realize that this wasn't a rehearsal," he says. "This was people coming together to do a job and they did it extremely well."

"Even now, I try to put myself in their shoes and understand what it would've been like travelling up that driveway."

"(It was a case of) heading in not knowing whether the offender had taken up a position somewhere, what the mindset of the offender was, what was actually happening."

For the flawless way in which all had played their parts, each would later receive a commendation.

But operating as they did – on the scene of a double murder with the armed killer and his victims present – was bound to come with an impact.

From the adrenaline charge, the tension and high alertness, some took hours to "come down". Hirlam pushed on at work until 1pm and not until Sergeant Jade Hill then drove him home did his body even begin to relax.

At home, he spoke briefly with his wife "and then just collapsed from the mental overstimulation of the whole incident".

Responding to the murder scene was a first for Hirlam. Although it has, "without a doubt", stayed with him it does not haunt him.

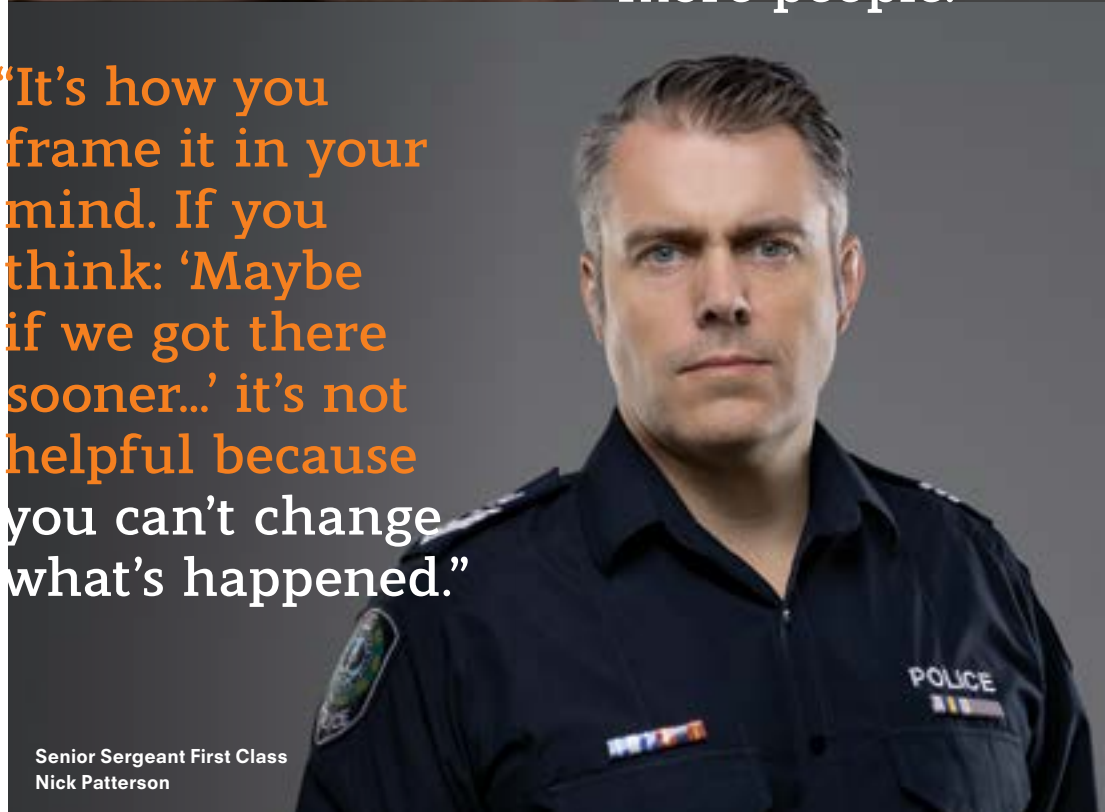


Sergeant Matt Hirlam

"If (Klosowski) had gone to trial, it would have created a lot more stress for us."

The emotions would have done a lot more damage to a lot more people."

"It's how you frame it in your mind. If you think: 'Maybe if we got there sooner...' it's not helpful because you can't change what's happened."



Senior Sergeant First Class
Nick Patterson

"I respect and understand how it does (haunt) others," Hirlam says. "I respect those people who talk up if they're not feeling right. Everybody's resilience levels are different."

"If (Klosowski) had gone to trial, it would have created a lot more stress for us. The emotions would have done a lot more damage to a lot more people."

Wilson was another officer for whom responding to a murder scene was a first. It has not left her troubled, but she expects that the images of that night "will stay with me forever".

Patterson never felt his body start to settle until around 5:30am after writing up his notes back at Millicent police station.

“But they’re putting their bodies back in that situation ... and having the same adrenaline dump. It’s not helpful to put your body through that repeatedly.”

THE DEBRIEF

In true cop fashion, some of the Mount McIntyre first responders gathered privately for an off-duty debrief of their own. It was in the form of an end-of-night-shift breakfast five days after the incident. Hirlam hosted it at his home.

“I drove over from Millicent and Matt had his whole team around,” Patterson says. “I went in and had a chat with them all about how they were travelling.

“(I wanted) to make sure they were getting some sleep, exercising, and weren’t having repetitive flashbacks and thoughts.”

Patterson, of course, based his concern on years of experience. He had many times seen the effects of critical incidents on police officers.

“It can manifest in people being quite animated and aroused when they talk about it,” he says. “But they’re putting their bodies back in that situation of fight, flight or freeze while they’re talking about it and having the same adrenaline dump. It’s not helpful to put your body through that repeatedly.”

While the mental images and broader memories from that night remain, and are never likely to fade, Hirlam considers that “everyone’s all right from the initial incident”.



Senior Constable Kim Wilson

And like the colleagues he had responded with that night, he knew how not to act on emotion, despite the heartrending images of the innocent dead. His experience in policing, particularly the last 15 years in country policing, gave him that knowledge.

“The longer you’re in the country,” he says, “the higher the chance you’re going to attend a fatal (crash). And the longer you’re in small communities, there’s a higher chance that someone in that car’s going to be someone you know.

“You just need to follow your training and follow the process. You’ve got to act in the moment but then make room for the emotions after.”

But Patterson cautions against self-blame or other negative thoughts his workmates might entertain about that night.

“It’s how you frame it in your mind,” he says. “If you think: ‘Maybe if we got

there sooner...’ it’s not helpful because you can’t change what’s happened.

“It’s just something that happened that was bad and, given the circumstances, we didn’t have the opportunity to get there and save Chelsea.

“The only thing that could have led to a quicker response was an address from the outset. But we know now it wouldn’t have changed the outcome.”

Just a few days after the murders, Patterson was to take a phone call from his sister. In their conversation, she asked him if he had had an involvement in the police response to the Mount McIntyre double homicide.

After he explained that he had, she told him of a connection she had years earlier had with Magda Pearce. She had worked with her, befriended her, and at times babysat Lukasz.

THE BACKGROUND

Lukasz had had a strained relationship with his father since 2012, when his parents divorced. The strain was down to Klosowski. He was quick to anger, had a confrontational manner, and drank to excess. Naturally, that behaviour made relations between father and son difficult.

Nonetheless, Lukasz and Chelsea planned a weekend visit to the Klosowski home, where they arrived around 9pm on Friday, August 21, 2020. The visitors and family gathered and talked with one another before everyone went to bed around midnight.

The next day, Klosowski started drinking beer around 9:30am. Later, at a footy match at Kalangadoo Oval, he drank around six more beers. On his way home from the game, he bought more beer – a carton. And by late afternoon, Monica had bought him yet another carton, as he had asked.

In the evening, the family gathered outside where they ate, drank, and talked around a fire pit. Soon after 8pm, Lukasz told his father of an idea he had to move out of his mother's place and in with some friends.

Klosowski insisted that Lukasz discuss the idea with him. His insistence upset Lukasz and prompted Chelsea to tell him to stop.

The gathering eventually moved away from the fire pit and into the garage, where an expletive-laden argument took hold between Lukasz and his father.

Soon after 11pm, Klosowski told Lukasz and Chelsea to leave but then followed them into the house. In a spare room, violent arguing continued between father and son before Klosowski again ordered Lukasz to leave.

As Klosowski left the room, he pushed Chelsea onto a bed, yelled at her, and said: "F--k this. Where's my gun?"

He indeed grabbed his shotgun from a gun safe, loaded it, and placed extra rounds in his pocket. Then, when Lukasz appeared at the top of the staircase, he fired at him. That first shot, however, did not hit Lukasz, who ran into a bedroom for cover while Chelsea ran to the bathroom.



6

5. Convicted murderer Pawel Klosowski.

6. Chelsea and Lukasz.

But Klosowski walked up the stairs, fired a second shot, and hit Lukasz in the chest. Lukasz collapsed onto the bed – on which Hirlam later found him – and died.

Chelsea made her 11:21pm triple zero call from inside the locked bathroom. Less than a minute into the call, Klosowski fired at the bathroom door, entered the room, and shot Chelsea in the shoulder.

She survived for several minutes and continued to speak to the operator, but the line ultimately fell silent. **PJ**



5

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In April 2021, Justice Anne Bampton sentenced Klosowski in the Supreme Court to life imprisonment with a 34-year non-parole period. Four months later, Klosowski lost an appeal against the length of his minimum term.

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A lethal explosion out of a common welfare check

BY BRENDAN ROBERTS

An explosion cost the life of an SA police sergeant in 1985.

A Victorian officer might well have lost her life in the same way almost 30 years later.

“I heard a bang and I think it was the bedroom door slamming. That is, to me, the point where it started. Then I see the flames coming all around the room.”

VARLI BLAKE'S LIFE CHANGED COURSE IN ONE CATASTROPHIC MOMENT.

Her recovery and re-emergence into every-day life in the decade since, while momentous, has been far more measured.

With resilience, positivity and by being proactive in her own recovery, Blake has succeeded where others might have crumbled under the injustice and sheer misfortune of their situations.

She speaks matter-of-factly about the explosion that changed her, but with emotion and insight about the people, incidents, doubts, personal triumphs and growing sense of normality and acceptance that have shaped her life in the years that followed.

“I remember everything that happened,” she says. “It has obviously had a massive impact on me. I get more emotional though talking about my family, and what I put them through at the time.

“I’m a pretty strong person. I’ve always been pretty independent but, without people on my side – family, friends, colleagues, the organization, welfare officers – getting me back at the pace I was comfortable at going ... well, it was everything.”

Blake frames her adult life in three phases – her proudest day, her darkest day, and her every day.

She had wanted to become a police officer long before she graduated from the academy in 2013, aged 32. That sense of anticipation, and the realization of a dream long held, made for her proudest day.

“It was awesome to me at the time,” she says. “I was pretty proud, my family was there, and they were proud.

“It was a good day. The sun was shining, we were outside. I had wanted to be a police officer for about 10 years before I joined, but I hadn’t worked up the courage.”

Now was her time.

1. Police
Association
Victoria member
Varli Blake

Blake was initially posted to Wonthaggi to be closer to her mum who was battling cancer, then transferred to the busy policing hub of South Melbourne on the fringe of the CBD.

She had been there for five-and-a-half weeks when, on January 4, 2014, her darkest day arrived without warning.

It was a routine call on a routine shift.

A woman had phoned from Sale with a warning that her son was threatening suicide. He was at his unit in Hambleton Street, Middle Park and he needed help.

“It was a welfare check,” Blake says. “He had threatened suicide on Facebook. He had just broken up with his girlfriend. It’s a pretty common scenario.

“We go there (and) his car’s there, but we can’t get in. We get the sergeant to come down and try to open the door. He can’t get it open, so we get the firies and they get a ladder, go up to the first floor, and get in through a sliding door, and they let us in.

“We go through and there he is on the bed with a gas bottle hooked up to a CPAP mask. So, Tony (Sergeant Tony Scully) turns it off and walks out of the room and Emma (First Constable Emma Quick) follows and they are both in the loungeroom and I was still in the bedroom.

“I heard a bang and I think it was the bedroom door slamming. That is, to me, the point where it started. Then I see the flames coming all around the room.

“It was like slow motion. I just watched the flames go all around the room and behind me. I ran to the door and tried the door, but the pressure held it shut. At that moment, I thought there was someone on the other side holding it shut.

“I ran over to the window and all I could see was roof tiles, then ran back to the door and it opened. I ran down the stairs fast and there was six people standing there and they are looking at me and I was saying: ‘Give me water! I need water!’ because I just felt really hot.

“Emma came running over to me and she was really hot, and we were saying to each other: ‘Is your face okay?’ and we both said: ‘Yes.’

“I was just sitting in the garden bed having the hose poured on me and then the ambulance came, and I started to get the shakes ... they were trying to put a drip in me, and the ambulance officer was freaking out a bit.

“At this point, I was starting to get a bit scared.”

The next thing Blake remembers is waking up in the ICU of The Alfred Hospital with the pain of the burns and skin grafts that had been performed in the previous 48 hours while she had been placed in an induced coma.

In all, 72 per cent of her body was impacted by burns and grafts.

Blake would spend the next two weeks in ICU, almost completely bandaged and unable to communicate with her family members who had maintained an almost 24-hour-a-day vigil at her bedside.



One day, her brother-in-law brought in her iPod and put it on her favourites playlist. It connected to the song she was last listening to, her favourite, *Vitriol* by Bluejuice.

"I just started moving my feet to the beat, because that's the only part of my body that I could move," she says.

The opening words of the song are a fitting precursor to the fight that lay ahead – "Good luck and don't dare give up. Give it a little bit of vitriol."

2. Varli undergoes a micro-needling session during her recovery phase.

Her feet then became her tools of communication.

"I started moving my feet a certain amount of times to signal a letter, in accordance with the number of the letter of the alphabet," she says. "Three taps for C, six for F, etc.

"I remember my older sister was with me and I used my feet to ask her: 'Am I going to die?' When I got to the last word, she came really close to me and said: 'No, sweetheart, you're not going to die.' "

Blake never became aware that her physical appearance had changed until after being moved onto the ward.

"The physio came in," she says, "and she had a shaved head, and my younger sister said: 'Oh, look at you two, you've got the same hairdo,' and I didn't know, and I just started crying.

"It's just those little things that are part of who you are."

Within a matter of weeks, thanks largely to the unwavering help and support of her family, Blake was back home in the Windsor apartment she shared with her sister (and her older sister and her three-month-old nephew, who were in Melbourne from WA at the time).

"I couldn't have done it without my family," she says. "I'm really thankful for them more than anything."

Blake's every day is harder to categorize. Some days over the past 10 years have had a significant impact, both positively and negatively, on who she is today.

She recalls an incident at Chadstone shopping centre about four months into her recovery with great clarity. It came at one of her most vulnerable points.

It was one of the first times she had ventured out into the community in a heavily populated place without her protective mask.

"We go to the food court and there are people staring and pointing and whatever and my mum and sister were telling them to mind their own business," Blake recalls.

"After we order our sandwiches, this 18- or 19-year-old kid comes around and he pulls out a receipt and writes something on it, folds it, and gives it to the girl who was serving us and asks her to deliver it to us.

"We had no idea what it would say, and we were thinking the worst. Then, we open it, and it says: 'You are beautiful' with a smiley face on it.

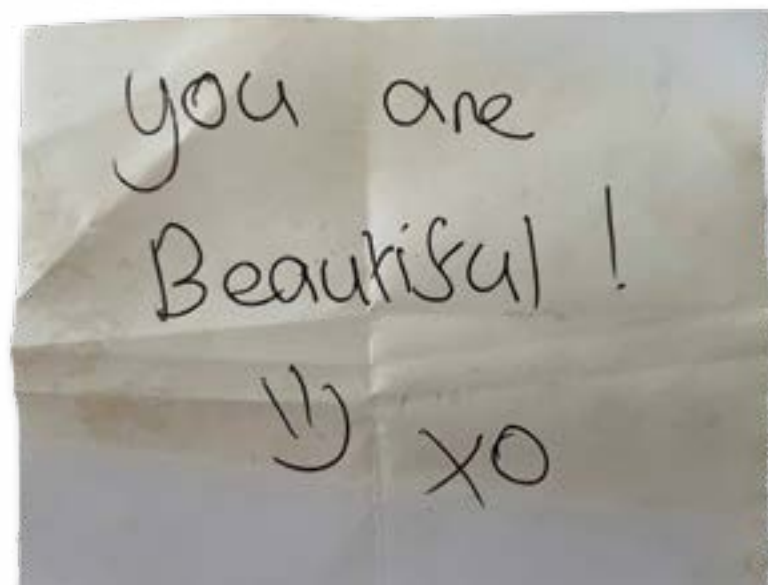
"Something so simple had a massive impact on me. My sister and I just cried and cried and cried on the spot. It's just such a nice thing to do, especially from such a young kid. And he obviously just knew that I'd be struggling, and he gave me confidence that day when I needed it."

But Blake's confidence hasn't necessarily charted a linear progression. It's been punctuated by common bouts of self-consciousness and fear which, at times, are easier to allay than to face.

"In general, every-day life," she says, "it's only been two-and-a-half years since I've had the confidence to wear shorts out again in public.

"I'd spent summers out in pants or a long skirt. It's uncomfortable. It's a long time to be hot. But, now, I don't care. I just wear them. Wearing shorts again was a big deal."

"I remember my older sister was with me and I used my feet to ask her: 'Am I going to die?' When I got to the last word, she came really close to me and said: 'No, sweetheart, you're not going to die.' "





“I think that I was worried for so long that, if I was in a good head space,

I wouldn't want to risk someone changing that by not keeping myself covered up. So, I would be uncomfortable, so that I wouldn't have to deal with somebody possibly affecting me.”

While milestones like this might take time, they always seem to be conquered.

“I think that I was worried for so long that, if I was in a good head space, I wouldn't want to risk someone changing that by not keeping myself covered up,” Blake says. “So, I would be uncomfortable, so that I wouldn't have to deal with somebody possibly affecting me.”

Earlier this year, Blake upped the ante again, completing the San Remo Channel Challenge which comprises a 600-metre swim and a two-kilometre run.

“I'd signed up to do it the year before but chickened out at the last minute,” Blake recalls. “But then I thought: ‘F--k it, I'm doing it. I don't care.’”

“I wore my bathers for it and that was a big deal because there were people there watching and, after that, I felt a heap better.

“Did people notice? Maybe. It's in your mind, but I don't think people care so much.”

3. Varli with her sisters, Bianca (left) and Courtney (centre). 4. Varli crosses the finish line in the San Remo Channel Challenge.

Her re-introduction to work – which began gradually back at South Melbourne, 15 months into her recovery – was less confronting by comparison.

Says Blake: “People said to me: ‘Oh, if I was in your position I don't know if I could come back to work.’ But what else was I going to do? I mean, everyone in this organization at the time knew what had happened to me. I didn't have to explain it to anyone, which made everything easier.

“I was also just really lucky that the bosses I had, the welfare people I had, were fantastic, and TPAV were great for my family as well. They just took care of things without any fuss.”

Throughout the early stages of her recovery, Blake prioritized her mental health by proactively engaging with welfare services when she needed them, rather than waiting for them to call her.

“If I was having a really bad day, I would ring them,” she says. “You've got to, because things can change so quickly, and it doesn't necessarily work on a timeline.

"Just having people available to talk to, when I needed them, was important."

Blake worked at the Crime Desk at Port Phillip and moved on to Major Crime Scene for a few years, before deciding to chase the work aspiration that had been put on hold since that fateful night in Middle Park – to become a detective.

"I thought that I always wanted to be a detective," she says, "so I should get back on track with what I wanted. So, I did."

She completed detective training school and embarked on a stint at the Drug Response Unit in Prahran. That posting led to one particularly serendipitous meeting.

Blake was part of a team that had raided a clandestine drug lab. When she and her colleagues began complaining of headaches, possibly caused by the chemicals they'd been exposed to, they called an ambulance to attend and check them over.

"A few minutes after one of the ambos finished our check-up, the lift doors in front of me opened and there she was, crying," Blake says. "I asked her what was wrong, and she looked at me and said: 'I was there that night, in the ambulance with you.'"

"We spoke for about 10 minutes, and I think it made her feel a bit better to see me back working, after not knowing what had happened to me after the last time she saw me, about six years earlier."

For the past three years, Blake has worked as a detective at the Bass Coast Crime Investigation Unit.

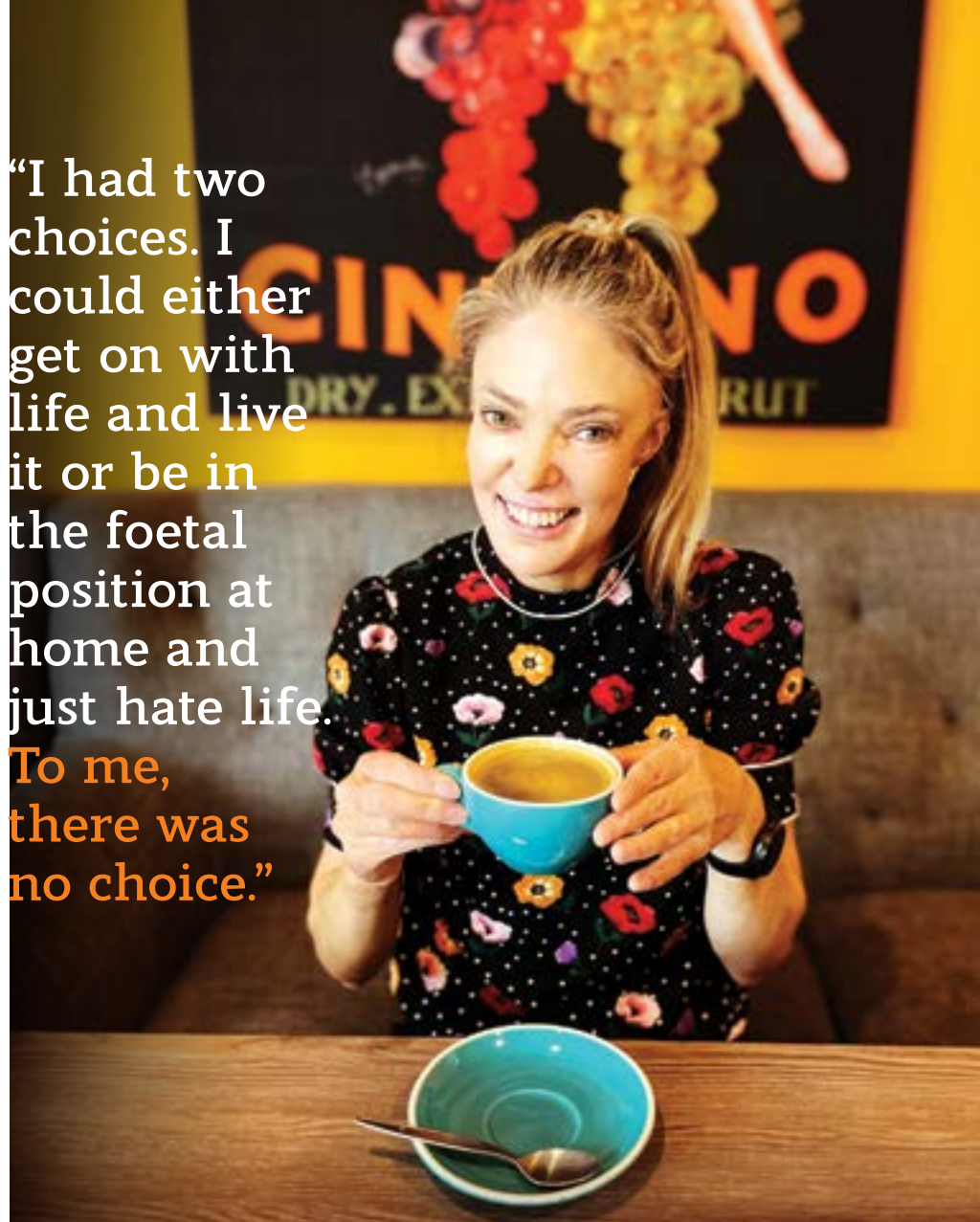
"The lifestyle is fantastic," she says. "I'm at the beach, so I go home, get the dogs, go for a walk along the beach. It's great. You can't beat that."

Blake has also recently become the station's health and safety representative.

"The role came up and I thought I'd do it," she says. "I'd really like to help and try to change things for the better, and that's ultimately what it's about."

"If I can just ease a load somewhere and provide some help, that would be great. Because, at times, when I was recovering and I needed help, someone would step up and sort it all out and it just relieves that sort of pressure and I hope I can do that too."

"I had two choices. I could either get on with life and live it or be in the foetal position at home and just hate life. To me, there was no choice."



"I want to be able to do something. I don't want to just be a name on a sheet. I want to be someone who helps."

A decade on from her darkest day, Blake is stronger, both mentally and physically, and she's happy. But she's honest about the impact it's had, and continues to have, on her.

"Physically, as far as my face is concerned, I still sometimes feel shit about it," she says. "It's a constant reminder every day when I look in the mirror. I still don't have as much confidence as I used to have, but I certainly don't shy away from things either. I can't change it."

Then, there's the traumatic mental legacy of the explosion itself.

"Still today," Blake explains, "I feel like I'm quite hypervigilant a lot, which I hate. I hate loud noises. I'm pretty jumpy. Loud noises just seem to go straight through me."

But Blake is certainly not defined by these insecurities and, increasingly, not as impeded by them.

"I had two choices," she says. "I could either get on with life and live it or be in the foetal position at home and just hate life. To me, there was no choice."

"You have to be positive and live your life and I am ... I've learned I'm resilient, stubborn and motivated."

And Blake is ready to confront life's next challenge with the same attitude that got her here. **PJ**

National Police Bravery Awards

Exceptional acts in exceptional circumstances



The Police Federation of Australia's National Police Bravery Awards are now open.

This award has been developed for police by police and nominations are sought from officers across the country.

While police work is inherently dangerous... some actions stand out.

Do you know someone who has performed an exceptional act in exceptional circumstances?

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. The nominee must be a sworn police officer from an Australian police jurisdiction.
2. Nominees must have undertaken an outstanding act of courage or bravery, by selflessly putting themselves in harms way to protect others, going well beyond the call of duty.
3. Where feasible, the incident should have occurred in the past twelve months, however exceptions could include if the matter is subjudice or if other unavoidable delays have occurred.

The online nomination form is available at policeweek.org.au/bravery-awards and **close on 30 June 2024.**

The National Police Bravery Awards will be presented in Melbourne on 17 September 2024.



**Police Federation
of Australia**
The National Voice of Policing

Specialized support for police

BY NICHOLAS DAMIANI

We are leading the way towards a standard where **transparency, dignity, and integrity** in care is the minimum.

Lifestyle Plus Group has partnered with the Police Association to create a unique lifestyle-assistance programme designed specifically for association members.

Police HomeCare Services – to be launched in April – will be a specialized arm of the organization, providing association members with a range of services.

And the business has taken residence in the union's Carrington St building, leasing the ground and first floors from the association.

Lifestyle Plus Group, a privately-owned community service business in disability and aged care, has been operational since 2015.

But a recent meeting of minds brought about the idea of making some of its services police-specific.

Lifestyle Plus Group managing director Wayne Boden sees the organization as more than equipped to add this dimension to a business already with significant runs on the board.

"Over the last nine years we've grown into the business we are today," he told the *Police Journal*.

"We're a registered NDIS provider and we carry a range of accreditations and licensing to perform the tasks and services that we do."

Mr Boden is also no stranger to presiding over the operations of a large organization. He boasts an extensive background in service industry ownership and management.

"I come with 20-plus years of operational experience," he explained, "having owned and managed a national contact-centre business with three offices around Australia."

"I've worked in some fairly large environments, predominantly around recruitment and business-process outsourcing."

**Lifestyle Plus Group
managing director
Wayne Boden**



"We're bringing all those skills together – and bringing people I've worked with in the past – to complement Lifestyle Plus and Police HomeCare Services."

"It has grown into something real with the input of (Police Association president) Mark Carroll."

"Over the past 18 months, the relationship has grown to the point that we were aware office space was becoming available in the association's building."

Amid the signing of the lease agreement, both parties saw a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create something unique for association members.

Mr Boden said there will be opportunities present in both the NDIS category and also My Aged Care.

"There might be ageing members, or those with ageing parents, who require services. It could be current or retired members, family members; it could be friends of family members."

"You might need a gardener; you might need your car washed; you might need a handyman."

The organization is also opening Strength from Within, a physical well-being studio on the ground floor. It features a programme known as GYROTONIC, which is a method of full-body strength and flexibility inspired by yoga, tai chi, swimming, and dance movements.

And Mr Boden is also under zero illusions about the special responsibility that comes with the privilege of using the police name.

"We've been lucky enough to secure that name from a commercial perspective, but we also know we're carrying the weight of that name," he said.

"Police officers are a critical part of our community, and the association is out there supporting those members."

"Being in this building, I've been able to see first-hand what a professional operation the association is, and how well run it is."

"To have Police HomeCare Services right here, leasing our spare office space – and also providing a range of services to our members right here on site – is an exceptional outcome."



“It complements both our businesses to be in the same building together.”

And the partnership, according to Mr Boden, has the potential to unlock other future opportunities for association members.

“We also see opportunities for recruitment and employment for (association) members,” he says, “whether that’s assisting us in day-to-day training programmes, or whether that’s applying for jobs directly with Police HomeCare Services.

“With the trust and reliability of the police name, and with our partnership with the association, we believe there’s a lot of big opportunities working within the police family.

“And because we’ve been around for a while, we already have a lot of the systems and procedures in place.”

While pricing models within the NDIS and My Aged Care sector are set by the government, there will be other member-specific benefits unique to Police HomeCare Services, according to Mr Boden.

“There are two areas to what we do in aged care at the moment: we do the government-funded My Aged Care work and we also do private home care for people who are ageing,” he said.

“So, we hope to work on some of the partnerships in the aged-care space to be able to bring specific benefits for members.”

Familiar faces and one-on-one interactions will be a cornerstone of

the services Police HomeCare Services plans to provide to members.

“There is always the ability for members to visit us in the building,” Mr Boden said. “But we also have the ability to go out to homes.

“Police HomeCare services will have consultants already working for us, that can do that one-on-one and face-to-face, who can guide members through the pathway of being able to sign up or register.

“We can design an individual package best suited to the member or the member’s loved ones.”

Police Association president Mark Carroll said the partnership promises to pay dividends for members long into the future.

“It will be a practical service to members and an investment in the future of the association,” he said.

1-2. Impressions of new Police HomeCare signage to appear in and on the Police Association building.

3. Lifestyle Plus Group staff at work on the first floor.

“To have Police HomeCare Services right here, leasing our spare office space – and also providing a range of services to our members right here on site – is an exceptional outcome.

“Members always know they can approach the association on industrial matters. Now they’ll have the added benefit of being able to utilize other face-to-face police-specific services in the same building.” **PJ**

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The Police Association and Lifestyle Plus Group will launch Police HomeCare Services in April. Members can access the service or obtain more information by contacting the association.

Letters

E-mail your letter to the editor to editor@pasa.asn.au

Police medal tally exceeds 50,000



It is 10 years since Queen Elizabeth II agreed to extend the eligibility for the National Police Service Medal back to February 14, 1975. This was the date on which the Australian honours system was established.

The extension came almost three years after the announcement that the NPSM would apply to members who were still serving on or after October 30, 2008. Since the first medals were presented in 2011, more than 50,000 have been awarded to current and former officers.

The establishment of this award, and its later extension back to 1975, took decades to achieve. And, in that achievement, many past and present members played a significant part.

The Police Federation of Australia, with the strong support of its state, territory and federal police union branches, played the leading role.

Strong support came from NSW Police Force chief inspector Rick Steinborn APM and AFP detective inspector James Cheshire, the designers of the medal and the medal's ribbon respectively.

Support also came from retired NSW Police Force sergeant Paul Biscoe OAM and superintendent Peter Rankin, who represented the respective retired police officers' associations.

Our argument for awarding a specific medal to sworn police officers was that it would acknowledge the unique role they play in the:

- Preservation of peace.
- Protection of life and property.
- Maintenance of law and order throughout Australia and overseas.

The medal was ultimately awarded in "recognition for the unique contribution and significant commitment of those persons who have given ethical and diligent service as a sworn member of an Australian police service".

Sworn members of Australian police forces receive the medal upon completion of 15 years' ethical and diligent service.

We ensured, however, that under the relevant regulations, members with a lesser period of service could receive the medal if that service ended owing to death or an impairment related to the discharge of their duties as constables of police.

The NPSM also sets an uncommonly high standard for its award and retention. If, after qualifying for and receiving the award, the service of a police officer is later found to be unethical or not diligent, in an act either before or after the NPSM was awarded to him or her, the award may be cancelled at any time on the advice

of the relevant commissioner of police.

The award received bipartisan support from the major political parties, first from then-prime minister Kevin Rudd in 2008, and from then-prime minister Tony Abbot, in April 2014, when the eligibility was extended back to 1975.

On September 19, 2011, then-prime minister Julia Gillard presented the first 16 NPSMs in a ceremony at Parliament House, Canberra. Honoured on that day – and nominated by their respective jurisdictions – were two eligible members from each state, territory, and federal police force.

Since then, more than 50,000 NPSMs have been presented to current and former officers to recognize the special contribution police make to Australian communities.

Scott Weber
Chief Executive Officer
Police Federation of Australia



The need for action on ageing SAPOL facilities

The obvious lack of security and inadequate facilities in many ageing police stations continue to frustrate members. This failing is particularly so in country locations and demands improvement.

On the record are many incidents which illustrate the existence and extent of the problem. A solo member, for example, acting on recall late one evening, responded to multiple reports of a knife-wielding offender damaging property attached to a remote country police station.

In another early-morning incident, witnesses spotted a drug-affected offender at the station's rear car park peering into vehicles before causing a disturbance nearby.

The association outlined these incidents in a letter to SAPOL last year (December 7).

In a letter to the association this year (January 17), SAPOL explained that a review, conducted in March 2023, had recommended security upgrades and another site visit – “in light” of recent events.

The association had written to SAPOL (January 8, 2024) regarding the lack of CCTV at another country station. Our letter indicated that, in line with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*, the onus was on SAPOL to provide members with the highest level of protection against workplace hazards and risks.

Last year, the association had, in a letter (May 30), outlined to SAPOL

an incident in which an offender, wielding a hammer, had entered a country station compound and smashed the windows of a member's personal vehicle.

The association has continued to highlight its concerns about country police station facilities, just as it highlighted the findings of a coronial inquest into the Holden Hill custody facility (*Onus on SAPOL to protect workers and detainees, Police Journal*, Spring 2023).

SAPOL indicated by letter last year (June 26) that the need for remedial works had been identified at the relevant country locations and that funding applications for those works were still pending.

To deliver the best police services, members require the commitment of government to critical infrastructure funding (accommodation/facilities).

Both SAPOL and the association have commented extensively on the failure to recruit and retain police officers.

Questionable is whether our current ageing facilities are capable of accommodating – or even designed to accommodate – the staff required to achieve “best policing services”.

SafeWork SA published the document *Managing the work environment and facilities* in 2020. It is a code of practice in respect of managing the work environment and facilities under section 274 of the *Work Health and Safety Act*.

On page six, it indicates that:

Questionable is whether our current ageing facilities are capable of accommodating – or even designed to accommodate – the staff required to achieve “best policing services”.

“Persons who have management or control of a workplace must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the workplace, the means of entering and exiting the workplace and anything arising from the workplace are without risks to the health and safety of any person.”

Workers need to be aware of the risks in their workplaces and take steps to control them. But, to assess risk, members need their employer to inform them of funding measures to improve, create, or replace ageing infrastructure, as ratified through SAPOL annual reporting or state budget allocation papers.



Expect the pain to linger

It might be four months on since the killing of Brevet Sergeant Jason Doig but hearts still ache and mourning continues. These understandable human reactions are quiet and private in some quarters and overt in others.

And they continue because no on-duty police deaths are ever done and dusted. Not for those of us left behind.

We carry on with our lives and careers because we're people who live up to our responsibilities. But deaths like Jason's don't just, after a time, disappear from our consciousness.

We might not have known Jason on a personal level or partnered him in a patrol car, but we counted him as a brother. And because he was one of us, a member of our police family, we can and should expect the pain to linger.

I saw that lingering pain first-hand in 2002, when we lost Holden Hill motorcycle officer Senior Constable Bob Sobczak.

It was my first experience of an on-duty death in the police family, which I had joined just five years earlier. I never saw the anguish come to a sudden, miraculous end with the conclusion of Bob's funeral. That didn't happen.

The bereaved were stuck with their grief for a long time afterward. And it's the same now, months down the track from Jason's death.

Of course, members with almost 40 years' service have had to absorb the murders and other on-duty deaths of their colleagues since 1985. Experience might just have made them the best equipped, mentally and emotionally, to confront the reality of another killing last November.

We might not have known Jason on a personal level or partnered him in a patrol car, but we counted him as a brother. And because he was one of us, a member of our police family, we can and should expect the pain to linger.

Although, for some, losing a third colleague to a killing in under 40 years likely came with even more intense sorrow.

And one has to wonder about the impact of that November night on far less experienced members. Indeed, the least experienced in the entire job at the time were Course 71 recruits. They had begun their police lives at the academy just two weeks before Jason's death.

How must those recruits, and their families, have felt? The reality of police life could not, in just a few days, have hit them any harder. And who would have blamed any of them for either a passing thought or serious rethink about their career choice?

Even the critical incidents which don't claim police lives come with lasting effects. One member, not yet out of his probation, suffered a gunshot wound to the face in the mid-1980s.

I know a couple of his old coursemates. One of them said of the shooting: "I saw him (my coursemate) lying in a hospital bed the next day. He was so badly banged up and unable even to speak. That image has stayed with me to this day."

The depth of the impact of our loss of Jason is still evident – and compelling, despite the passage of time. But we, like other members in the past, have no choice but to grapple with our ongoing grief and simultaneously carry out our duties.

Few, if any, other professions exact such an emotional toll. But our members, and those who support them from behind the scenes, are supremely resilient. That shines through now, as they both mourn and serve.

To view police officers through one lens is to see them as figures of authority and duty. But remember, we're people before we're police. The unique demands of our profession sometimes overshadow that human element.

Ultimately, none of us should be concerned by our ongoing sorrow. First, because it is entirely natural in a police community as tight and as supportive as ours. And, second, because we step up for each other whenever it comes to not only professional but also personal struggles.

Those who most need our continuing support now are those who were closest to Jason – his family, of course, and his immediate workmates. Time will give them relief but, for now, their grief is certainly not over.

By caring for them, we honour Jason.



POLICE CARE AUSTRALIA

HAPPY COPS MAKE THE WORLD A SAFER PLACE - Introducing Police Care Australia

Police Care Australia is a joint initiative of the National Police Memorial (NPM) and the Police Federation of Australia (PFA) to provide a health and well-being hub of culturally sensitive and appropriate information for former and serving police force members, their families, and friends.

As a national initiative we strive to support and assist our police across the nation with a one stop repository of mental health resources, comprehensive service directory along with a confidential and independent online counselling service.

Counselling bookings can be made via the website therefore serving and former police are offered a unique service specially designed for first responders.

Police Care Australia understands the unique threats and pressures that cops face every day and the potentially dangerous toll it takes on their lives.

We strive to support and empower every cop to secure and protect their true happiness because we know a healthy and happy cop makes the world a safe place.

www.policecareaustralia.org.au



**HAPPINESS IS NOT
FOUND BUT LIVED IN
THE HERE AND NOW**



**WITH HAPPY COPS
THE WORLD'S
A SAFER PLACE**



Circadian rhythm

Circadian rhythms are biological processes that follow a roughly 24-hour cycle, influencing various physiological and behavioural functions, including sleep-wake patterns, hormone release, and body temperature regulation.

So, our sleep-wake cycle is actually a biological internal clock built around the release of hormones to help us function better when awake and to replenish the brain's essential chemicals when asleep.

Some lesser-known proteins released are:

- Vasopressin (more urine production during the day than night).
- Thyroid stimulating hormone (producing thyroid hormone).
- Adiponectin (a hormone your fat tissue releases and helps with insulin sensitivity and inflammation).
- Leptin (helps you maintain your normal weight on a long-term basis).
- Ghrelin (produced in the stomach and released when it's empty to signal your brain that it's time to eat).

Human growth hormone secretion is subject to a circadian and diurnal rhythm which follows a sleep pattern.

Specifically, the peak in secretion occurs during sleep in the dark stage of the daily cycle. If this sleep pattern is disrupted, however, compensatory and largely unpredictable pulses of growth hormone release are observed during the light-awake stage, as demonstrated in shift workers.

Many police officers work in shifts that disrupt their natural circadian rhythms. Shiftwork, particularly night shifts, can lead to irregular sleep patterns and interfere with the body's ability to synchronize with external time cues.

Disrupted circadian rhythms can result in decreased alertness, impaired cognitive function, and reduced motor skills. It is critical for police officers to avoid this disruption to perform their duties effectively and safely.

Irregular work schedules and sleep disruptions associated with shift work can increase the risk of fatigue among police officers. Fatigue can impair judgment, decision-making, and reaction times, potentially compromising officer safety.

Fatigue resulting from disrupted circadian rhythms can make police officers more susceptible to errors in judgment and decision-making, leading to adverse outcomes in critical situations.

Chronic disruption of circadian rhythms owing to shift work has been linked to various health problems, including cardiovascular disorders, metabolic syndrome, gastrointestinal issues, and mental-health disorders such as depression and anxiety.

Police departments can implement strategies to help officers cope with the challenges of shift work and mitigate the negative effects of disrupted circadian rhythms. These strategies might include providing education on sleep hygiene, offering flexible scheduling options, and promoting wellness programmes.

Encouraging regular rest breaks during shifts can help mitigate the impact of fatigue and allow officers to recharge and maintain optimal levels of alertness and performance.

Police officers can benefit from training programmes that raise awareness about the effects of fatigue



... our sleep-wake cycle is actually a biological internal clock built around the release of hormones to help us function better when awake and to replenish the brain's essential chemicals when asleep.

and provide strategies for managing sleep disturbances and maintaining cognitive functioning while on duty.

Continued research into circadian rhythms, shift work, and fatigue management is essential for informing policy development and implementing evidence-based interventions to support the health, safety, and well-being of police officers.

By recognizing the influence of circadian rhythms on police work and implementing proactive measures to address the challenges associated with shift work and fatigue, police departments in Australia can help optimize officer performance and enhance public safety.

Jim Barnett

MOTORING



Model/pricing

BT-50 GT dual cab 4x4 \$62,660, SP dual cab 4x4 \$68,660, Thunder dual cab 4x4 \$74,095 (plus ORC). SP Pro enhancement pack adds \$7,668, Thunder Pro pack adds \$9,046.

Drivetrain

3.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder common-rail diesel, part-time 4x4 system with high and low-range transfer case, six-speed automatic transmission, rear diff lock.

Towing weights

3,500 braked towing capacity with 350kg max ball weight.

Standard features

Dual-zone climate control, two USB charging points, leather or leather/suede seats, eight-way power-adjustable driver's seat, sat nav, nine-inch infotainment screen.

Safety

Eight airbags, traffic-sign recognition, front and rear parking sensors, a suite of driver-assistance and crash-avoidance technology.

Fuel

Diesel, 76-litre tank, 8.0-litres per 100km (combined test).

- Model/pricing** Kia EV6 GT \$99,590 (plus ORC), Premium paint adds \$520, Moonscape Matt paint \$3,295.
- Battery size/usage** Li-ion, 77.4 kWh, weight 479kg, 23kWh/100km (on test).
- Charging** 10-80% in 73 minutes DC 50kW charger, 18 minutes with DC 350kW charger, 10amp home charger also supplied.
- Safety** Seven airbags, full suite of driver-assistance and crash-avoidance technology, multiple camera displays, front and rear park sensors.
- Standard features** Burglar alarm, remote smart-park assist, five USB ports, 64-colour ambient lighting, wireless phone charger, high-powered audio system, sat nav with 10-year map updates, sunroof, dual-zone climate control, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.
- Cargo** 480-litres increasing to 1,260 litres with rear seats folded.



Kia EV6 GT

DESIGN AND FUNCTION

Kia released its first dedicated electric vehicle, the three-model EV6, in Australia in 2022.

Air (\$72,590) and GT-Line (\$79,590) RWD variants use a single motor producing 168kW (power) and 350Nm (torque). With a driving range of up to 528km, they can accelerate from 0-100km/h in 7.3 seconds. An optional GT-Line dual-motor AWD model (\$87,590) brought about a jump in outputs to 239kW/605Nm, 0-100km/h in 5.2 seconds, and a driving range of 484km.

Twelve months later, Kia released its long-awaited

Mazda BT50

...
DESIGN AND FUNCTION

The three top-selling vehicles in Australia last year were Ford Ranger, Toyota Hi Lux and Isuzu D-Max – in that order. Such is our thirst for utes.

The Mazda BT50 is a cloned D-Max sporting different body panels and interior but doesn't sell as well.

Mazda, in an attempt to lift market share, introduced its BT50 Thunder in 2021. Based on the highly specified GT variant and only available in Australia, Thunder introduced a single-hoop steel bull bar, dual-row Lightforce LED lightbar and unique black 18-inch alloys. Also added were fender flares, a premium sports bar, electric roller tonneau cover and Thunder decals.

Continuous improvement brought about two new packs in mid-2023. Owners of top-spec SP can add a Pro enhancement pack comprising

a Nitrocharger suspension upgrade which features a 50mm lift, new springs and twin-tube shockers. Revised 18-inch alloys, a wider track, a high-powered LED light bar and special decals are also added.

Building on the specification of its current Thunder model, new Thunder Pro adds an Old Man Emu BP-51 suspension setup with manually adjustable nitrogen-filled dampers with remote reservoirs. It also gets a snorkel and two round Lightforce LED driving lights supporting the standard light bar. These can illuminate at 1 lux for more than 1.1km ahead.

Both packs can be fitted retrospectively to existing customer vehicles carrying a two-year warranty or as part of a new vehicle order carrying Mazda's five-year unlimited-kilometre warranty.

Thirst for utes

...
DRIVING

BT50 Thunder Pro, with its tall stance and rugged appearance, can comfortably sit among the big names. Drivers score a comfortable power-adjustable heated driver's seat, reach/rake adjustable steering and easy-to-use switchgear.

Thunder's Isuzu 3.0-litre four-cylinder turbo diesel engine generates 140kW of power and 450Nm of torque. While not class-leading, it offers more than enough power for any situation and, with maximum torque available between 1,600 and 2,600rpm, there's plenty of pulling power down low.

At idle, and as revs build, it's a little harsher than some. However, it smooths nicely when under way. The six-speed auto goes about its business with a minimum of fuss and offers a lever-operated manual mode.

Highway performance is effortless, ride quality is good, and it corners confidently. On secondary dirt roads, the upgraded suspension effortlessly soaks up potholes and corrugations. A decent set of All Terrains would have finished the job.

EV6 GT. Not only the most powerful Kia production vehicle ever built, EV6 GT makes the average V8 look like a dinosaur. Dual electric motors pump out a massive 430kW of power and 740Nm of torque, and EV6 GT can accelerate from 0-100km/h in just 3.5 seconds and has a driving range of up to 424km.

Best described as a four-door fastback, it features bulging mudguards, huge 21-inch five-spoke alloys shod with wide low-profile Michelin Pilot tyres and glaring neon green brake calipers. Its sloping tailgate features an aero spoiler and unique LED taillights.

Inside, faux leather and suede bucket seats feature metal inserts with GT moniker and neon green piping. The split/fold rear seat offers a stack of space even for tall adults.

Most powerful ever

...
DRIVING

Approach the car and the flush door handles pop out. Drivers score a very comfortable (manually adjustable) heated sports seat and thick, flat-bottom heated sports steering wheel. In front of the driver are dual 12.3-inch displays that blend seamlessly into one.

The start-button and gear-selector dial are within easy reach fitted atop a floating two-level console. Selecting D (drive) automatically releases the park brake, the system automatically selecting P (park) and engaging the park brake at shut down.

Although extremely powerful, EV6 GT is smooth and refined enough to be a daily drive in heavy traffic. On the highway and through the hills, it's amazingly agile and, thanks to Australian input, offers good

ride characteristics on most surfaces.

Even in the Normal (default) drive mode, acceleration from any speed is simply amazing. For those who want more spirited on-road performance there's Sport mode.

Testing at the famous Nürburgring racetrack ensures the car is competent in GT mode which automatically configures the car's brakes, steering, electronic suspension, e-LSD and stability-control systems. My Drive mode allows drivers to tailor these systems to suit their individual driving preferences.

SWITCH & SAVE

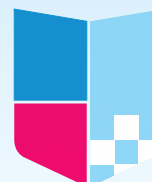
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**POLICE
CREDIT
UNION**
PLATINUM

What to know when buying your first home

No decision feels quite as big as buying your first home. There are many things to consider, and it can be hard to know where to start. Some considerations when making that first step into the property market are:

• • •

Know the costs

A lot of people talk about how much you will need for a deposit to purchase your first house. However, often people are unaware that there can be other additional costs on top of the deposit that are just as important. This can often end in disappointment when you start discussing how much you can borrow.

The best way to work out how much you need to save for a deposit is by using this equation:

The price of the property – the amount you can borrow (your borrowing capacity) + fees and charges = your deposit.

So, what do you need to know about the *other* costs involved in purchasing a house (besides that inevitable deposit)?

Government fees such as **stamp duty** will need to be included in your budgeting. You might also need to cover **Lenders' Mortgage Insurance (LMI)**. LMI is the insurance a lender takes out to protect themselves against any loss that may be incurred if you are unable to repay your loan.

It's a one-off additional payment that's calculated based on the size of your deposit and how much you can borrow.

It's important to consider all the potential costs while you are still in the budgeting and saving phase, so you can ensure you have more than enough when you begin the house hunting and buying process.

It's important to consider all the potential costs while you are still in the budgeting and saving phase, so you can ensure you have more than enough when you begin the house hunting and buying process.

Find out how much you can borrow, the cost of stamp duty on a particular property, approximate loan repayments, and so much more, by using the calculators available on our website at policecu.com.au/calculators/

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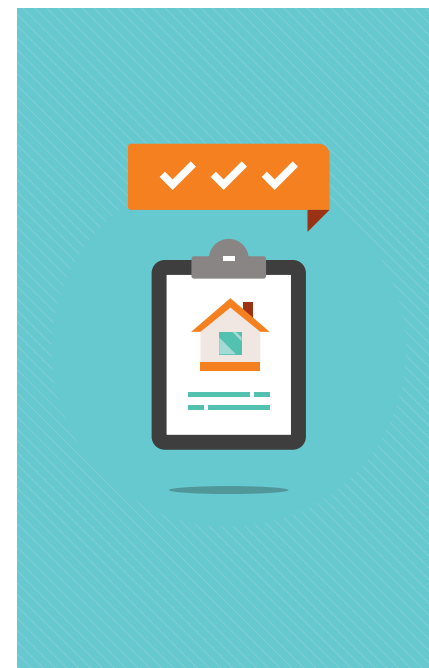
Know how much you could borrow

Once you know all the costs involved with purchasing your first home, you can then begin to figure out your budget, or how much you might be able to spend on a house.

It is important to note that, the amount you will be able to borrow will also depend on:

- Your **income**.
- Your **current living expenses** including things such as rent, food, entertainment, transport, childcare costs and so on. Don't forget things like AfterPay, UberEats and even Netflix costs are considered.
- Any **other liabilities** including loans, credit cards etc.
- The **type of loan** you are wanting i.e. fixed or variable.

Did you know you can estimate your borrowing power by using our **How Much Can I Borrow Calculator**. This calculator can help form a realistic idea of what you'll need to include in your



budget and the cost of repayments. You can find the calculator on our website policecu.com.au/calculators/

• • •

Know your options

Knowing about your options around purchasing your first home can help reduce the fear factor when starting the process.

• • •

Family guarantee

A family guarantee could help you avoid paying LMI. A family guarantee (also known as a family pledge or a guarantor) is when an immediate family member (such as parents), use the equity in their property as security for your loan. With this help, you can increase your borrowing power, and even release the guarantee once you have met the Loan to Value Ratio requirements.

Continued page 57

Free Legal Service for Police Association Members, their families and retired Members.



Leading Adelaide law firm, **Tindall Gask Bentley** is the preferred legal services provider of the Police Association, offering **30 minutes of free initial advice** and a **10% fee discount**.

To arrange a preliminary in-person or phone appointment contact **PASA** on **(08) 8212 3055**

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The game has changed: more scrutiny than ever on use of force

The Police Association annual conference played out in October when delegates from services and locations around the state came together to discuss all things policing. Such a diverse gathering from within the association membership provided an opportunity to gauge which issues were causing members the most concern.

Front-line issues, like resourcing, district policing, and responses to domestic violence were all topical. But one issue stood out above all others – the use of force.

We're not talking about the use of force in clearly unlawful circumstances, such as the officer who turns off his or her BWV and dishes out some summary justice. Such officers and such incidents are exceedingly rare, if not non-existent, within SA policing.

The delegates' real concern was about officers earnestly trying to do their job and effecting arrests in violent, volatile circumstances. How could officers ensure their actions wouldn't make them the subject of misconduct investigations or criminal charges?

These concerns are demonstrably warranted. There has been a recent focus on police use of force by the various bodies vested with powers of oversight of police. There has been a spate of charges against police officers for alleged assaults in the course of their duty.

Many of these charges seem to have been laid after May 2020, the date of the George Floyd incident in the United States.

Whether or not events in the US have informed the recent focus here, or whether the timing is coincidental, one thing is clear: the game has changed, and cops are now facing more scrutiny for use of force than ever before.

That scrutiny is coming even in circumstances in which an otherwise approved technique is deployed.

In many cases, the Police Disciplinary Tribunal (the statutory tribunal established specifically for the purpose of dealing with police discipline and excessive use of force) is not being used. The preferred option of the commissioner/DPP appears to be criminal charges.

The focus on use of force is not limited to the officer deploying the force either. In a number of recent cases, officers are being compelled to explain their views of what has happened and their understanding of training and what is approved and not approved.

Delegates were particularly interested in the approach adopted recently by the commissioner and the DPP, and how that approach aligns with present-day operational realities and training.

It was clear from discussions at the conference that there is much confusion about distraction strikes and a recent emphasis on the "cover, drop, and drive" technique.

Is current training enough to allow an officer to deal with a belligerent/emotional/drug-affected offender who might use violence to achieve his or her ends?

Any time there has been a heavy use of force, legal advice should be sought before attending an interview or providing a detailed statement.

Tragic incidents in Crystal Brook and Bordertown show that it is reasonable to have concerns that otherwise normal people might use extreme violence with little warning.

Which all leads back to the concerns raised by delegates: what is approved, what is not approved, and how far can the use of force go?

There will never be an easy answer for these questions, but when considering whether any use of force might become a criminal offence, the Supreme Court recently made some points clear:

- Was the force that was used reasonable, in the lawful exercise of an authority?
- Was there some special authority that provides a lawful excuse for reasonable force to be used in a particular circumstance (such as reasonable force in a correctional institution or for the purpose of the *Mental Health Act*)?
- Was the use of force honestly done in the exercise of powers?
- Was it a use of force in genuine self-defence?

Given the greater level of scrutiny now being applied, it is crucial that officers are fully versed in their training and authorities. Any time there has been a heavy use of force, legal advice should be sought before attending an interview or providing a detailed statement.

The Secret Hours

Mick Herron Baskerville, \$32.99

• • • •

Monochrome is a busted flush – an inquiry into the misdeeds of the intelligence services, established by a vindictive prime minister but rendered toothless by a wily chief spook.

For years it has ground away uselessly, interviewing witnesses with nothing to offer, producing a report with nothing to say, while the civil servants at its helm see their careers disappearing into a black hole.

And then the OTIS file falls into their hands.

What secret does this hold as a long-redundant spy gets chased through Devon's green lanes in the dark? What happened in a newly reunified Berlin that someone is desperate to keep under wraps? And who will win the battle for the soul of the secret service – or was that decided a long time ago?

Spies and pen-pushers, politicians and PAs, high-flyers, time-servers and burn-outs. They all have jobs to do in the daylight.

But what they do in the secret hours reveals who they really are.



Win a book, an in-season movie pass or a DVD!

• • • •

For your chance to win a book, an in-season movie pass (courtesy of Wallis Cinemas) or a DVD, send your name, phone number, work location and despatch number, along with your choice of book, movie and/or DVD to giveaways@pj.asn.au

Second Chance

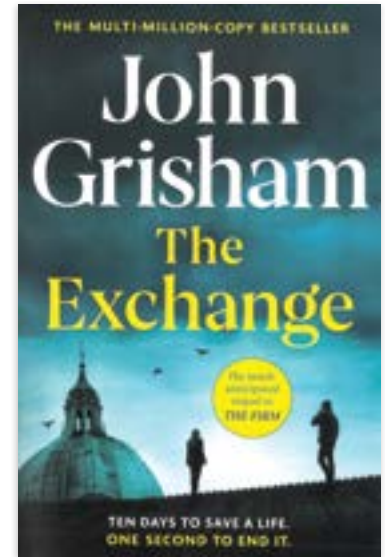
Diana Thurgood Allen & Unwin, \$32.99

On a hot summer day in northern New South Wales, mounted police officer Tiffany spotted an advertisement for a horse in the local paper – a Clydesdale cross for a price almost too good to be true. On a whim, she and her husband drove out to see him.

Arriving at a drought-stricken farm, they bought the bargain-priced horse, but also discovered his brother, Toby – a badly neglected, ungainly horse for the knackery.

The connection between Toby and Tiff was instant, and he turned out to be the most remarkable horse she'd ever encountered. A split-second decision sparked an astonishing journey from a brutal life in a desolate paddock to a flourishing career within the esteemed stables of the mounted police.

This true story reveals the power and the potential of a simple second chance.



The Exchange

John Grisham

Hodder & Stoughton, \$34.99

The follow-up to John Grisham's global bestseller *The Firm*.

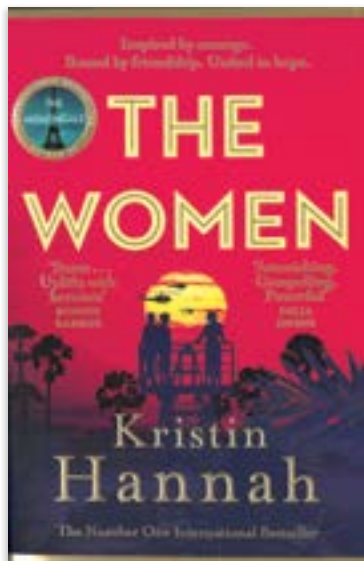
What became of Mitch and Abby McDeere after they exposed the crimes of Memphis law firm Bendini, Lambert and Locke and fled the country? The answer is in *The Exchange*, the riveting sequel to *The Firm*, the blockbuster thriller that launched the career of the world's bestselling author.

Ten days to save a life. One second to end it.

Mitch McDeere has cheated death and come out the other side. Fifteen years ago, he stole \$10 million from the mob and disappeared. Now, with his enemies jailed or dead, he has fought his way to the top of the biggest law firm in the world.

When a new case takes Mitch to Libya, danger awaits – he's soon in the biggest hostage negotiation in recent history with terrorists who have murdered and will murder again. Their demand is staggering: a ransom of \$100 million must be paid within 10 days.

But this isn't a random kidnapping – it's personal. And no one, not even Mitch's wife in New York, is safe.



The Women

Kristin Hannah Pan Macmillan, \$34.99

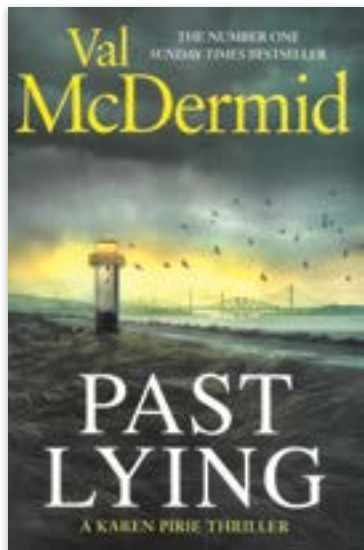
Frances "Frankie" McGrath is a 20-year-old student nurse raised in the idyllic sun-drenched world of Southern California. Sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing.

But in 1965, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows the path her brother has taken after he ships out to serve in Vietnam.

Frankie is as inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, and the chaos and destruction of war overwhelms her. Each day is a gamble of life and death. In war, she meets – and becomes one of – the lucky, the brave, the broken, and the lost.

But war is just the beginning for Frankie and her veteran friends. The real battle lies in coming home to a changed and divided America, to angry protesters, and to a country that wants to forget Vietnam.

BOOKS



Past Lying: A Karen Pirie Thriller Val McDermid Sphere,\$32.99

• • • •

Edinburgh, haunted by the ghosts of its many writers, is also the cold-case beat of Detective Chief Inspector Karen Pirie. So she shouldn't be surprised when an author's manuscript appears to be a blueprint for an actual crime.

Karen can't ignore the plot's chilling similarities to the unsolved case of an Edinburgh University student who vanished from her own doorstep. The manuscript seems to be the key to unlocking what happened to Lara Hardie, but there's a problem: the author died before he finished it.

As Karen digs deeper, she uncovers a spiralling game of betrayal and revenge, where lies are indistinguishable from the truth and with more than one unexpected twist.

Hearts of Darkness

Jana Monroe Orion Publishing Group,\$34.99

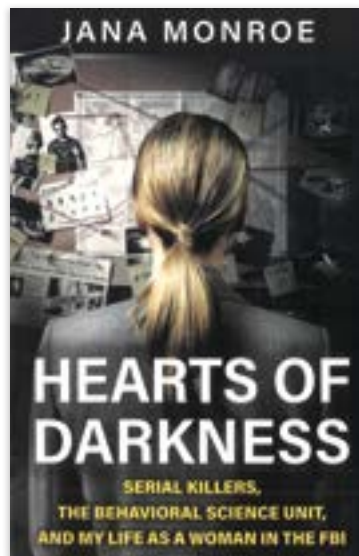
• • • •

Jana Monroe was no ordinary cop: over the course of her career she consulted on more than 850 homicide cases. Through her work, she crossed paths with Ted Bundy, Jeffrey Dahmer, Edmund Kemper, Aileen Wuornos, and hundreds of other murderers.

Over the course of an utterly astonishing career in law enforcement and intelligence analysis, Monroe has come face-to-face with hundreds of the darkest criminals in American history.

Her notoriety even led her to become the person on whom the character of Clarice in *The Silence of the Lambs* was modelled, and she even trained Jodie Foster for the role.

Hearts of Darkness is Monroe's incredible story, stepping out from the shadows to tell a range of gripping, sometimes gruesome, and always remarkable tales from the top moments of a life fighting evil.



CINEMA



Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire Released March 21

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The Spengler family returns to where it all started – the iconic New York City firehouse – to team up with the original Ghostbusters, who've developed a top-secret research lab to take busting ghosts to the next level.

But when the discovery of an ancient artifact unleashes an evil force, Ghostbusters new and old must join forces to protect their home and save the world from a second ice age.

Cast: Dan Aykroyd (Ray Stantz), Paul Rudd (Gary Grooberson), McKenna Grace (Phoebe Spengler), Carrie Coon (Callie Spengler), Annie Potts (Janine Melnitz), Finn Wolfhard (Trevor Spengler), Patton Oswalt (Hubert Wartzki), Ernie Hudson (Winston Zeddemore), Kumail Nanjiani (Nadeem Razmaadi).

Wallis
Cinema

The Great Escaper

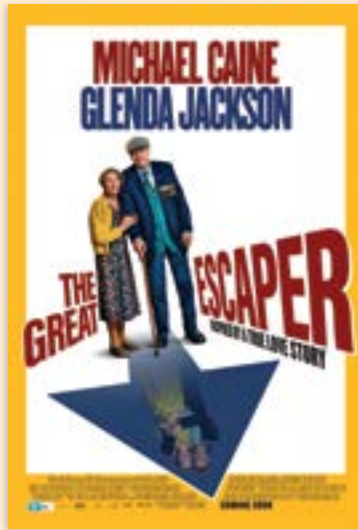
Released March 7

In the summer of 2014, Bernard Jordan made global headlines. He had staged a “great escape” from his care home to join fellow war veterans on a beach in Normandy, commemorating their fallen comrades at the D-Day Landings 70th anniversary.

Bernie’s adventure, spanning a mere 48 hours, also marked the culmination of his 60-year marriage to Rene (Glenda Jackson).

The Great Escaper celebrates their enduring love, but always with an eye to the lessons we might learn from the Greatest Generation.

Cast: Michael Caine (Bernard Jordan), Glenda Jackson (Irene Jordan), Laura Marcus (Young Irene), John Standing (Arthur), Wolf Kahler (Heinrich).



Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire

Released March 28

The epic battle continues. It’s the follow-up of the explosive showdown of *Godzilla vs. Kong* with an all-new adventure that pits the almighty Kong and the fearsome Godzilla against a colossal undiscovered threat hidden within our world, challenging their very existence.

Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire delves further into the histories of these titans and their origins, as well as the mysteries of Skull Island and beyond, while uncovering the mythic battle that helped forge these extraordinary beings and tied them to humankind forever.

Cast: Brian Tyree Henry (Bernie Hayes), Rebecca Hall (Ilene Andrews), Dan Stevens (Trapper), Kaylee Hottle (Jia).



Dune: Part Two

Released February 29

The saga continues. *Dune: Part Two* explores the mythic journey of Paul Atreides as he unites with Chani and the Fremen while on a warpath of revenge against the conspirators who destroyed his family.

Facing a choice between the love of his life and the fate of the known universe, he endeavours to prevent a terrible future only he can foresee.

Dune: Part Two was filmed on location in Budapest, Abu Dhabi, Jordan and Italy.

Cast: Timothée Chalamet (Paul Atreides), Zendaya (Chani), Florence Pugh (Princess Irulan Corrino), Rebecca Ferguson (Lady Jessica Atreides), Austin Butler (Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen), Javier Bardem (Stilgar), Christopher Walken (Emperor Shaddam IV), Stellan Skarsgård (Baron Vladimir Harkonnen).

DVDs



The Walking Dead: Daryl Dixon

280 minutes, \$34.95 (DVD), \$39.95 (Blu-ray)

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Daryl washes ashore in France and struggles to piece together how he got there and why. He is far from home and, once again, facing old demons and new enemies while charged with protecting a curious young boy whose origin has become the stuff of legend and the focal point of various factions across France.

Daryl hopes to find a way back home. As he makes the journey, though, the connections he forms along the way complicate his ultimate plan.



Bloodlands Series 2

230 minutes, \$32.95

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Brannick attempts to use Tori Matthews (a love interest and the daughter of one of Goliath's victims) to frame his boss, Jackie Twomey, for the old Goliath murders.

When that fails, Tori realises Brannick might actually be Goliath – and she decides to make him confess and pay for his sins.



The Madame Blanc Mysteries Series 2

315 minutes, \$32.95

• • • •

Jean White is an antiques dealer who runs a successful business with her husband, Rory. But when he suddenly dies and leaves her nearly penniless, she relocates to their one remaining asset – a cottage in the beautiful French antiques hub Saint Victoire.

There, she begins investigating Rory's mysterious death. She also draws ever closer to Dom, but will friendship finally grow into something more?



Change of Address

The Police Association of South Australia needs your change-of-address details.

If you have moved, in either the recent or distant past, please let the association know your new address. Its office does not receive notification of changed addresses by any other means.

The association will need your new address, full name, ID number, telephone numbers (home, work and/or mobile). Members can e-mail these details to the association on pasa@pasa.asn.au or send them by letter through dispatch (168).



Harry wild

360 minutes, \$34.95



Recently retired English professor Harry Wild finds an unusual pastime in retirement: solving crimes with her young partner in PI work, Fergus.

Together the wise-cracking pair investigate cases ranging from missing persons to murders, much to the annoyance of Harry's son, Charlie, who's a Dublin Garda detective.



Working part-time?

Are you currently working part-time? Are you commencing or ceasing part-time work?

If your hours change, it is important that you advise the Police Association. Your subscriptions may be affected.

Please phone (08) 8112 7988 or e-mail membership@pasa.asn.au to advise of a change in hours.

WINE



Majella Wines

Coonawarra, SA
www.majellawines.com.au



Majella Rosé 2023

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A light, bright, pale salmon colour. Fragrant red fruit floral aromas with a soft and finely textured structure. Pretty strawberry, raspberry and pomegranate fruit notes linger on the palate, with a beautifully refreshing finish.

This wine is for any occasion. Served chilled it's fantastic as an aperitif, but it's the perfect wine for a casual lunch. Deliciously easy drinking.

Majella Musician 2021

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The colour is vibrant deep ruby red with a crimson hue. Fresh mint, eucalyptus and spice make up the lifted nose.

The palate is soft and well balanced, with blackberries and cassis flavours with supple soft tannins. A perfect pairing of Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz.

The Musician is one of Majella's most awarded wines and the '21 has four trophies and six gold medals. Goes with many different cuisines, especially Italian.

Majella Cabernet 2020

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Regarded as one of Coonawarra's greatest wines, Majella Cabernet 2020 continues to win trophies and medals throughout Australia and the world.

The fruit comes from some of the oldest vineyards on the Majella property that date back to 1958. Dark red with a very complex nose with hints of blackberries and ripe cherries.

This complexity carries over to the palate: rich, juicy and Ribena-like, with plums and fruitcake characters showing through. The finish is long and lingering with wonderful "soft grain" tannins. Drink now or wait 12 to 15 years.

ON SCENE

Graduates' Dinner: Course 63/2023

SkyCity SouthWest Suite
December 9, 2023

1. Shannon Parsons, Nick Giles and Balwinder Singh.
2. James Weidner and Ben Bussenshutt.
3. Nicole Banders and Sam Windham.
4. Mardie Cruttenden and Tom Flage.
5. Tamzin Jenke and James Colbert.
6. Damian Smith and Georgia Allery.
7. Verity Cox and Hayley Cook.
8. Jarrad Parish and Sam Whitbread.



Graduation dinners are sponsored
by Health, Wealthy and Wise



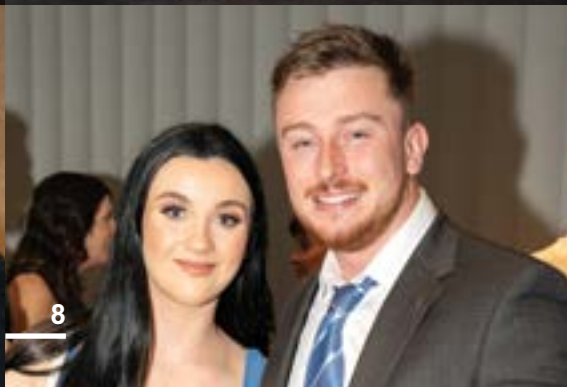


ON SCENE

Graduates' Dinner Course 64/2023

SkyCity Ballroom, January 20, 2024

1. Jack Gardner and Bethany Gardner.
2. Braden Matthews and Hannah Bond.
3. Bruce and Tamara Farrelly.
4. Tejinder Bains and Simmi Bains.
5. Domenic Hampel and Mallory Leckey.
6. Carmel Vinas-Wilson, Olivia Beissel, Brooke Vearing, Lauren Elsegood and Chloe Lyons.
7. Tyson Miller, Taylor Mansell and David Swincer.
8. Imogen Fawcett and Emily McDonald.
9. Ryan Heinze and Danielle Mills.



Graduates' Dinner: Course 65/2023

SkyCity SouthWest Suite, February 10, 2024

1. Teng Yeng, Ricky Wang and Braden Stewart.
2. Carlee Hartmann and Sophie Ford.
3. Melissa Hibbard, Haris Kosovac, Lara Girolamo and Amelia Gwilym.
4. Khoi Huynh and Kaitlen Gosling.
5. Camron McPhee, Chloe Schulze, Taylar James and Daniel Nisbett.
6. Daniel Dorman and Melissa Hibberd.
7. Jess Kalleske and Isaac Kalleske.
8. Sophie Fleming and Oliver Scott.
9. Robert McFarlane, Lauren Lindsay, Daniel Dorman and Brittany Memmier.

The Last Shift

For the full version of *The Last Shift*, go to PASAweb at www.pasa.asn.au

Bob Bartlett
Paul Bryant
Paul Friend
Steve Hill
David Howell
Jon Kemplay-Hill
Darren Lambert
Alex Lunn
Matthew McLoughlin
Michael Murphy
Michael Newton
David Paparella
Darren Stallard

Senior Constable Darren Stallard

Missing Persons

33 years' service Last Day: 14.11.23

• • • •

[Comments...](#)

"Thank you for all your support for the past 33 years of my career."

Sergeant Matthew McLoughlin

IS&T Program Shield

19 years' service Last Day: 12.01.24

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[Comments...](#)

"I am leaving to explore external opportunities to those offered at SAPOL."

"I'd like to thank everyone I've worked with over the last 19 years for giving me lots of lasting memories and it is those people that have made my time in SAPOL rewarding. It was these people that made the decision to leave the hardest."

Detective Sergeant Steve Hill

Serious & Organized Financial
Crime Investigation Section

37 years' service Last Day: 14.01.24

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[Comments...](#)

"I thank all the past and present members of the association for all their hard work and dedication in ensuring the pay and conditions that we have today."

"After 37 years in the job, I am looking forward to retirement and enjoying some new adventures with family and friends."

"Having joined in 1986, I have had postings at B1 patrols, Adelaide CIB,

Darlington/Sturt CIB, the Criminal Association Section, Fraudies and, finally, a secondment at Major Crime.

"My most enjoyable memories are the laughs and good humour I have shared with colleagues along the way at each of my postings."

"I hope SAPOL will work hard at acknowledging, supporting and appreciating all of its staff, especially those on the front line. They well and truly deserve it."



Sergeant Jon Kemplay-Hill Firearms Branch

39 years' service Last Day: 19.01.24

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[Comments...](#)

"I have had a great time, laughed a lot, and cried a little. I have seen and experienced much during my time with SAPOL. From the days before Major Crash, when SAPOL still undertook accident rescue, also investigating the crash. A very rewarding time helping people when they most needed it."

"Undertaking general traffic work on a motorcycle, on which I have seen most of the state. To being one of the first non-STAR bomb technicians after the Sydney 2000 Olympics."

"On March 17, 1977, I walked through the hallowed gates of the old Fort Largs. After two-and-a-half years, I graduated, worked metro and country before taking an eight-year

career break, and then returned to find typewriters had made way for computers.

"I can truly say that I have worked with some great people. I still fondly remember my first traffic sergeant, Doug Hunter. A fair man and one who gave me every encouragement. I endeavoured to become a supervisor like him, and I hope I did his memory proud.

"I had a great and varied career and I think being able to change jobs under the same employer is a unique and often overlooked benefit.

"I thank most of those I have worked with for the journey and those that weren't the best to work with for helping make me stronger.

"A number of people I knew have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty which is tragic and heart breaking.

"However, I have known many others in the job who have left by their own hand. If you are feeling the pressure, seek assistance before things become insurmountable."

Senior Constable IC Michael Murphy

Band of the SA Police

40 years' service Last Day: 24.01.24

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[Comments...](#)

"Please accept my thanks and appreciation for the tireless work of committee members and delegates, past and present, for the benefits and conditions we all enjoy today.

"I have had a brilliant career, solely in the band, a very talented group of musicians with a passion for music and diligent service to SAPOL.

"I have been very fortunate to have performed in all international tattoos, both local and overseas, and all 'on the

company', as a dear friend was fond of saying.

"Having been the property-and-transport officer for the band, for longer than I care to remember, I have had some very difficult challenges, nearly always with budgets (or lack thereof).

"However, the satisfaction of getting everyone's instruments and equipment safely to and from an overseas engagement has been extremely rewarding.

"A highlight was meeting Queen Elizabeth II at an afternoon tea reception in Windsor Castle. The band has been held in such high regard, in military musical circles, that we were chosen to represent Australia at her 90th birthday celebrations in 2016.

"There have been two outstanding and extremely supportive managers who made the job so much better for me, and many others in the band: heartfelt thanks to both Linda and Clynton.

"I will miss the playing and performing, the office banter, and many bandies."



Senior Sergeant Paul Friend

EMR

38 years' service Last Day: 25.01.24

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[Comments...](#)

"It's been one hell of a ride with lots of ups and downs. I've worked country patrols and crime scene and with street kids on Hindle St. I was there for the sale

of North Adelaide police station and a lecturer at the academy.

"I worked at Major Crash, Traffic Training and even used my face on talkback radio, speaking on traffic law.

"With EPT (Event Project Team) I helped deliver a successful police tattoo and hundreds of police displays around the state with tens of thousands of kids photographed on a police motorcycle.

"My final posting was a yo-yo ride from Freedom of Information (FOI) to Community Programs, back to FOI, then COVID Command and, finally, back to manager FOI until I took more than 12 months' leave.

"I thank each and every person (current and past, sworn and non-sworn) I have had the pleasure of working with or assisting. I also thank my family who have travelled this journey with me.

"My beautiful partner and I have bought property at Sandy Creek (the old Sandy Creek Dog Sanctuary), the gateway to the Barossa."



Inspector David Paparella

EMR

47 years' service Last Day: 25.01.24

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[Comments...](#)

"I wish the very best for the future in what can be described as a challenging landscape.

"Thank you for all efforts to improve conditions and remuneration over the journey."

Continued...



Senior Sergeant 1C David Howell

Professional Conduct Section, EPSB
40 years' service Last Day: 28.01.24

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Comments...

"It's been quite a ride, commencing at those induction postings like Traffic Control, beats and City Watch House through to Para Hills patrols and then embarking on the scary and mysterious world of prosecution, serving time at Adelaide, Holden Hill, Elizabeth and then Prosecution Central.

"During my career, I have had the privilege of working with some fantastic people and teams, usually working under increasingly difficult circumstances and increasingly heavy workloads, but still getting the job done.

"Special shout-outs to those in the prosecution function – a very difficult role that is generally misunderstood and much undervalued by police and police management – and to those at EPSB, whose dedication, commitment and application in very difficult circumstances is excellent and whose role is, again, generally misunderstood and much undervalued.

"Policing is becoming much more complex, onerous and difficult, and the challenge facing police currently and going into the future, is a difficult one. It is with this in mind that I particularly bid you all the very best in the future."

Brevet Sergeant Michael Newton

Kadina Prosecution
43 years' service Last Day: 30.01.24

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Comments...

"I express my gratitude to the current and past employees and office bearers of the association. I have always found the services and service provided by the association to be of the highest standard."

Senior Sergeant 1C Bob Bartlett

Far North LSA
46 years' service Last Day: 15.02.24

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Comments...

"I thank Bernadette, Mark, and the association staff and committee, both past and present, for their dedication and commitment.

"While the quest for better pay and conditions never ends, we have come a long, long way over the past 46 years.

"Policing will always be challenging which is why we need an association that remains united and strong.

"To the people of this state, I say thank you for the opportunity to serve. While not every day has been a great one, the vast majority have, and it will be those memories I'll take into retirement.

"To my closest of friends from Course 55, still mates after all these years: I love you like brothers.

"To all those I have served with in multiple postings, from Port Adelaide, the Riverland, the Mid North and the Far North, you have my respect and gratitude. Thank you for having my back and supporting me along my journey.

"To those of you who continue to suit up day in, day out: I know the South Australian community is in good hands. Good luck and stay safe."



Brevet Sergeant Darren Lambert

Southern Crime Scene
Investigation Section
24 years' service Last Day: 18.02.24

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Comments...

"I actually started out in SAPOL as an auto electrician in 1985 at the Novar Gardens police workshops. That was a great gig for a young guy going from a very small workshop to this massive complex. Sadly, it's all gone now but we had a ball there.

"Foolishly, I resigned in 1998 searching for greener pastures. That didn't work out. SAPOL was happy to accept me back subject to doing the six-month cadet course.

"I joined Course 16 in August 1999, and I was an oldie at age 39 but I had a ball with a great bunch of young characters.

"We graduated in 2000 and I was posted to team 3, Sturt patrols. I was an oldie compared to the rest, but they accepted me for who I was and provided me with an excellent learning environment to become a 'real' copper.

"Alex 'Lunny' Lunn nicknamed me 'Mullet'. People like Rod Parsons, Bob Adey, Kon Tsakarellos, Tony Madigan, Colin Hand and John Swift were all just fun to work with while, at the same time, getting things done.

"It didn't take me long to realize that being in general patrols was where you learnt the trade of being a copper and dealing with anything and everything that is thrown in front of you.

"One thing that will never leave me was that I was part of a team, and I knew we all had each other's back with whatever was going down. There were

highs and lows, things you'd rather not have seen or have experienced but that's life.

"I then went to Sturt Traffic and got to work with some legends of the section.

"There was a period in which the traffic fines started going up exponentially and I struggled with that. I found myself having a few mental-health issues. I know other members have had bad experiences in this area but, in my case, I found SAPOL very supportive.

"In the end, it was time for change, and I was extremely lucky to get a spot in the Crime Scene Section at Sturt.

"I was welcomed and had the support of Sergeant Andrew Bowe and numerous stalwarts of the section.

"I knew I had found a section that, in the main, provided enjoyment and rewards, especially when you got evidence that placed a suspect at the scene.

"I really enjoyed the interaction with all the different sections.

"I won't miss being on call and watching the CAD for that last-minute afternoon shift overtime job. Every CSI will know what I mean.

"It was people like Judy, Marshy, Terri, Chappy, Pete and the whole Sturt CSI crew that made it easy to stay in the section until retirement.

"I've been on long-service leave for months and I can't believe where the time goes or how I did what I did when I was working full time.

"It's the simple things in life for me now.

"I thank my wife, Helen, my daughter, Belinda, my son, Max, and my son-in-law, Tom, for putting up with me and being there to support me through my career.

"I know that SAPOL has changed, and the job isn't what it used to be and there is a lot of pressure from so many angles for every member right now.

"There is one thing for sure: SAPOL members will stick together and make the system work because it's what we do and it's what we are good at.

"I thank the Police Association for all its efforts over the years to get the pay and conditions we now have.

"To all at CSIs: keep on keeping on as best you can. I will never forget the times I had with all of you."



Senior Constable 1C Alex Lunn

Call Centre

42 years' service Last Day: 20.03.24

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[Comments...](#)

"I thank all past and present members of the association for their support of members throughout my career.

"I started as a cadet in January 1982 after moving from the country to Fort Largs for two years. I had a ball at the academy and have made lifelong friendships from this time.

"I have worked in front-line positions that I loved. I have had two country stints in Whyalla and Kadina in the 1990s and then Coober Pedy, Naracoorte and finally at Keith.

"Unfortunately, I suffered a workplace injury necessitating a move back to the city to the Call Centre where I really struggled working in an office. I was extremely lucky with my supervisors there who assisted me greatly.

"I have always said: 'If you aren't enjoying work, it's time for something else.' Having never been to the Call Centre before working there, I would have to say it's one of the most undervalued areas in SAPOL.

"Through my career, I have pretty well gone everywhere throughout the state. I have enjoyed most places I have worked but I think my days at SOS Tactical were

my favourite, as we were a tight-knit unit which, at a moment's notice, could be sent anywhere in the state.

"I have worked with so many wonderful people during my career who, not only influenced my police career but had a huge impact on the person I have become.

"I had a fantastic sideline for over 20 years as a part-time negotiator. I met other officers from all different areas where we all worked together as a team.

"Obviously, on this journey, my family has been a huge support. My two girls, Steph and Kelly, who have put up with Captain Grumpy on night shift and having me absent from so many functions in their lives due to shiftwork, I have always appreciated their love and support.

"My wife, Carolyn, has followed me to my country postings and, after me being on 14 months' LSL, has put up with me not working and my non-relaxed lifestyle. Thank you.

"I am not sure what my next job will be, but nothing will compare to my career in SAPOL. If I had a chance to do it all again, my answer would be: 'Where do I sign up?'

"All the best to everyone."

Senior Constable 1C Paul Bryant

Driver Training Team

37 years' service Last Day: 08.04.24

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[Comments...](#)

"As an innocent and naïve 18-year-old, I walked into the police academy as part of Course 18.

"For the most part, this job has been a fantastic experience with no two days ever the same. I have made lifelong friends in this job but isn't it funny that when you move to a new posting those friends sometimes fall off the radar for a while only to be picked up again later in your career.

Continued...

THE LAST SHIFT

"I have seen things that most of the public should never see. I remember 'Uncle' Joe Kennedy, my first SCIG, telling me my job was to see all the horrible things that mums and dads are not meant to see.

"I also remember him telling me to always have a fresh shirt in my locker as parents shouldn't see their child's blood on my shirt when I deliver them the worst news possible.

"Driver Training was always a long-term goal for me ever since seeing what they do when I completed my 1A and 1B training from the Darlington police station back in 1987.

" 'You want me to drive as fast as I can and then slam the brakes on and slide the car sideways?' I asked. 'Okay.' "

"John Lapworth and David Glasspool were my instructors, and they planted the seed for a future in Driver Training. I still hold Cess as one of my closest mates.

"A position at Driver Training always seemed like an impossible goal though as you literally had to wait for an instructor to retire before a position became available.

"Now Driver Training can't even retain members.

"Mez, Maddog, Dunky and Gaff have no idea how much I appreciated their support over the years especially after my car crash in 2019. The injuries from that crash have stayed with me both physically and mentally.

"I have the opportunity of giving back to the community in various ways thanks to my experiences and training in SAPOL and I didn't want to leave it too late before trying something different.

"To all those I have worked with in the past I say thank you. Whether you know it or not you moulded me into the person I am today.

"When both my kids became adults, someone asked me how did you produce such great people? My reply was: 'I surrounded them with great friends.' I have done the same thing in my life.

"My wife, Kerri, has been my rock throughout my career. She had no idea what she was getting herself into when we met as 21-year-olds, but she has always been there by my side for the good times and the bad and I thank her for keeping me sane."

ROMEO'S FOODLAND

Romeo's are proud supporters of the Police Association of SA and are honoured to provide a 5% discount to all current members.



SEE THE MEMBERS BUYING GUIDE TO ORDER YOUR CARD FROM THE POLICE ASSOCIATION.

ADVERTORIAL

From page 39

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First Home Owner Grants

In SA, first home buyers can receive up to \$15,000 for the purchase or construction of a new home valued up to \$650,000. From June 15, 2023, stamp duty relief for a new home or land purchase was made available for eligible first homeowners. Find out more about grants and eligibility via revenuesa.sa.gov.au.

• • •

Dedicated first home buyer products.

At Police Credit Union, we offer a range of home loan options. Taking first home buyers into consideration, we recently introduced our First Home Buyer Loans. With low fixed or variable rate options available, you can get a loan with as little as a 5% deposit. A smaller deposit means more chance you can get your foot in the door of your first home sooner.

We also offer lower repayments with loan terms up to 40 years which will help make your loan repayments more affordable.

Find out more about the features and benefits of our First Home Buyer Loans policecu.com.au/first-home-buyer-loans/. Our First Home Owner Guide is also available on our website.

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Get in touch with us today

If you think you're ready to start the process of buying your first home, our dedicated relationship managers, Glenn Lewis and Ryan Mountford, have years of experience. Consider setting up a pre-approval to be ready to buy or maybe you need some background information on a particular property with a free RP Data Property Report.

Provide us with an address and we can find out the previous sales prices of a property, how long it has been in market and median sales prices in the area.

Get in touch with them today at platinum@policecu.com.au, or call Glenn on 0421 243 741 or Ryan on 0437 286 804.

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That photo



“It was explained to him that I was actually retaining my baton and using it for support, not to strike.”



NOW Sergeant Kevin Doecke, 57, Water Operations Unit
THEN First Class Constable Kevin Doecke, 26, STAR Force

WHERE The Hill, Adelaide Oval
WHEN December 1992
SHIFT Day

“It was a one-day cricket match. Australia was playing against, and beat, Pakistan. There were more than 18,000 people in attendance.”

“Some people in the crowd were causing issues, so we moved in as a group to evict the main troublemakers.

“While speaking to the main offenders and preparing to evict them, one of their friends lunged towards me and grabbed me around my lower legs, bringing me to the ground.

“I lost my cap and my baton fell out of its holder in the process.

“I waited for other officers to remove the ‘customer’ from my legs while propping myself up on my baton for support. I was fully aware of a large crowd around us and the media with cameras taking photos.

“Some people thought I had a clenched fist preparing to punch the bloke because my leg was stuck underneath him. Other people thought I was holding the baton preparing to strike.

“A ‘please-explain’ later came from an assistant commissioner who wanted to know why I had my baton drawn at the cricket in a striking fashion.

“It was explained to him that I was actually retaining my baton and using it for support, not to strike.

“I didn’t suffer any injuries, just bruised pride for being caught off guard and taken to ground.

“I obviously looked angry, and I still occasionally get a bit of stick about it today from my kids and at work.”

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