

# The Black&White of the Thin Blue Line



## Rockdale Police Station in the Press 1890s-1960s

By

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To my Dad, a dedicated Police Officer until the end.



Cover illustration Rockdale Police Station 1914

Swftnsw.sdp.sirsidynix.net.au. (2016). [online] Available at:  
[http://swftnsw.sdp.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en\\_AU/search/asset/182176/0](http://swftnsw.sdp.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/search/asset/182176/0) [Accessed 8 Apr. 2016].

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## Introduction

The policemen and women of New South Wales are often in the media with the coverage of the work they do. As the daughter of a late, long serving Police Sergeant and the cousin of a current acting Police Inspector, I have grown up immersed in the culture of the thin, blue line. I have friends who have joined up, studied, experienced and left the force. I have even taught students who have first joined somewhat surreptitiously, due to their family connections and home location. I have sat at dinner tables, regaled by tales and exploits, long into the night. I have attended the funerals of those who have fallen in the line of duty and the annual memorials held in different states and even countries half a world away.

The Force had its origins in the early days of convict settlement, being an integral part of our society and has developed through many stages to become the modern police organisation we see today. Policing today uses the press, the radio, the television, the general Internet and even Facebook to connect with the people they serve. The New South Wales Police Force is divided into eighty Local Area Commands (LAC's) across the State of NSW, which covers an area of 801,600 square kilometres. From its early beginnings in 1789 with the establishment of a night watch corps, a dozen of the best behaved convicts, there have been a constabulary presence in this State. This was expanded in 1810 by Governor Macquarie, with a system of districts and ranks. However, the disparate sections of the Force often worked in isolation until in 1862 the Mounted Police, Foot Police and Water Police united into one group, numbering eight hundred and thirty four in the ranks. A further change in 1926 created the Commissioner of Police role, at time of writing held by Commissioner Andrew Phillip Scipione APM. In 1990, the Police Forces were amalgamated into one organization now named the New South Wales Police Force. It is the third largest police organization in the English speaking world, with 16,000 employees and 13,000 sworn police officers. (1)

However, this is the story of the policemen of the now defunct Rockdale Police Station, as reported in the press of the time, over the first seventy years of its existence. Here are some of the crimes they dealt with, the big and the small and the stories of the men and their families, walking the thin blue line of police work.

*“Culpam poena premit comes”*

## The Great Baby Farming Case

The coroner was busy, when on 15 Dec 1892 the inquest of an unnamed baby resumed. The remains had been found buried in the rear yard of a house in Alderson Street at Redfern. John Makin and his wife Sarah Jane, along with their two of their four daughters, Blanche and Florence, were being held in custody under suspicion of their involvement in the Baby E's death. This was a gruesome case for all involved, including the police officers who had found the baby. Constables Griffin and Keramli from Newtown Police had discovered the shallow grave on the morning of 11th November the same year. The Makin family had lived in the house from early December 1891 until the end of January 1892.

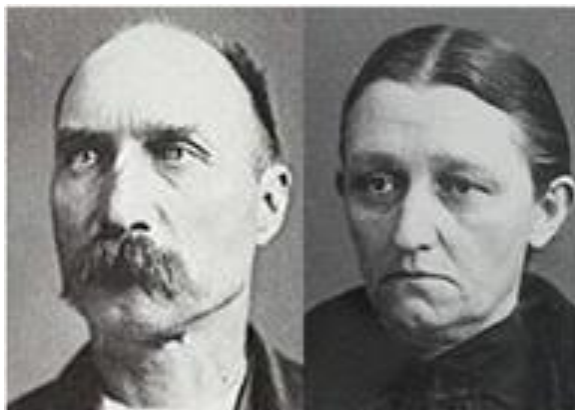
Two doctors were present in the court; Doctor Frederick Milford had examined the remains of an infant and stated the child had been dead from six to twelve months and had been between two to six weeks old at the time of death and a Doctor Marano corroborated his evidence. An open verdict was returned by the jury, with the Makins declining to give any evidence in their defence. Dramatically, a second inquest was then held regarding another child, Female B, whose fabric wrapped body had been found in the yard at the rear of a house at 109 George-street, Redfern by a Constable Brown. The Makin parents were then charged with being complicit in the death of the child of an Amber Murray, with the two girls charged on suspicion. The Makin family's silence was not boding well for them and it would be the evidence of the dead babies' swaddling clothes that would be their downfall... as well as baby clothing proffered to local pawn shops.

Sadly, the Makin's had been running a baby farming business, paying money to mothers promising adoption of their illegitimate babies by loving parents...themselves. They sought to profit by taking in babies for childcare payments and found it easier to kill the children and deceive the parents in order to continue receiving money. Four babies and a pram had been noticed at the George Street house. A maid, Clara Florence Risby, had offered her female baby to the Mr Makin, who had used an alias of S. G. McLachlan when paying Risby £5 and signing a receipt in that name. (2) Makin promised a comfortable life for her child, with Risby being able to visit her at her new home in Rockdale. Makin later denied all knowledge of Clara and her child at the courthouse and Clara Risby never saw her daughter alive again. On the 22 December 1892, the great baby farming case concluded when

the jury brought in a verdict of wilful murder against the elder Makins; in all fourteen babies were dug out of the eleven backyards of their houses. Upon sentence of death Mrs Makin,

*“broke down utterly as her doom was pronounced, but John Makin preserved the cool, unmoved attitude which has characterised him all through.”(3)*

However, at the last moment, her sentence was commuted to imprisonment. Her husband John Makin was executed inside Darlinghurst gaol on Tuesday 15 August 1893, denying his guilt to the end. On 29 April 1911, Sarah was paroled from the State Reformatory for Women at Long Bay in response to the petition of her daughters. Sarah Jane Makin passed away on the 13 September 1918. The Makin case and the hard work of the police, raised the community awareness regarding baby farming and initiated the Children’s Protection Act of 1892, to bring the care of orphaned and destitute children under state control.



*Left: Wikipedia. (2016). John and Sarah Makin. [online] Available at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_and\\_Sarah\\_Makin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_and_Sarah_Makin) [Accessed 3 Apr. 2016].*

After the visibility in the press of the Makin case, it was decided that there started to be a need for a regular Police presence at Rockdale.

### The Beginnings

On Boxing Day 1894 there had also been an outbreak of hooliganism at the Moorefield Hotel which led to the Alderman and Mayor of Rockdale to write a letter to the Minister of Justice, requesting

him to facilitate the erection of a Police lockup in Rockdale. There had not been a policeman between Sans Souci and Cook's River on Boxing Day. Surplus labour was available to build the lockup and Alderman H. Cook had sold a piece of his land to provide the site. Sergeant McColl received a letter back stating that lockups would be erected at Rockdale, Kogarah, and Marrickville as soon as possible. The Boxing Day debacle had led to Alderman G Duigan reporting the matter to the Inspector-General of Police. He received from Mr. Fosberry, the following reply:

*" Sir,-In reply to your letter dated the 29th ultimo, I beg to inform you that the police constables at Rockdale will not in future be sent away from the township when it can be avoided."(4)*

By November 1895 there was kerbing and guttering being carried out at the rear of Rockdale police station. So, it appears it was the risk to hoteliers rather the deaths of small babies that drove the push for permanent police presence in Rockdale. The last few years of the century brought much work for the constabulary.

The waterways of Botany Bay and the Georges River often proved treacherous to the locals, sometimes even deadly, as in the case of Charles Selmon in early April 1898. (5) He had been employed as a watchman at the Weenie Bay oyster beds, due to the oysters being removed by picnic parties. He had been to check the oyster beds on the Saturday afternoon, was sighted by another on the waterway near Towra Point and then disappeared, leaving his boat floating upside down...and empty. His father and brothers, along with Senior Constables Joyce and Brown, searched all day without luck for his body.

These constables had a better result in the pursuit of one George Peisley in the August of 1898. (6) Peisley had been involved in a gun battle with Constable McLean at Cabramatta, whilst stealing poultry, resulting in the wounding of the officer; he was seen a few days later one hundred and fifty yards on the Sydney side of the Como Bridge. He was on the run with his common law wife and after some shots were exchanged, Peisley made good his escape. Forty members of the police force became involved in the search, among those assisting were Detectives Goulder, Brown, and Donovan, and Constable Lipscombe, who went to Brighton Racecourse and hid in the scrub. They



chased Peisley to Arncliffe Hill and fired shots, then crossed the railway line near the station. They cleared the swamps, which proved a stumbling-block to Constable Lipscombe and Detective Brown, who ended up over waist deep in the marsh. Detective Donovan set off in chase on a horse and caught Peisley, who was then transported to Sydney by train. Detective Goulder recovered a pistol which was said to be used by Peisley. Meanwhile, at the Newton Police Court, a woman named Ellen Baker, alias Peisley, aged thirty seven, was charged by Senior Constables Joyce and Brown with having no lawful means of support. Surprisingly when Paisley fronted court he was acquitted of the wilful shooting of Constable McLean; it was all an accident.

Finally, in May 1899, Earl Beauchamp, the new Governor of Australia arrived in Australia and was greeted upon his arrival at the Man'o War steps by the Premier and Sir Frederick Darley the Lieutenant Governor, and welcomed to New South Wales. Circular Quay was awash with people the Mayor of Sydney presented an address of welcome, to which his Excellency appropriately responded. As the masses returned home after the gala event, a young woman, named May Jones aged eighteen, fell off a crowded tram going from the city to Marrickville. (7) She was conveyed to Prince Alfred Hospital by Constables McTaggart and Mc Donnell, suffering from concussion. Constable McTaggart was a Rockdale police officer.

### Turn of the Century

On the 31 August 1901 Constable McTaggart was based at Rockdale Police Station. The first listed case in the press was that of James McHugh, aged nineteen, when he was charged with having in his possession fourteen stolen cauliflowers. (8) He was left holding the bag, so to speak, when his accomplice ran off after they were confronted by Constable McTaggart on that afternoon. They were expensive cauliflowers with McHugh being fined twenty shillings or fourteen days hard labour...one day per cauliflower.

Three months later a more serious case was under Constable McTaggart's watch, that of the suicide of a nightwatchman at Rockdale. Fifty three year old William New, of Market Street Rockdale, had been seen by Constable McTaggart as he walked his beat late on that Sunday night. By five am the

next morning his body had been found in Muddy Creek, the report being lodged by one Edward Holder to the police. Constable Herbert found:

*“the dead man’s hat, coat, vest, and belt, also a revolver case.”*(9)

New had shot himself through the temple, with the five remaining bullets still in the revolver’s six chambers. New’s wife had no reason, except slight poor health, for her husband’s behaviour; a finding of suicide was returned.

Sometimes, the cases the police dealt with were too confronting for the gentle readers of the fourth estate. On the occasion of Constable James Newell’s evidence in Newtown Court, which was reported on the 18 January 1903, literary allusion and highly emotive language was used to describe the event:

*“Arncliffe Atrocity, where Bob Sargent Goes Blackberrying. But is Plucked from the South Sea Vine by a Midnight Trap.”* (10)

Homosexual orientation and behaviour was not only socially unacceptable at the time...it was also illegal. Both men were charged and bailed for a later hearing at the cost of £50 each. The men were named and illustrated in the newspapers.



*Left: Robert Sargent and Robert Berry*

*Trove. (2016). AN ARNCLIFFE ATROCITY - Bob Sargent Goes Blackberrying. But is Plucked from the South Sea Vine by a Midnight Trap. - Truth (Sydney, NSW : 1894 - 1954) - 18 Jan 1903. [online]*

*Available at:*

*<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article167898680> [Accessed 6 Apr. 2016].*

Events took a tragic turn in February 1902 with the death of George Sackville Ridley at Arncliffe Railway Station being dealt with at the City Coroners, with the engine driver giving his evidence. Ridley had met his death on the railway line between Arncliffe and Rockdale and suffered horrendous injuries. Mr Ridley was an inspector of public accounts at the Audit Office, who lived at Cliff Street Arncliffe and was aged forty three, with a wife and five children. The railway engine driver, Alexander Read, who lived at Rockdale, had seen the man's body lying on the tracks; it had already been hit by a passing train.

Constable McTaggart was stationed at Rockdale and was on duty early that morning assisting in the retrieval of the body. Constable Hogan also attended and Constable W. H. Hewitt and Constable Spencer conveyed the body to Glebe Morgue. Despite suggestions of suicide by some at the court, the judgement was of accidental death whilst suffering from temporary derangement of the mind. (11) Ridley had fallen from a train a few days earlier and was under doctor supervised medical treatment consisting of sleeping draughts which had confused the victim. It was in this drugged state that he had wandered off to the railway tracks and his eventual death.

There was more grisly work for the police in April the same year, with the inquest into the death of Mrs. Edith Warton, wife of horse trainer Robert Wharton, whose badly decomposed body had been found in Rockdale. The report from Doctor Sydney Jamieson was quite graphic in detail and gave particulars of the post mortem examination made by direction of the Coroner. Benjamin Edwards was the last to see Mrs. Warton alive and he could not corroborate when she had died in his tobacconist shop in Tramway Arcade, Rockdale. He had lived there for nearly ten years and he and the deceased had been drinking whiskey together. He apparently thought she was just asleep, however the coronial inquiry had proven she had been dead for over five days. Constable W. H. Hewitt, stationed at Rockdale, gave evidence of the death being reported by Edwards. The body was in such a very advanced stage of decomposition that it had to be removed in a rough coffin. The police found twenty bottles in the room; Edith Wharton was only twenty seven at the time of her death; an open verdict was returned at the end of the coronial inquiry. (12)

At Rockdale the next week, there was a shooting tragedy at Rocky Point Road resulting in the death of Marrickville man Mr. Augustin Lawrence. He had been present at a meeting of the Birch family who had met in connection with matters relating to the will of a Mrs. Lawrence. Mr. Thomas

Nicholas Birch and Mrs. Sabina Lydia Birch, a couple who were estranged for seven years were also there. Mr Birch fired a shot, causing Mr Lawrence to join them on the veranda. A struggle ensued resulting in Mr Lawrence being shot twice; once in the temple and once above the left eye. Mr. Birch then walked off the property and said:

*" Goodbye, I will go away and blow my brains out. " (13)*

Constable Newell was on duty in the near vicinity when the shots were fired and he rushed to the house. He then met Constable Hewett and they searched the surrounding area and with a horse mounted Sergeant overpowered and captured Mr. Birch. Thomas Nicholas Birch, a thirty two year old hairdresser was charged with causing the death of Lawrence and firing at Mrs. Birch with intent. He had in his possession a revolver and a box of 45 cartridges. After an emotional trial with the newly widowed Mrs. Lawrence in the audience, the jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against Birch and bail was refused. Sabrina Birch had been Augustin Lawrence's sister...family will readings can often be fraught with tension...in this case Birch had killed his own brother-in-law.

Constable James Newell deposed to the arrest of accused and Constable M Hogan also gave evidence. Sergeant Robert J Rogers said that he charged accused at the police station with shooting Lawrence; Birch claimed self-defence saying Lawrence had rushed at him with a knife. A verdict of guilty was returned, with the jury adding a recommendation to mercy on account of the crime being unpremeditated. However, the Judge found him guilty and passed the sentence of death. This sentence was commuted to life servitude in June 1902. Thomas Nicholas Birch spent his term in gaol and died in 1935 aged sixty-seven years old at Parramatta. His wife Sabina Lydia Birch nee Lawrence died on October 15, 1928, in Hurstville, New South Wales, at the age of fifty nine.

No. 8640

Name Thomas Nicholas Birch

Date when Portrait was taken

30 - 5 - 1902

02.17.66  
 Native place. Haddington  
 Year of birth. 1868  
 Arrived in } Ship...  
 Colony } Year...  
 Trade or occupation } Navidresser  
 previous to conviction }  
 Religion. C.E.  
 Education, degree of. R.N.  
 Height, without shoes. 5 feet 6 1/4 inches  
 Weight } On committal. 160  
 in lbs. } On discharge...  
 Color of hair. Brown  
 Color of eyes. Blue  
 Marks or special features:— Scar under  
left thumb pale mole in  
hollow between eyes tooth  
out in centre of upper jaw  
scar under chin



(No. of previous Portrait.....).

## CONVICTIONS.

Where and When.	Offence.	Sentence.
<u>Spdney JN 26 5 02</u>	<u>Murder</u>	<u>Death</u> <u>Commuted to</u> <u>P.L. for Life.</u>

Above: Thomas Nicholas Birch

Interactive.ancestry.com.au. (2016). New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930 for Thomas Nicholas Birch. [online] Available at:

[http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1783/32098\\_223250-](http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1783/32098_223250-00535?pid=7486&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.Ancestry.com.au%2f%2fjcg-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-c%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsfn%3dthomas%2bnicholas%26gsfn_x%3dXO%26gsln%3dbirch%26gsln_x%3dXO%26MSAV%3d1%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26catbucket%3drstp%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3dCLP_COURT%26h%3d7486%26recoff%3d9%2b10%2b11%26db%3dNSWGaoIDescriptionBooks%26indiv%3d1%26ml_rpos%3d1&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true)

[00535?pid=7486&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.Ancestry.com.au%2f%2fjcg-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-c%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsfn%3dthomas%2bnicholas%26gsfn\\_x%3dXO%26gsln%3dbirch%26gsln\\_x%3dXO%26MSAV%3d1%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26catbucket%3drstp%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3dCLP\\_COURT%26h%3d7486%26recoff%3d9%2b10%2b11%26db%3dNSWGaoIDescriptionBooks%26indiv%3d1%26ml\\_rpos%3d1&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true](http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1783/32098_223250-00535?pid=7486&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.Ancestry.com.au%2f%2fjcg-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-c%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsfn%3dthomas%2bnicholas%26gsfn_x%3dXO%26gsln%3dbirch%26gsln_x%3dXO%26MSAV%3d1%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26catbucket%3drstp%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3dCLP_COURT%26h%3d7486%26recoff%3d9%2b10%2b11%26db%3dNSWGaoIDescriptionBooks%26indiv%3d1%26ml_rpos%3d1&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true) [Accessed 7 Apr. 2016].

The balance between law and politics was seen in July 1904 when an electoral roll of type was created by a list of names and addresses collated by officials, in this case by the police. All men had been granted voting rights by the 1850s and half a century later, women were granted voting rights as well. The police in this situation did not have the time to deliver the elector's rights to each individual before the election, due to the size of the electorate. They asked for the voters of Arncliffe, Bexley and Rockdale to collect their rights from Rockdale Police Station. Residents of Kogarah, West Kogarah, Blakehurst, Carlton, Sandringham, and Sans Souci were to attend Kogarah Police Station. (14) In the days before computers and email, the police officers were movers and shakers in the political world.

Animals were often the bane of the policeman's lot in the early days of the Rockdale Police Station. On the 17<sup>th</sup> June 1904, Mr. Alfred Bryant, who lived at Rockdale lost a large number of Muscovy ducks usually housed in a shed close to the bank of Muddy Creek. Amongst the stolen goods were:

*"seventy ducks, a bag of chaff, a bag of bran and a quantity of wheat and maize, valued at £5, the property of Alfred Bryant, at Rockdale, on or about June 17 last."* (15)

Samuel Freeman and John O'Donnell were arrested by Constable Garden of Marrickville and the two accused pleaded guilty to the charges. The men were fined and put on good behaviour bonds due to their previous good character.

Two months later postman Charles John Burden 'Bunter' Pratt was attacked in Short Street Rockdale by a St Bernard owned by Alfred John Gibbs and Pratt subsequently showed the bite on his leg to the dog's owner. The final upshot was the defendant was told to keep his dogs under control and pay a fine of £1, with £1 8s 4d costs, the penalty was for the protection of the public. (16) The ducks and dogs of Rockdale were the stars of these newspaper crime stories. However, other more serious crimes were yet to come for the constabulary of Rockdale.

On the first day of 1906, Senior Constable Scott and Constable Hewitt made the bedside arrest of thirty year old Edward John Patterson, who was charged with assaulting Ethel Lauff in Rockdale Park. Young Ethel had her reputation discussed and described as being not too good. Patterson described her as a street Arab and she admitted to:

*“having misconducted herself with certain young men, whom she named, and with others whose names she did not know. None of the men were married men”. (17)*

Patterson was found guilty of assault but clemency was asked for due to the victim’s reputation. Ethel Lauff had been born in 1888 in St Peters, New South Wales and she married her first husband, John Ramsay in 1906, the same year as the attack. In 1924 she married her second husband, William Edward Death. Ethel died in 1976 in Queensland, at the age of eighty eight despite her reputation.

Often it was the business actions of the locals that were drawn to the attention of the police. The act selling items after legal trading hours could bring affine or a goal term. Senior Constable Scott charged Frederick William Lane, a tobacconist in Tramway Arcade Rockdale, for breaching the Early Closing Act on October 26 1906, by selling a fishing line at 11.40 p.m. The shop should have been closed twenty minutes earlier; Lane was fined £2 and costs, or fourteen days' gaol. (18)

The next month, George Campling of Arncliffe was charged with contravening a section of the Pharmacy Act of 1897. by carrying on the business of a pharmacist at Arncliffe without having a registered pharmacist in charge. Senior Constable Scott, of Rockdale, with Constable Brodie, were involved with the charge and stated it was very wrong to leave an unregistered and unqualified person in charge of the shop for several days. Campling was fined £10 in default three months gaol, for his lax approach to the business. (19)

On the second last day of the year in 1906 Senior Constable Scott was involved in a case in court regarding the refusal to move a vehicle despite instruction to do so by a police officer. (20) Henry Kohler, a candidate for the Senate had been addressing a crowd of constituents standing on his car,

causing an obstruction to ordinary traffic. His defence was the meeting was already in motion and Senior Constable Scott was being unreasonable. The judge did not agree with Mr Kohler and fined him 10 shillings, with 6 shillings court costs.

The start of the 1907 financial year brought about the remarkable case of the £500 cheque at the Rockdale Commercial Bank of Australia. Detective Jones stated that on June 22, in the company of Detective Hawe, he went to Rockdale, where he met Sergeant Rogers, Senior Constable Scott, and Mr. Sergeant, the bank manager. They subsequently interviewed a young man named Arthur Woolley, who had forged the signature of Ross Saywell and tried to cash the cheque illegally. (21) Ross Saywell was the son of Mr Thomas R Saywell, who in the early 1880s, foresaw the opportunity of new suburbs south of Cook's River in Rockdale. He lived at Lady Robinson's Beach, Botany Bay, owning the New Brighton Hotel, a public bathing enclosure at Brighton as well as a race course. Therefore, Saywell senior was a very rich man, which made his son an easy victim to such corruption.

Pigeons proved to be the downfall of nineteen year old Spencer Parkes in November 1907. He was charged with stealing seventeen pigeons, valued at £1 14 shillings, at Rockdale, being the property of Sydney Joseph Berry. Constable Robertson and Senior Constable Barnes saw Parkes who told them he had bought the birds, which was proven a lie. Parkes was fined £5 or two months hard labour. (22)

Being a young woman in 1908 brought many threats and being a servant girl left you with little means of support. Twenty one year old Minnie Nicholson found herself in trouble with Rockdale Police over the theft of a ring valued at ten shillings. the property of Martha Matilda Giles. (23) She was interviewed by Constable Robertson but denied any knowledge of the ring. Sergeant Drew said there was a sad side to the case as Nicholson's mother had been taken to hospital with blood poisoning and Minnie was left to take care of her four young siblings. However, she had two previous convictions against her for theft. Minnie has sent to prison for a month with hard labour and her aunt took her siblings in for the duration of her incarceration.



Constable Robertson and Rockdale Police had to deal with a gruesome find on Lady Robinson's Beach in November 1908 when John Mercer, a fisherman discovered an adult male human arm on the sands.

*"A peculiar feature of the discovery is that the bone from the elbow was embedded in the sand and stood upright, whilst the hand was open and the fingers separated". (24)*

This occurrence made Constable Robertson think that a body was buried beneath the sand and asked for a trench to be dug, to no avail. Common thought was that the body part was one of the crew of the lost sailing boat the twenty two foot "Gift" that had gone missing twelve days earlier. It was found upturned and badly damaged on the beach near Barenjoey Lighthouse but with no sign of the crew. The boat had left Balmain with owner Thomas Hawk, aged 38, Thomas McGirk, 16, Arthur Doodson, 17 and Thomas Hulbert, 16, residents of Balmain, Alexander Hales, 17, of Redfern, and William Fagan. (25) It was thought they had been washed off by a large wave, but all men could swim and had been around the water and boats their whole lives. No other remains were found of the men and their end remained a mystery of the sea, except for the one arm found on the beach.

The month of December 1908 saw vigilant policemen Senior Constable Scott and Constable Whitney apprehend two speeding motorists, Andrew Joseph Bergin and Charles Gilbert Abel at the outrageous speeds between twenty one (thirty two kilometres) and twenty five miles per hour along Rocky Point Road, Rockdale. (26) Bergin's car did not possess a speedometer and he was only estimating his speed via the opening and closing of the throttle. The men were charged with furious driving and fined of £5, with 6s costs, or twenty one days imprisonment. The Automobile Club of New South Wales had wanted the Traffic Act speed to be amended to at least fifteen miles per hour, but these two men had exceeded even their recommendations. It appears these cases were the first random speed measurement occasions in the Police Force; it has been a great technological development from stop watches to the current laser speed cameras.

Local police often are appropriated to support other local areas political and civil unrests and in January 1909 the local constabulary were sent to the far end of the State. The Broken Hill miner's

strike saw Constable Wurth of Hurstville, Constable Stone from Bexley and Constable Robertson of Rockdale pack their Gladstone bags. At the same time, Senior Constable Scott of Rockdale was ill with influenza, and out of action for a few weeks. (27) Luckily he recovered but this combination of events would have left the command short staffed for the time.

The 18 June 1909 saw Rockdale police being summoned to the apparent suicide of Mr. John Ahearn, a well-known and well respected contractor, who had shot himself through the head at his office on the Arncliffe-Bexley; tramline. Mr Ahern held the contract for the construction of the tramline, but was reported to have been in a depressed state in the previous few weeks and was suffering from insomnia. He had previously carried out three contracts for the Sydney water supply, the contract for quadrupling the main suburban railway line from Croydon to Strathfield, the duplicate of the line from Parramatta to Penrith, the construction of the sorting siding at Clyde, and other important works for the railways in New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland. Among his contracts for the Public Works Department and the Water and Sewerage Board were the construction of the Centennial Park Reservoir and a section of the main sewer at Arncliffe. (28) He had also been a foundation member of the Water Board, as well as being the first Mayor of Campbelltown, the Mayor of both Mudgee and Burwood. What had gone wrong for such a quiet, respected and sincere man? Did business worries and multiple mortgages lead to his death? A coronial inquiry a few days ruled his death as a suicide, with evidence showing it was a deliberate action.

In August 1909 the issue of so-called baby farming arose again in Rockdale and was reported in the newspaper, with the police unable to trace the people involved in the racket. A local gentleman had reported a situation where a cottage was rented by an unnamed woman who stated her husband was working away on the steamers. The house was scantily furnished when another woman came and left a baby with the female occupant; the householder explaining to neighbours that it was her niece. Rumour was that the baby's mother had died, then that the baby passed away and was removed by an undertaker. The local early version of neighbourhood watch checked with various undertakers in Sydney to see what had happened to the child, but none had received the baby's body.

*“This is very ugly business indeed, as it points to new methods by fiendish baby farmers, when they go to the lengths of systematic murder and secret interments to accomplish their ends.” (29)*

A few days later the police were dealing with a runaway horse when a timber carter, Alfred Bradshaw, aged twenty-one was injured in an accident. Despite some cars on the local roads, most transport was still by horse and dray. Bradshaw's horse had taken fright and bolted, breaking free of timber cart, throwing Bradshaw onto Rocky Point Road, Rockdale. He was collected and conveyed to St. George Cottage Hospital by Sergeant Mason, and Constable Stear. Bradshaw suffered a broken ankle, head abrasions and a deep wound behind his knee. (30) The horse returned home unharmed by his misadventure, unlike his owner.

#### The Second Decade

Cases of assault often occur due to the assailant being intoxicated as in the November of 1910 when two men were facing court due to such a charge. Donald McBean and Sydney Parkes were charged with assaulting James Fahy, a railway guard, who was in charge of a train going to Sydney from Rockdale, on the 15th October. After a complaint from a fellow passenger, Fahy had approached McBean and told him he was drunk and not fit to ride the train, as well as being an obstruction to others on the platform. In their removal from the train both men had struck Fahy in the face, despite no physical provocation by the rail guard. Witness Ernest William Chicken stated in court:

*“If he had been in Fahy's place he would have used his lamp against accused.” (31)*

The Court stated that the young fellows had more drink than was good for them. They were fined £2/0/0 each or one month gaol, with the costs of the four witnesses to be covered; seven days were allowed for payment by the two men.

New Year's Day 1911 had eighteen year old Horace Weaver facing court for robbing two young women of their purses. From Ida Mumgan, on the previous Christmas eve, at Brighton-le-Sands he stole a handbag containing five shillings ten pence and other articles, valued at fifteen shillings; and assaulting Nellie Halligan, with the intent to rob her of a purse containing fifteen shillings at the same time and place as they walked from Rockdale Station to Lady Robinson's Beach. Constable Leonard, Constable Jackson and Constable Garden were involved in the arrest. Weaver robbed the girls as he was short of the money to pay for a suit but then went and apologised the next day. His excuse was he was under the influence and had no memory of the event. His grandmother's excuse for him was that he was a bit simple, but a good lad. (32)

It was also illegal to loiter with intent, as Thomas Isbister found to his dismay in March 1911, when he was charged for loitering on a footpath by Constable Jackson. He and a group of friends refused to move on, inconveniencing local Churchgoers for over two hours. Isbister denied the charge completely, however he was fined ten shillings or forty eight hours gaol. (33) It was also illegal to use abusive language in public, as in the case between Marie Danes and Florence Waters the same month. (34) A neighbourhood dispute between the two women ended up in court, however, the case resulted in the magistrate dismissing the charge and telling the two parties to make up and be friends.

Often the indecent language charges occurred at sporting matches as well; as William Smith encountered when charged with using indecent language at a football match at the racecourse at Brighton-le-Sands. (35) He was with the losing team and had argued with the referee, threatening to hit him and resulting in Smith's ejection from the racecourse. Smith denied the charge and accused Constable Jackson of throwing him to the ground, punching him twice and kicking him whilst down. The Bench convicted Smith and fined him £1 or fourteen days imprisonment with time was allowed for payment.

From simple neighbourhood disputes to more tragic occurrences; such as a death from tetanus of one man or the drowning of another. Twenty eight year old John Frederick Lister (36) had left a local hotel, planning to walk home to Rockdale. When he did not arrive home his family were concerned; a concern that was based on a real risk. Two local fishermen saw his body floating near the ladies'

baths and contacted Rockdale Police. It was left to Constable Jackson to recover the body and cause of death was stated as an inebriated fall from the pier. Lister's father, John P Lister was a well-known auctioneer and valuer in Pitt Street, Sydney.

Twenty year old James Shaw Hammond's death was equally tragic, contracting tetanus after an accident. (37) In the time before antibiotics, such deaths could be commonplace. Hammond had been climbing over an iron picket fence and cut himself on his thigh. He neglected to seek medical advice until a doctor was called in four days later, when he was transferred to Sydney Hospital. The Coroner found that the Injury was accidentally caused in the pursuit of a hat that had blown off Hammond's head.

Sometimes the local police were involved in a fracas that filled the newspapers for a time. Such was the situation when Newtown Police Court was filled with noisy youths and a crowd of spectators in September 1911. There were claims of police brutality when twenty two year old Oswald Shortus, from a well-known Dulwich Hill family, was charged with being drunk and disorderly, assaulting Constable Cameron and Sergeant Wearin and injuring a police jumper worth over fourteen shillings. His older brother Marcus Shortus, twenty nine, was charged with also assaulting Sergeant Wearin and stealing a baton. The men had been drinking at the Gladestone Hotel at Dulwich Hill and after being told to go home by Sergeant Wearin, a struggle ensued, resulting in Oswald Shortus' arrest. Constable Cameron also took hold of Shortus and they struggled and fell, with Shortus hitting Cameron in the face. Marcus Shortus and another man then kicked Constable Cameron in the head whilst he was on the ground as was Sergeant Wearin, who was also hit in the groin. Wearin had to go to hospital due to the assault and both he and Cameron were off duty due to their injuries for a considerable time. Another Shortus brother, Roy had also attacked the two policemen and in court their girlfriends defended the drunken men saying the policemen had attacked the men without cause. However, the men had prior offences of assaulting police and the so called Dulwich Hill demons were remanded for sentencing.



*Left: Sergeant Wearin and Constable  
Cameron*

*Trove. (2016). DULWICH HILL DEMONS. -  
Wearin Draws His weapon. Shortus scragged  
and Subdued. Cop Cameron cockles of  
Cuticle. BEER, BARMAIDS, BLOOD, AND  
BUTCHERY. Bouncing Bobbles Charge the  
Heavy Brigade. - Truth (Sydney, NSW : 1894 -  
1954) - 10 Sep 1911. [online] Available at:  
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article168749625>  
[Accessed 13 Apr. 2016].*

Often the tragedy police faced in their daily duties was to be found in the home of locals, as in the case of Charles Williams, a thirty five year old man who hung himself whilst boarding with his sister, Mrs Eva Roberts. Williams lived in her Duncan Street home and had recently been dismissed from his job with the Tramway Department. (38) He had appeared cheerful enough at breakfast that morning; however his sister found him hanging from a strap hitched to the top of his bed post. Rockdale Police were contacted and Constable Jackson had to convey the body to the morgue

That October, Constable Langworthy was dealing with a case of theft, that of carpenter's tools stolen from a variety of people. John Warrington Fry stole tools from a locked shed belonging to land agent Mr. G. Whittaker; a wood plane and a morticing chisel. Fry's building site supervisor, Mr. J. S. Llewellyn, a builder of Rockdale, identified a plane as having been in accused's possession. Fry elected to go before a jury and was committed for trial, bail being allowed, himself in £30 and two sureties in £15 each. (39)

St George Police Court was busy that month with stealing offences when James and Lilly Thompson were charged with theft. Constable Jackson and Constable Steer had found the accused sitting by the side of Rocky Point Road with their swags. The pair had been at Harrow Road begging, however

they had also been helping themselves to other people's goods and hiding them for retrieval at a later date. Mr. Frederick Gagliardi lost a coat, a pair of spectacles, a pocket book and a railway season ticket. Gagliardi had disturbed the pair on his front veranda one evening and gave them a shilling to buy food, before seeing them off his property, unaware he had already been robbed. Both the Thompsons pleaded guilty to the charge of begging, but denied the thefts.

However, Constable Jackson found a number of articles whilst searching James Thompson's swag at the Police Station, afterwards identified as the property of Mr. H. W. Harradence. Harradence also lived in Bexley and identified the articles produced, trousers and blacking set, as his property which he had reported to the police. Lily Thompson was let off, her sex being her protection. James Thompson was sentenced to a week's imprisonment for begging. In the stealing case a fine of £5 or three months' imprisonment was set. Both Thompsons had prior experience as thieves, so Lily appeared to be quite lucky in this circumstance. (40)

New Year's Day 1912 brought another tragedy to the area with the drowning deaths of three non-swimmers at Como. Sadly, one of their friends had watched helplessly as the event occurred, as he also could not swim. Edward Ostenfeld, 17, of Marrickville Road, Marrickville. Oscar McAlpine, 18, of Carlton Crescent, Summer Hill and Roy Coleman, 17, of Sydenham Road, Marrickville drowned as Albert Guthrey Davis, 20 of Robert Street Marrickville watched on as they got out of their depth in the Woronora River. (41) Davis had called for help to no avail...it was too late.

Sergeant Wearln, who by now was based at Como Police Station, immediately took steps to try and rescue the bodies. However, there were no grappling irons at Sutherland, .Como, Kogarah, or Marrickville at the time, so the Water Police were called upon for help. Dragging operations were carried on during the day by Sergeant Wearln and Constable Dunworth, of Rockdale, to no avail. There were many snags in that part of the river and several previous drowning accidents had occurred in that very spot and it proved difficult to retrieve the bodies. Only the previous spring, Constable Jackson, of Rockdale, had recovered a body after a deep dive, hidden under a wide ledge of rock. The next morning the bodies were recovered down river, washed ashore with the receding tide.

Constables Stear and Wirth were met with an interesting scene on a Saturday evening in January, at Forest Road Penshurst. (42) Residents had their windows rattled when a large explosion sent the neighbourhood vibrating, blowing up a section of road. The two Constables made investigations, discerning that a timed dynamite bomb had been placed under the culvert pipe. An unnamed young man was arrested the following Monday and charged with malicious intent. In March and April Constable Dunworth was dealing with traffic incidents. In the first case, against F.W. Gledhill, Dunworth reported a car being driven without a light; however the case was dismissed due to lack of proof of who was actually driving. (43) Dunworth then charged William Smith for riding a bicycle for two hundred yards on the asphalt path of Arncliffe Park. Council pushed for a prosecution to serve as a warning to others. (44)

Also, in the first six months of 1912, much was made of the antics of the so-called masked burglar in the Sydney press. There were numerous break ins that had locals in a frenzy and even actress, Miss Hilda Spong had encountered the cheeky burglar. (45) The excitement must have become too much for Mrs. Millicent Coan, who falsely reported meeting the masked bandit in her back yard. Detective Robson, Constable Stear and Constable Wurth visited the Coan's property and interviewed Mrs. Coan, who then recanted her story. However, in May a real burglar did break into eight houses in and about Rockdale during a two weeks period. The thief's modus operandi was to use an axe to prise open doors or windows of the dwellings.

In June, the crime wave continued when two houses were burgled, leading to gunfire as the owner of one chased three intruders and captured two of them. The third intruder fired a revolver at his pursuer and escaped. One house, owned by Mr. Hunter of Frederick Street, Bexley, had been entered via a back window opened with a screwdriver. The house had been ransacked with jewellery, a safety razor, a silver cigarette case, and numerous other items taken. When Mr Hay of , Westminster Street, Bexley disturbed the three burglars, they ran off with a leather belt; two were followed by Mr Hay and another resident, Mr. Sexton followed the third boy. (46) It was this boy who had in his possession a revolver. Mr. Sexton went to the nearest telephone and rang up the police, with Constables Anderson and Walker arresting the two culprits. They each blamed the third boy for the robberies, but the fourteen year old eluded capture by Constables Stear and Wirth.



Winter brought with it a large fire at Arncliffe and the death of a well-respected fireman when the timberyard of Mr. W. A. Dettmann of Forest Road Arncliffe was totally destroyed. Nearly forty firemen attended the fire from all over Sydney. It was during this battle that George Wolfenden lost his life when a chimney stack collapsed. (47) Constable Robertson extricated him and after first aid had been rendered, Constable Langworthy took him to the St. George Cottage Hospital in a taxicab, but Wolfenden died enroute due to his injuries. He left a wife and seven children, the youngest being only six years old.

The year ended with cases of stealing and watered down milk in the courts due to the work of Rockdale Police. Walter Primrose stole a saw from a building site and pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined thirty shillings or six weeks imprisonment. Euphemia Billington pleaded not guilty to a charge of having sold milk which was found on analysis to be deficient in fat. She was found guilty and fined £3. (48)

Senior Constable Irvine of Rockdale Police dealt with the death of fifty year old George Henry Smith at the City Coroner in March 1913. (49) Smith was a bricklayer who lived in Gordon Street, Brighton-le-Sands. He had fallen down the stairs after coming home late from the picture theatre with his wife. He was found suffering from a concussion to the spine and passed away the next day.

On the 8 March 1913 George Douglas was charged with having assaulted Alexander Lewis, at Rockdale. (50) Constable Robertson, gave evidence of picking up Lewis in an unconscious condition and was suffering from a cut jaw and mild concussion. It was the third punch swung by Douglas that connected with Lewis' jaw. For supposed good friends and workmates, something was astray; Douglas was committed for trial for common assault.

Sometimes, the crime the police were investigating was very close to home, as in the case of the burglary on the 7 May 1913. (51) The thieves got away with approximately £5 worth of tobacco and pipes from the premises of Mr. J. Amanuel. This was an ironic situation as the property was sited opposite the Rockdale police station. Later that month, Mr. A Manning was charged with stealing an overcoat, with William Norman Jackson with dealing with the arrest. (52) It had been taken from

Thomas Callaghan's biscuit wagon on Rocky Point Road and was found at Manning's home. His mother gave him an excellent character reference in court which enabled Manning to be released on his promise of good behaviour.

Tragically on the 7 June 1913, Constable Stear was involved in the coronial inquiry of a young boy who had been killed at Sans Souci. (53) Eleven year old Stanley Hope had died at his parent's home at Myers Street Sans Souci, from a head injury incurred when Allan Mepstead had hit him in the temple with a rock whilst playing with Jim Greenhalgh on their way home from school. Mepstead was barely out of his teens when he threw what he thought was a piece of clay at the taunting boys. Hope had tried to go to hospital but there had not been an available bed and had died from the effects of a depressed fracture of the skull; it had obviously not been a piece of clay that hit him. If an operation had been available at hospital Hope would have survived his injury.

The boys were known to Mepstead, who was working as a labourer at a quarry and was on good terms with them, having bought them fireworks on occasion. Mepstead had previously worked for the Railway and had been struck by a train a year earlier, escaping miraculously from death. However, it appears he may have suffered some cognitive damage as he no longer was employed by the Railway. The coroner returned a verdict of manslaughter and bail was allowed. It was left up to a jury to decide if it had all been a horrible accident. In September, the Judge discharged the jury in the case and Mepstead was in turn discharged with a caution against further stone throwing.

Being young and male has always had its risks as boys would often place themselves unknowingly in danger. Such was the case of young Christopher Devine, aged nine years, who drowned in a stormwater channel at Rockdale in June 1913. He had lost his umbrella in the stormwaters and had fallen in trying to retrieve it. He was carried two miles in the muddy water and Constable Robertson discovered his body by the floodgates of the Botany Sewerage Farm. He had been with his grandfather, Stationmaster Mr. Perry, at the time of the accident. (54) Constable Langworthy and Mr Joseph Bowmer were recommended for bravery citations and given letters of thanks from the Council for their involvement. Constable Langworthy attempted unsuccessfully to have a ventilation shaft placed at Arncliffe Park after the event.

In September there was an event of indecent assault that occurred at the local motion picture theatre, where a “lascivious-minded lout” (55) known as Roy Parkes assaulted fifteen year old Blanche Payne at Jackson’s Picture Show at Rockdale. Senior Constable Irvine arrested Parkes and the Judge stated that this was the fourth case of assault on young girls at the pictures he had dealt with in the last few months. Parkes was found guilty by the jury and was sentenced to twelve months in Darlinghurst Gaol, but could receive a lesser sentence of six months if the doctor successfully treated Parkes’ venereal disease.

Three months later Constable Stear was mentioned in the press regarding a young boy loitering around the railway tracks and bothering about trains. Stear’s choice of transporting the lad to the lockup consisted of hoisting him on his back and riding his bicycle back to the station with his load. The courts were busy that week when another young man from Rockdale was charged with interfering with Cadets, by throwing a shoe into the squad and punching Lieutenant Mylchreest in the head. He was fined ten shillings for the interference and forty shillings for the assault, plus costs. William Herbert Waller and two other youths were also charged with riotous behaviour, assault and robbery in Rockdale at the same court session. It was a very busy December for Rockdale Police and St George Police Court in 1913. (56)

The New Year brought about the acquittal of William Rudgley of the charge of feloniously receiving eight bags of chaff. Constable Robertson stated in Rudgley’s defence, he had only put the chaff bags in the yard as the horse could not pull the load up the hill. Two other men had stolen the goods; Rudgley had only been helpful not criminal, and Robertson stated that he had an excellent personal reputation. (57) The Judge stated there was no case to go to jury and dismissed the charge.

May brought suspected drama to Rockdale Police station as a practical joker rushed into the premises claiming he had been shot. The police questioned him and he retold the story he had been shot by two men after entering a house to the cries of murder. Upon being admitted to hospital, the man recanted his story, saying he had fooled the police...he had actually just sat on a piece of broken glass on the kerb; a waste of police resources and time. However, a later event in June saw two men chased by Senior Constable in a motor car, arrested and brought back handcuffed together to Rockdale Police Station, charged with breaking and entering. (58)

An event on the third of June 1914 brought to the attention of the press the story of a policeman's wife, with an early version of neighbourhood watch and the chase of housebreakers after a daylight robbery. Mrs. Hawe saw two men force open the window of a neighbour's house. The neighbour, Mr George Evan Dicken, of Oakura Street Rockdale, was on holidays at Katoomba and Mrs. Hawe was being a good neighbour, informing the police. (59) Senior-Constable Irvine arrived and seeing two men running away, gave chase for about two miles, but lost sight of them near Rockdale train station. He eventually captured them after commandeering a car from a man who had come to the Police Station to ask for a licence. He then drove around the area, dove out of the car and crash tackled the two culprits to the ground when he sighted them in Arncliffe. Upon arrest the men were found to have several pieces of jewellery in their possession.

Other less dramatic chores the police faced in 1916 was trying to find the owners of lost goods. Once they had to try to locate the owner of forty feet of rubber hose which was advertised in the local press and kept for collection at the Police Station in King Street, Rockdale. (60) Despite the big and small jobs the police managed in their careers, they also had to adjudicate neighbour's quarrels and backyard fights, locate strayed horses and cows and track down unregistered dogs. However, there would be days where the police would be longing for such humdrum matters, rather than the case they were to deal with in January 1917.

### The Rockdale Outrage

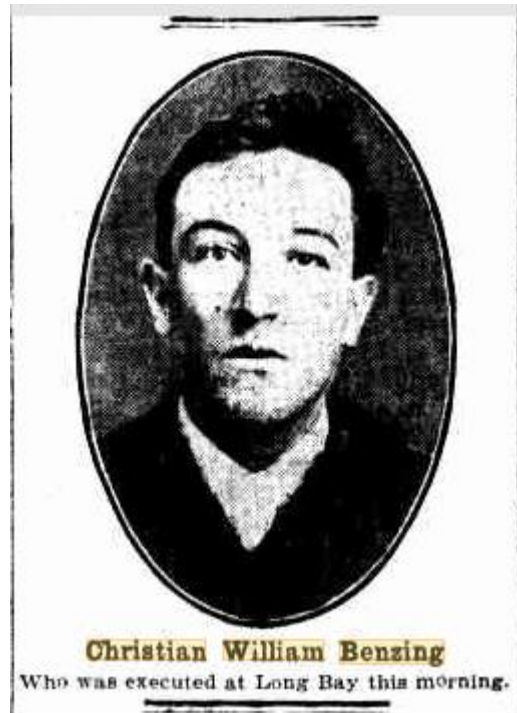
The outrage felt by the local community was splashed across the pages of newspapers all over Australia on the 12 January 1917 when eleven year old Dorothy Myra Small was assaulted, beaten with a belt and strangled to death. Local police from Rockdale and Kogarah investigated the death of the youngest daughter of seven children to local carpenter, Ernest Small. Plain clothes Constable Thomas Langworthy cycled to the bushland between Rockdale and Kogarah, near Skidmore Bridge, the same afternoon and arrested twenty two year old Christian William Benzing. (62) Locals had heard the screams of the young victim and gone to the police station to report the incident.

Constable Langworthy arrested Benzing on the outskirts of the crowd that had gathered at the murder site. Dorothy's brother was at war at the Front and a man had been talking to her only half an hour before she was killed, whilst she had been playing with some other children. Benzing had spoken to Dorothy's mother earlier in the week about her son Herbert, alluding he was a military colleague of his. The children had scattered to report the attack and Dorothy's father, who worked at Cairncross' Lime and Cement Works, went to the home of Thomas James Willoughby. Willoughby was a brick maker, who had retrieved the girl's unconscious body and taken her to his home, where she soon passed away due to her injuries. Her body was removed to the Morgue and her funeral was on the Saturday; many locals attended the sombre affair.

The accused, Christian William Benzing, an electrician, appeared before Mr. King, S.M., the same day at the Central Police Court, on a charge of murder, and was remanded until the next week; bail was not applied for by the defendant. (62) In the court case that followed many witnesses attested to seeing Benzing with the victim. At the conclusion of the Crown case, Benzing made a statement in which he detailed his movements on the day of the murder, and said he had never interfered with the girl, and had no desire to do so. He had served four months and a half at Gallipoli, and had been drinking on the day of the alleged offence.

Christian William Benzig was found guilty and sentenced to death. Benzing had been medically discharged from the AIF on the 14th March 1916 aged twenty one, having served his country for eighteen months and seen active service for a solid three months of that time. Almost exactly nine months after his discharge from the Armed services, with no further medical intervention and displaying the encephalitic symptoms of Wernicke-Karsakoff's Syndrome, coupled with the post-traumatic stress and shell shock, he was hung for the murder. (63) The sentence was carried out in June 1917 at Long Bay Gaol; death was instantaneous.

Right: Trove. (2016). Christian William Benzing  
- *The Sun* (Sydney, NSW : 1910 - 1954) - 16 Jun  
1917. [online] Available at:  
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/221976807?searchTerm=%22Christian%20William%20Benzing%22&searchLimits=> [Accessed  
19 Apr. 2016].



Luckily for the police, their cases had soon resumed to those of a more pedestrian nature. In March 1917 Mrs Simpson of Bay Street Rockdale had an encounter with a burglar, who had the decency to take his boots off whilst he was inside her house. He had felt so at home after he had entered the house via an open window, he had even made a pot of tea for himself. Upon being disturbed, he had attempted to throttle Mrs Simpson and throw her to the floor. Two men in the street heard her cries and captured the burglar and Mrs Simpson's jewellery was returned to her at the police station. (64)

Often it was the minutiae that filled the local constable's day: local court could be busy with cases of the owners of straying horses, as on the 2 March 1918. Some were repeat offenders:

*"KOGARAH POLICE COURT. WEDNESDAY, 27th FEBRUARY. BEFORE  
Mr. C. N. PAYTEN, S.M. ALLOWING HORSES TO STRAY.*

*C. Thornton, for allowing a horse to stray in Campbell-street, was  
fined 30/-, with 7/- costs, in default 14 days.*

*For allowing a horse to stray in Russell Avenue, Sandringham, H.  
Ireland, who pleaded guilty, was fined 7/6, with 7/- cost. Default,  
three days.*

*T. McMahon, for allowing a horse to stray in Campbell-street, Rockdale, on 8th January, was fined 20/-, 7/- costs, in default, seven days.*

*T. McMahon, for allowing two horses to stray in Alice-street, on 18th December last, was fined 40/-, 7/- costs, or 21 days.” (65)*

Acts of indecent behaviour could result in a fine of £2, as Arthur Sullivan found to his embarrassment in the same Court sitting. However, Sergeant Albert Henry Harrowsmith was a man often involved in the cases that the press covered at this time. A robbery at Carlton Station in 1918 was worked with Constable Langworthy and Detective Rankin; that of a charge of robbery from the Railway Commissioners amounting to £126/5/6 against William Henry Ferguson.

In March 1918 there was a case of abduction, where by Edgar Charles Taylor was charged that the previous December at Penshurst, he took away seven year old Irene Boyne Fletcher out of the possession of and against the will of Thomas Adam Fletcher, her father. Sergeant Harrowsmith and Constable Langworthy were interviewed in the court as the relationship was delved into by the Judge. Taylor was a married man with children but had planned to run away with the young girl and they had lived together as man and wife. Taylor was committed for trial with bail of £100 and two sureties £50 each, or one of £100. (66)

By 1919 Rockdale Police Station had one Sergeant Second Class, one Sergeant First Class and four constables linked to the station, which was a good thing as business was brisk at times. (67) February saw Mr Morris Joseph Browne’s tailor’s shop burgled and ransacked after the villains forced the back door. They escaped with a large quality of tweed and other mercery worth over two hundred pounds. (68) For the unlucky Mr Browne, this was not a one off situation, he was robbed again three years later; enough to make you question being in business. In late October, thanks to the good police work of Sergeant Harrowsmith, Richard James Reynolds, his wife Celia Reynolds, and his son Leonard Richard J. Reynolds were all charged at Kogarah Police Court with breaking and entering the store. All the accused were committed for trial, with the two men were also charged three other charges of breaking, entering and stealing; and the woman on two other similar charges.

A few days after the tailor shop robbery, a group of men found themselves in court before Mr. Clarke, S.M. as the result of a raid on premises in West Botany Street, led by Sergeant Harrowsmith. War Chun 56, Charlie' 60, Jack Ha Hee 55, Chung Hing 40, Lee Chong 50, Ming Tong 46, Lee Joe 40, Man Sing 45, Lee Joy 46, Lee Hun 40, Charlie Ah Toy 50, Jimmy Ah Ying 50, Sun Chow 55, were before the Court charged with being found without lawful excuse in a common gaming house. Each man was fined one pound, with each needing an interpreter with the cost of an extra one shilling sixpence. Forty three year old Yee Gumi owned the property and pleaded guilty; others had escaped the raid on the gaming of dominoes and pak-ah-pu, a Chinese lottery game, but Gumi was fined fifteen pounds as well as having his winnings confiscated.

In the same court sitting Annie Myra Scott was charged with stealing a number of items including; two bangles, one railway pass, one gold brooch, six handkerchiefs, three yards of lace insertion, one pair of shoes and half a pound of butter, valued at £4/15/0. (69). These belongings had been stolen from Olive Gros resulting in Annie Myra Scott being fined ten pounds. However, it wasn't just the average citizen facing court, four well known and respected residents (unnamed in the press) had been caught hosing their gardens during the prohibited hours and were fined heavily for breaking the hosing curfew. An example was made of them with fines of over seventeen pounds, but their good names in the community remained intact.

Arncliffe Post Office was once again the subject of attack in September 1919, barely twelve months since the last robbery. The safe had been blown open in the early hours of the morning and £180 in cash stolen, with the blast waking the post master Mr J Buckley and his family, who lived above the office. (70) The safe blowers had used gelignite and the blast had been quite comprehensive, leaving a large amount of damage...the Buckley family had been very lucky. Constable Wilkinson from Rockdale Police quickly made a thorough search of the area to no avail. Reinforcements were called in from Sydney headquarters as Inspector Sherwood and Detective Prior motored out to the suburbs, with Detective D. Rankin, who lived near Arncliffe, Sergeant Harrowsmith and Constable Langworthy all searching for the bandits. It was thought it was the same gang of safe crackers, who had stolen substantially more cash the last time the Post Office was robbed.



On a Saturday night in early December 1919 there was a police raid on a billiard room upon the report of illegal gaming. Sergeant Harrowsmith and a dozen plainclothes police entered the Rocky Point Road business and over fifty arrests were made. A number of cars had to be brought to the site to carry the arrested men to Rockdale Police station. This successful raid brought the year and the decade to a close. (71)

## The Nineteen Twenties

The new decade dawned with an inquest regarding a double tragedy that occurred at Bexley the previous Christmas Eve with Oliver Parkes, aged forty four and his wife May Parkes aged thirty five at their time of death. (72) Their fifteen year old daughter, Alice, told the sad story of her father's drunken rage against her mother; Alice had a younger sister, aged ten and brother aged six. The family lived in Mimosa Street Bexley; there had been a history of drunken abuse and May had been trying to get her husband removed from their lives. Alice on this day had run to Constable Jennings' home, about fifty yards away, but he was not at home. Neighbours refused to let her re-enter the house after shots were fired. Sergeant John Irvine arrived on the scene and found the couple lying dead on the kitchen floor. The Coroner found that Oliver Parkes had murdered his wife and then committed suicide with a double barrelled shotgun. It was a tragic end to a sad domestic situation.

In mid-July Constable Langworthy initiated another raid on a known house in West Botany Street Rockdale, arresting a number of gamblers and opium smokers. Twenty Chinese men were taken into custody and were fined £1; if in default, seven days imprisonment. The keeper, Lee Chin, was fined £10, or two months Imprisonment. Two men, Ah King and Lee Chin, who were found smoking opium during the raid were fined £2 plus a £1 interpreter's fee each. (73) The property had been raided on numerous occasions by the local police.

Sometimes the police had to deal with not the average criminal persona, as in August when Detective Farley and Sergeant Harrowsmith of Rockdale arrested a missing nun, Sister Ligouri, aka Bridget Mary Partridge, late of Wagga Wagga. Bishop Dwyer of Wagga had claimed that she was of

unsound mind. Sister Ligouri obviously was not sure of her vows and wanted to return to Ireland to her family. (74) Sister Ligouri later made a claim against Bishop Joseph Wilfred Dwyer for £5000 in damages regarding the question of her sanity.

Serious safe breaking hit Rockdale again in December 1920 when the main office at Carroll's Limited at Rocky Point Road, Rockdale was robbed between midnight and five in the morning. The thieves stole between £200 and £300 in a cashbox, they also damaged approximately £50 worth of stock, including several rolls of calico and tweeds. (75) An on beat policeman had checked the property at midnight but found the side door opened in the early morning. They had accessed the building via skylights and ropes and used the materials to deaden the sound of the explosion they caused using gelignite.

A Christmas Eve incident at Kyle Bay the same year led to a caretaker named Daniel O'Keefe being charged with the shooting murder of Claude McMurdo aka Claude Avondar Greenstreet. McMurdo was an inoffensive invalid who had been unemployed for a few years. Sergeant Albert Henry Harrowsmith dealt with the case with Inspector Taylor and Constable Martin. (76) O'Keefe admitted to the policemen that he had shot a man and took them to the body. He said he had cautioned the man about half a dozen times, before he shot the intruder. However, the Coroner stated that the deceased had died from the effect of a bullet wound in the head inflicted by Daniel O'Keefe. He further found that Daniel O'Keefe feloniously and maliciously did murder the deceased and he was committed for trial.

Well known resident of Beaconsfield Street, Bexley, Mrs Ida MayDuncan disappeared in July 1921, six weeks after her marriage. She had left home to have lunch with her new husband but did not turn up for her lunch date. She had recently suffered a nervous breakdown and the health of the twenty six year old was cast into doubt. Her body was found six days later in Lavender Bay after she had apparently jumped off the Cremorne ferry to her death. (77) Ida May Duncan was buried the same day and two years after his first wife's death Cecil Valentine Duncan married Phyllis Maud Weeks.

The beginning of the financial year of 1921 saw in the newspapers the case of bouncing cheques, with Constable Langworthy following up the case and making the arrest. Thomas Andrew Chapter was charged with obtaining £10 from John Mc Grath of Rockdale, and £5 from Walter James Cash, of Kogarah, by means of valueless cheques; he did not have sufficient funds in any of his bank accounts to cover them. (78) Chapter agreed to his guilt and was fined £5 in each case, and was ordered to refund the amount of the cheque £15, a total of £25. The court allowed him a month to pay the monies owed, provided he found sureties.

Financial misappropriation occurred on a somewhat regular basis for the police in the locality, with a Rockdale solicitor on trial in the August of 1921, regarding the sale of a Bexley property and other charges of embezzlement. Rockdale solicitor Owen David Hughes had been arrested by Sergeant Harrowsmith, however he was found not guilty due to extenuating family circumstances. (79) He had failed to transfer £30 of the property 's value, due to the death of his child and his subsequent grief but had the missing money in his safe and could settle the contract at any time. Due to his prior perfect business record, attested good character and the tragic circumstances, the jury found him not guilty of the charge.

Louis Solomon of Bexley was not as lucky when he faced court in the November. Officer Harrowsmith was again the arresting policeman when Solomon was found guilty of embezzlement from his employer. Mr. Buttell a baker of Bay Street, Rockdale, said Solomon was in his employ as a bread carter for eighteen months, and during October he discovered that several customers had paid their accounts to him but Solomon had not accounted for it. Upon checking the business records Mr Buttell estimated the loss at £33. (80) Solomon was dealt with under the First Offender's Act and had to repay £10/10/, was fined £10 bail and had to be of good behaviour for twelve months. Solomon pleaded he had five children, an elderly mother, and a crippled sister to support, gaining the Magistrate's generosity in his judgement.

The judge was busy that day, as he also passed sentence on John De Wilton in the same court sitting. De Wilton was employed at Farmer's Hotel, Rockdale and was charged with stealing glasses, a mug and some phenyl disinfectant, all of which belonged to his employer Frederick James Farmer. (81) He

had told Sergeant Harrowsmith upon his arrest that he had found them lying around and intended to hand them in. He pleaded guilty to the theft of the disinfectant and fined two pounds but innocent to stealing the glasses. The Magistrate imposed a light penalty of £1 in this regard.

In November there was a spate of robberies in Rockdale which left Sergeant Harrowsmith with the task of finding the stolen items owners. The goods included a watering can, a garden rake, a horse clipper, a garden spray, a garden hose and nozzle, a garden spade and other assorted articles. There were also milk cans, the property of the Fresh Food and Ice Company, King Street Rockdale, found at a property in Evans Street Sans Souci that lead to a court case. The charges were dismissed by the magistrate, as they were old cans, described as being used by neighbourhood children as cricket wickets in the paddock. (82)

Cases were varied in December 1921 for the policemen of the area, from thieves being chased through the bush to one of animal cruelty. On the 7 December four men were disturbed in the bush at Kyle Bay. Three were caught and made a resistance of their arrest, with over £400 worth of property recovered, some having been hidden in the undergrowth. (83) Subsequently, Constable Whitney was phoned and told of two houses in Kyle Parade, Connells Point, had been broken into and about £100 worth of goods stolen, so there had been more than one robbery. The runaway thief was chased by Constable Hale, who had been a champion pugilist and athlete, for over a mile. Hale with the aid of Constable Langworthy subdued the thief and the constables were led to the stolen stash.

Later that week Francis Samuel Dickon was charged with cruelly ill-treating a dog, when Constable Colless gave evidence that he saw the defendant tie a piece of paper to a dog's tail and then set fire to it, in Rocky Point Road, Rockdale. Dickon had a previous conviction for ill-treating a horse. He pleaded guilty and was fined £2 or one days' hard labour. (84)

The first few months of 1922 were busy in the Police Court, with cases of theft, straying cattle, illegal gambling, assault and robbery and breaking and entering; Rockdale Police were doing well keeping

the streets clean of criminals. Luigi Lombardo and Robert Donato were charged with breaking and entering the premises of Anthony and Joseph Caldaia, who were trading as King Brothers in Tramway Arcade, Rockdale, and stealing two cash registers and considerable cash to the value of one hundred and twenty one pounds. Sergeant Harrowsmith, with Constables Hale and Gilherd, interviewed Donato, and told him that Lombardo had informed on him regarding their attempts of selling the stolen registers. The two men were committed for trial and allowed bail at £80 each.

The same day lesser crimes were dealt with when Julia McKenzie was fined for allowing her cows to stray into Bay and West Botany Streets. Arthur Spithill, Arthur Baddock, Albert Thorburn, Clarence Bray, Andrew Baddock, and Victor Spithill were also fined for playing poker at Arncliffe. (85)

Albert Boyd Pickering, and Arthur John Perkins, were charged for a vicious assault and robbery upon Ernest John Bunker and Joseph Neil McShane, late the previous year, robbing them of £12/10/0. (86) Constable Langworthy with Constables Hale and Collis, arrested Perkins, in Bay Street, Rockdale. The four men had been drinking before the assault and their stories were confused; all Bunker knew was that he had been hit on the head and robbed of his weekly wages, with McShane also being assaulted. Bail was allowed in each case of £50 and two sureties of £25.

Crime was a family affair with the multiple charges of breaking and entering, when a father and two sons faced court. Joseph John Jones, Robert William Jones and Joseph William Jones, were charged with breaking into and entering the shop of Mr Bernard Walz, of Walz Street, Rockdale. They had stolen twenty pairs of trousers, forty hats, thirty six ties and other items. Further charges of breaking into and robbing Mr James Scott at his business in Bristol Road Hurstville and Mr William Huggett at Forest Road Bexley were laid. The men had also robbed their neighbour, Mr Alexander Grant of Queens Road Hurstville. (87)

Constable Langworthy, said that he and Constable Hale, had seen Robert William Jones, trying to sell the stolen goods in St. Peters. A police search of Jones' home found all the stolen goods as well as a complete set of housebreaking implements. In all instances, a window had been jemmied open as a

means of entry. Sergeant Caban gave evidence in court stating Jones Senior had previously been summoned for hawking without a licence. All three men were committed for trial with the high bail of £200 and two sureties of £100 each. The Jones family crime spree was brought to an end by the good work of Rockdale Police.

Four young men were charged with riotous behaviour at Rockdale in February 1922, consisting of throwing a full sugar bag to each other and startling a little girl on a pony, while they were waiting for a motor bus to Cronulla. Henry Brazier, Thomas Bradshaw, Leslie Frost and Ernest Williams were charged at Rockdale Police Station by Senior Sergeant Irvine and Constable Colless. (88) When searched by police, Thomas Bradshaw was found to have on his person a fully loaded revolver. The defendants were found guilty and fines of ten shillings or forty eight hours imprisonment were imposed in each case.

Purse snatching as a crime has been around for many years and those who perform the crime are extremely adept; so when Sidney Locksey felt a bump whilst drinking at the Railway Hotel, Rockdale in February 1922, and turned round to see William O 'Grady walk out the door, he did not initially realise he had been robbed. (89) Locksey followed the thief to Rockdale Station and pointed him out to a nearby policeman. Constable Colless caught the previously convicted thief with Locksey's wallet, which contained eighteen shillings, a tram ticket and a receipt for a suit. It was having this receipt in his possession that proved his downfall and saw him sentenced to six months hard labour.

The officers at Rockdale were also concerned with the speed with some drivers were negotiating the local roads. Sergeant Irvine of Rockdale, found one driver passing the junction of Rocky Point Road and Bay Street at the rate of thirty miles per hour. He managed to catch the registration number, 15418 as the driver sped past him. (90) Constable Colless corroborated Irvine's evidence, when Percy Robert King of Marrickville, was charged with exceeding the speed limit; he was certain that King was the person driving the car; even though there was a lot of traffic about that time

In answer to Sergeant Commins' questions in court, King had stated that he did not see the police at Rockdale. However, he did have an accident before reaching home that day when he tried to avoid two children who were on the road, resulting in his car swerving and running up the footpath. There had been a speeding disc erected at the intersection to keep motorist speed to four miles an hour, an early form of speed control. King was eventually fined £2 or fourteen days for furious driving.

In April Robert Charles Douglas was charged with having a sugar bag of oysters in his possession that were apparently stolen from Smith's oyster lease. Constable Kincade stated in court that Douglas had been seen leaving the lease in a boat and dumping the oysters in nearby scrub to be collected at a later time. Douglas pleaded guilty and was fined the considerable sum of £10. The same day in court saw several men charged with playing an illegal game of Heading Them, better known as Two Up in the scrub at Bexley. They were each fined £2 for partaking in an illegal gambling game.

Arthur Percy Hope Simpson, of Preddy's Road, Bexley, was also charged that day with obtaining monies under false pretences. Sergeant Harrowsmith had interviewed the defendant who had admitted that had received money from a Mr. Adams and a Mr. Hyland, but had been charged with failing to forward on the accounts to Messrs Pursey and Harris for whom he worked. Sergeant Caban prosecuted the case in court in this matter and due to the poor management of the business practices, with travelling staff usually forwarding money in unregistered post packages, Simpson was cleared of all charges.( 91)

A crackdown of train travel in the month of July 1922 resulted in several people being arrested for traveling using expired tickets, giving false details and boarding a train in motion. (92) Thomas Gaunt, William James Crogger and Carl Worth were all fined in Police Court at Kogarah. Several females and a male, Edward Arrowsmith, over the age of eighteen were charged with travelling on the railway with apprentice tickets and fines between £1/13/0 and £2/18/0 were issued. Interestingly, the male received the largest fine, possibly due to the inequality of wages at the time. Wallace Newton was charged with boarding a train already in motion at Tempe, a very dangerous practice at the time and is still to this day; he pleaded guilty and was fined £1/13/0.

The same Police Court also saw an alleged case of stealing by John Thomas Scott, boot clicker (the person who cuts the uppers for boots or shoes from a skin of leather) dismissed. Scott worked for Mrs Rate's Shoe Factory in Short Street Carlton, where he had been a foreman for the last fifteen years of his twenty year career there. Constables Langworthy and Hales had found leather and quilting at his home in Stanmore and Mrs. Rate said she had not, at any time, given Scott leather skins for himself, nor was he authorised to take any material without permission from her. Scott countered in court that Mrs. Rate had given the skins about five years ago, saying they would make case linings. He had done a lot of work at home during the week ends and used to take the material home with him. In answer to Sergeant Caban's questioning, Scott then stated he was paid for the work he did at home and he had also made cases and ladies' hand bags for Mrs. Rate. It was either an accidental or deliberate mistake by Mrs Rate. Other witnesses backed Mr Scott's recount of the facts and the Magistrate said there was not sufficient evidence to prove ownership of the leathers, though the quilting would have to be taken under another charge. It had been a busy day in court for the policemen but in this situation the case was dismissed.



Left: Trove. (2016). *WORK OF SAFE BLOWERS* - *The Sun* (Sydney, NSW : 1910 - 1954) - 16 May 1922.

[online] Available at:  
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/223947379?searchTerm=%22fresh%20food%20and%20ice%20company%20safe%22&searchLimits=dateFrom=1922-01-01||dateTo=1922-12-31>  
 [Accessed 22 Apr. 2016].

In August, Constable Walker the lockup keeper at Rockdale, heard a muffled explosion from the Fresh Food and Ice Company's depot lockup almost opposite the Police depot. He had thought it was the kick of a restless horse and was in the process of telling Constable Hibbard to investigate, when they spied a safebreaker disappearing over the back fence. They gave chase but the safe cracker eluded them, escaping with £37 in notes and silver and two cheques totalling three pounds. He was definitely the one who got away.(93) The company had two similar robberies at their Marrickville



depot twice, once in May and again in June; much more cash was stolen there, over four hundred pounds in the June heist. There was even another robbery attempt although the thieves were scared off. Hopefully the company increased their security practices for the future.

In October police once again cracked down on furious drivers who were exceeding the speed limits along Rockdale streets. Constable Martin was successful in securing convictions against several males on one single day; Alec P. Wills, Leslie Atkins, Oscar A. Carlson; Herbert Foote, Reg Oswald Roffe, Edward H. Dark, Cecil Podesta, were all charged with exceeding the speed limit whilst driving motor cycles along Kogarah Road. Each man was fined £3 for exceeding the speed limit by twenty miles per hour. Roy Mulvery, Arthur William Maggs, pleaded guilty, and were each fined £2 or 14 days imprisonment for exceeding the speed limit at Bay Street. Rockdale and Aubrey H. Hodgson was fined £4 or one month for a similar offence. (94). This proved to be an effective system of speed management on the roads of Rockdale by Traffic Constable Martin.

November brought the unfortunate Mr M. J. Browne back into police notice when his business was for the fourth time targeted by thieves, despite Mr Browne setting up strong preventative measures. (95) This time a night watchman's vigilance and smart work by the police frustrated the thieves in their daring robbery attempt. The Rockdale night patrol chased the men firing shots at them after being alerted by the nightwatchman. The chase went over fences and rooftops until more shots from the police halted the men, who were promptly subdued and arrested. Between the bars of the window several rolls of cloth and a large quantity of cloth thing had been brought together ready for the taking. The haul of material was worth several hundreds of pounds. The guilty men in this case consisted of two fifteen year olds and one eighteen year old.

The approach of Christmas is often an emotional time and for two young men, one from Rockdale and one from Bexley, it also brought tragic consequences. On the 12 December 1922, eighteen year old David John Dungurley was found hanging from a rafter of the veranda of his Cameron Street home. His mother found the young motor body builder dead and a suicide note in his bedroom in the early hours of the morning. The note demanded that his girlfriend not be blamed for his death. (96)

On the 15 December 1922 the other young man, Guiseppe Carboni was charged with attempting suicide at Bexley, on the 23rd November. (97) Sergeant Jones said in court that he had seen the defendant in an ambulance at Kogarah Hospital and helped carry him into the hospital. When questioned by Sergeant Jones, Carboni admitted he had cut his own neck over unrequited love and business issues in a fit of passion; he was sentenced to three months hard labour. There were further charges concerning an unlicensed pistol which elicited a twenty shillings fine. The eventful year came to a close with this case.

In April 1923 Constables Colless and Kennedy, of the Rockdale police, fired their weapons during a chase after three men in Rockdale Street, Banksia, resulting in three arrests on counts of assault and robbery intent. (98) Leslie Alfred Dean of Bexley had reported that one of the three men had fired a shot at him, although the police only found that a bottle had been used in the assault. The next month saw Luigi Rimoldi charged with not keeping to the left side of the road when driving a motor lorry at Rockdale. Constable Cowden had sighted the defendant as he was going along the centre of the road in Prince's Highway, Rockdale and asked him to pull over to the side, but was ignored by the driver. Constable Cowden had previously cautioned Rimoldi on many occasions for the same offence. Rimoldi pleaded guilty, and was fined 20/- for the crime. (99)

The month of May saw Constable A. Collis of Rockdale Police Station in the press as a victim not a law enforcer. He had been riding his cycle along Rocky Point Road, Rockdale when a van collided with him, then crashed into a Bushell's wagon and pinned him between the two vehicles. Constable Hibbert ran to the accident scene and saved Collis' life, taking him in an ambulance to St. George Hospital. (100) Constable Collis suffered from severe internal injuries, cuts to his legs, arms and face and severe shock. The driver of the van was subsequently arrested.

The month also saw the farewell of Mr. A. E. Chapman S.M., the Chamber Magistrate by the Police of the district, who was moving to be the Magistrate of the Nyngan district. Sergeant Dunlop of Arncliffe chaired the event and made a presentation on behalf of the police. Speeches were made by Sergeants Jones, and Gorman, Constables Martin, Kinkade, Gilsheenan, and Hibbard. (101) Mr. Chapman stated in his speech that he was sorry to leave such professional and adapt officers.

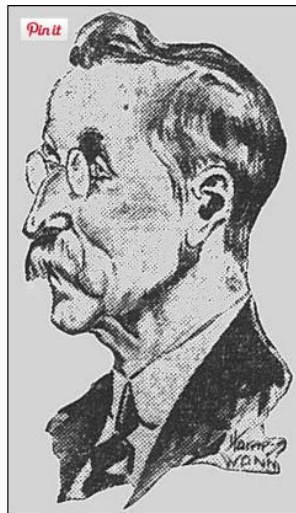
To the present day, the Seven Ways at Rockdale has always been a bit of a traffic snarl and in May 1923 a police constable was stationed there on special duty to keep traffic moving smoothly. An officer being on point duty led to three motorists being charged with having neglected his signals to stop. William Donohue and Walter Stanley Carey were each fined two pounds, but Victor Gladstone Steer was given the benefit of the doubt in his case (102) but things were going to get much busier.

### The Percy Carratt Murder

The murder of five year old Percival Frederick Carratt whose body was found in a paddock at Arncliffe on a Monday night in 1923 was described in the press as one of the “most fiendish crimes ever committed in the State”. (103) He had been smothered to death on his way home from the corner shop, where his mother had sent him to buy some carrots. When he was missed, his grandfather went looking for him and found his body. Leonard Henry Lovett (aka Puddifoot), an eighteen year old youth who looked much younger, was eventually arrested and charged with the youngster’s murder. Lovett was a plasterer by trade, a recently arrived immigrant from England, living with his parents at Arncliffe. His arrest was a carefully planned joint event by the local and Sydney police; as he was returning home from work, he walked into a cordon of police. Officers concerned in the arrest were Detectives Barrett and Missingham, of Headquarters; Sergeant Harrowsmith, of Rockdale; Sergeant Leonard. of Marrickville; and Constable Langworthy, of Rockdale.



Percival Frederick Carratt. Image: *Truth*, (Syd, NSW), (Syd, NSW), Sun 17 Jun 1923, p. 9. Reproduction: Peter de Waal



Frederick Marsden, grandfather. Image: *Truth*, (Syd, NSW), Sun 17 Jun 1923, p. 9. Reproduction: Peter de Waal

*Far Left: Percival Frederick Carratt (Victim)*  
*Left: Frederick Marsden (Grandfather)*  
 Capuano, R. (2016). 1923, Leonard Henry Puddifoot - Unfit For Publication. [online] Unfitforpublication.org.au. Available at: <http://www.unfitforpublication.org.au/trials/1900s/973-1923-leonard-henry-puddifoot> [Accessed 23 Apr. 2016].



Leonard Henry Puddifoot. Image: *Truth*, (Syd, NSW), Sun 16 Sep 1923, p. 14. Reproduction: Peter de Waal



Leonard Henry Lovett. Image: *Truth*, (Syd, NSW), Sun 3 Jun 1923, p. 9. Reproduction: Peter de Waal



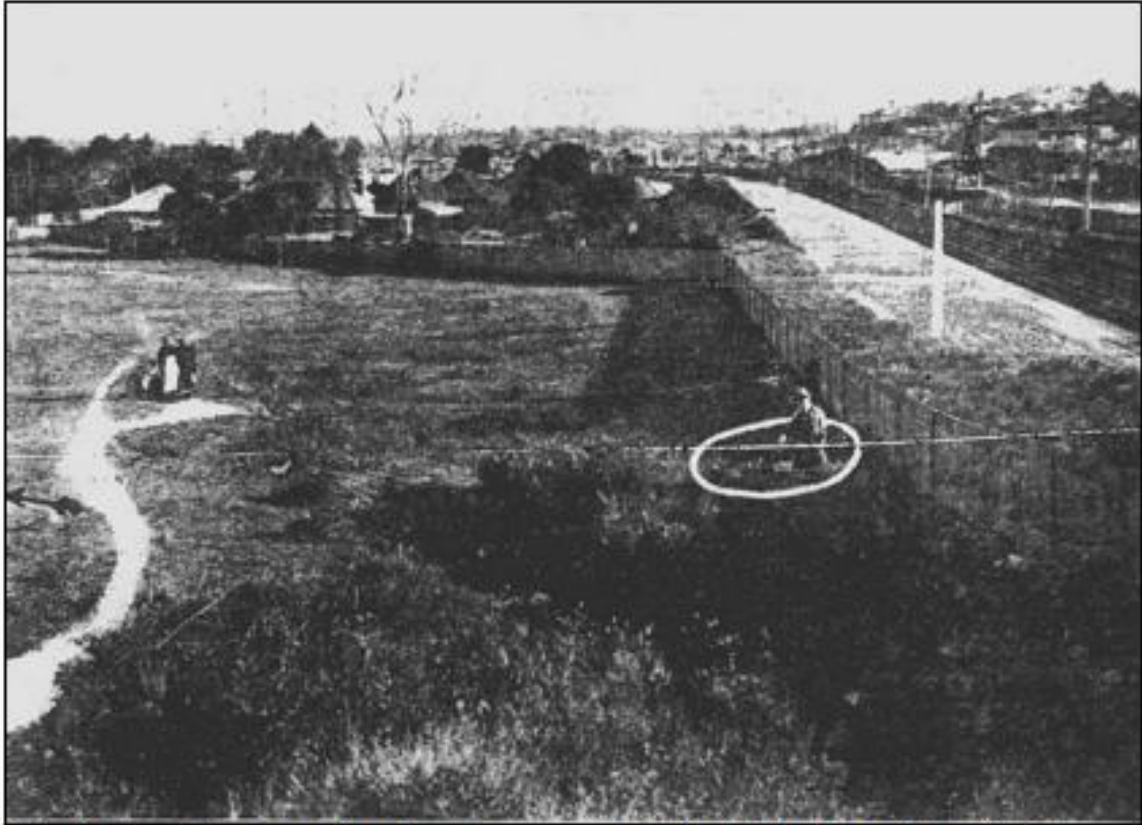
Constable Edwin Thomas Carlo Langworthy. Image: *Truth*, (Syd, NSW), Sun 17 Jun 1923, p. 9. Reproduction: Peter de Waal

*Above Left: Leonard Henry Puddifoot, Above Centre: Leonard Henry Lovett, Above Right: Constable Edwin Thomas Carlo Langworthy*

*Capuano, R. (2016). 1923, Leonard Henry Puddifoot - Unfit For Publication. [online]*

*Unfitforpublication.org.au. Available at: <http://www.unfitforpublication.org.au/trials/1900s/973-1923-leonard-henry-puddifoot> [Accessed 23 Apr. 2016].*

The police believed that young Percy had been lured into the paddock without been seen and slowly smothered by placing of Lovett's hand over the boy's mouth and around the child's neck. These actions slowly suffocated the boy, but he had apparently struggled as he had kicked of his shoes during the event; they were found near his body. Percy was found fully clothed by his Grandfather, who thought he was only unconscious, not dead, when he carried him back home. The police made a concentrated effort on the case, as it was so confronting for the local society at large; the murder of such a young, defenceless boy. However, the police had a witness who had seen the victim just before he was killed. A girl gave a description of a man she had seen with the boy about 5.30 p.m., and it was from this information to the police that led to the suspect's arrest. Young Mary Stone also apparently acquitted herself very well at the trial and would not be swayed by the defending barrister, despite only being seventeen years old. (104)



"The little boy's body was found in some grass at the feet of the figure in the circle. Rocky Point Road is away to the left, and the arrow is pointing in the direction of Maloney's Store from which a clear view of the paddock, and the clump of bushes, may be had." Image: *Truth*, (Syd, NSW), Sun 3 Jun 1923, p. 9. Reproduction: Peter de Waal

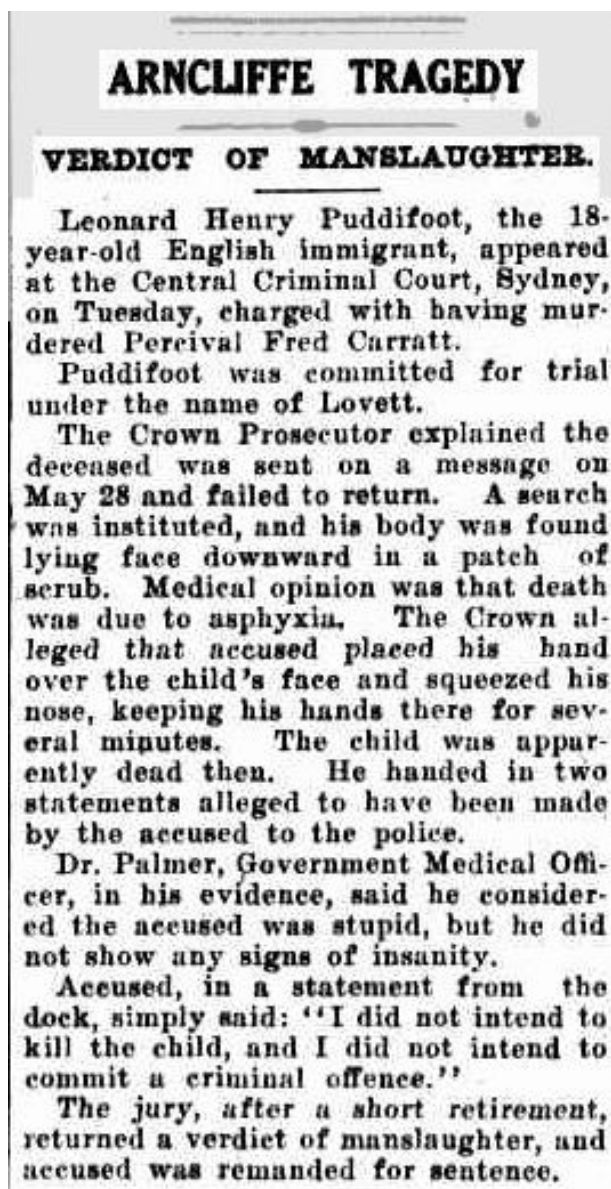
*Above : Where the body was found*

Capuano, R. (2016). 1923, Leonard Henry Puddifoot - Unfit For Publication. [online] Unfitforpublication.org.au. Available at: <http://www.unfitforpublication.org.au/trials/1900s/973-1923-leonard-henry-puddifoot> [Accessed 23 Apr. 2016].

When Leonard Henry Puddifoot was committed for trial for the murder of Percival Carratt on the 28 May 1923, he was found guilty of manslaughter and remanded for sentence. Evidence at this time was to the effect that Puddifoot was quite normal in mental ability but by sentencing this had changed as he received a term of three years. Both the Judge and the jury believed Puddifoot did not intend to kill the child and in view of all the circumstances the Judge was able to impose a light sentence. They all believed that Puddifoot was a simpleton and the result was seen as a grave



judicial blunder by the press of the time, even as far away as New Zealand. (105). The press coverage of the case was often extremely long winded and highly emotive for the readers of the news and it eventually became a political issue when Puddifoot's gaol term was due to expire. There were heated exchanges in the Legislative Assembly when Puddifoot was deported after the term of his sentence. There were some who had called for his deportation immediately, whilst Mr J.G. D. Arkins (St George) made a severe attack on the Minister for Justice, Mr W. J. McKell for not doing so. (106)



*Left: An example of the shorter and less emotive press coverages of the case.*

*Trove. (2016). ARNCLIFFE TRAGEDY - VERDICT OF MANSLAUGHTER. - Singleton Argus (NSW : 1880 - 1954) - 13 Sep 1923.*

*[online] Available at:*

*<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/80944615/7859132> [Accessed 24 Apr. 2016].*

*Right: Article of Puddifoot's  
Deportation.*

*Trove. (2016). General Telegrams.*

*- Walsh & Johansen Claim for*

*£50,000. Adelaide Tuesday -*

*Northern Territory Times and*

*Gazette (Darwin, NT : 1873 -*

*1927) - 18 Dec 1925. [online]*

*Available at:*

*[http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspap](http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/3381574)*

*er/article/3381574 [Accessed 24*

*Apr. 2016].*

## **Another Deportation**

Much curiosity is being expressed in political circles regarding the whereabouts of Leonard Puddifoot, who recently completed three years imprisonment for manslaughter of an infant child at Arnccliffe. It is the general belief that Puddifoot has been deported, but no official statement so far is forthcoming. In the N.S.W. Legislative Assembly yesterday several questions were asked of the Minister for Justice concerning Puddifoot but McKell evaded answering them by asking for notice.

From reliable sources it is learned that Puddifoot is on the high seas a member of the crew of a steamer. It is understood that some weeks ago arrangements were entered into between the State Ministry and the Commonwealth for sending Puddifoot out of Australia.

So, Leonard Henry Puddifoot left Australia, never to be heard of again. Meanwhile, the Carratt family had to get on with their lives. Percy's father Edward had been in his late twenties when Percy was killed. He died in April 1946 at the young age of fifty four. His mother, Daisy (nee Marsden) had three children at the time of the crime, possibly the reason she sent young Percy to the shop. She passed away in 1958, still living in Rockdale, aged sixty seven. Percy's sister Lillian was eight years old and his brother John was four; they both went on to live long lives. Lillian Margaret Carratt never married and died in 2003 when she was eighty eight years old. John Carratt survived a stint in Changi prison and went on to be a Nowra radiographer, living to the ripe old age of eighty six. (107) One wonders what young Percy may have achieved if his life had not been snuffed out that day on the 28 May 1923; he may have live another eighty years based on his siblings longevity.

## A Runaway Mad Horse

On the August 3, 1923 new recruit Constable Harry Allard hit the press when a runaway horse was caught and settled in a sensational fashion in what was described as a movie stunt manoeuvre. (108) Witnesses compared his deed at the Seven Ways Rockdale to that of a movie cowboy or circus trick rider. He had been on traffic duty when he saw the galloping horse and threw himself at the animal and settled it at great risk to himself. He later stated that he was not thinking of danger to himself at the time rather the danger the horse posed to oncoming traffic and women and children crossing the road. His bravery and his football sporting prowess helped him tackle the runaway stead when he put duty before self-interest. He was truly a country boy made good in the big smoke.

Poor Morris J Browne the tailor had burglars bother him not just at work, when his home in Watkin Street Rockdale was broken into on the 10 December 1923 and £50 worth of clothing stolen. The thief's means of access was by breaking the leadlight of the front door. This means of robbery was prominent at the time, with cases in the inner city regions being recorded. Sergeant Harrowsmith was making inquiries into the case at the same time as Constables Hale and Hardy were dealing with a robbery at Stony Creek Road Bexley. In this particular case Liddell McArthur's home was entered by the use of a duplicate key and £16 in jewellery and money stolen. (109)

All was quiet in the area for a few months with not much recorded crime until 3 August 1924 when a gunman was ready to destroy the tranquillity of the suburb. The local police had in the past made many notable arrests, so when Sergeant Harrowsmith and Constables Hale and Hardy received information they acted upon it immediately and went to Kogarah Road and found two young men watching a residence. They promptly arrested them and charged them with being suspected persons. (110) Based on those arrests the same police officers went to a house in Bay Street, Rockdale, and questioned a man, whom they charged with break and enter of a houseboat in Rose Bay, where he had stolen a quantity of tinned goods. Break ins were not the only thing on the suspect's mind, his overcoat pockets held a loaded revolver and another small calibre pistol. The possession of extra ammunition and a torch sealed this young man's fate. The peace of the locality was soon about to end.



In early April 1925 Elizabeth Ann Badger was found dead at her O'Neill Street Brighton-le-Sands home. The sixty year old widow was first discovered when she did not respond to knocks on the front door by a contractor who had arrived to do some work at her house and found to his distress the strong smell of gas around the premises. (111) He then turned the gas off at the meter and informed Rockdale police, who forced their way into the house. Sadly, they found Mrs. Badger, deceased, sitting in a chair in front of the gas stove with the jet turned on. Sergeant Irvine, of Rockdale, was anxious to communicate with any relatives of the deceased, as Elizabeth had seven children. Strangely her husband did not actually die until 1929. (112) So did the press get it wrong; she was actually sixty two? Was it suicide or an accident? The New South Wales Coroner's report was that she had been poisoned by wilfully inhaling a quantity of coal gas; a very sad case indeed.

Poor Mrs Lyon's did not expect to be held up by a young man wielding a revolver on the 28 December 1925, when he walked into her shop at 133 Princes Highway Kogarah and pointed the gun at her head. She had very healthy lungs and her screams caused him to run away. A neighbour saw him slip and fall heavily on the steps before heading towards Gray Street. Once the police were finally reached, Sergeants Hibbard and Langworthy and Constables Hall, Martin, Harrison, and Gee arrived on the scene within a few minutes of the call, but could not trace the man. Despite a very succinct description of the man by the two women, he was not apprehended.

*"About 27 years of age, between 5ft 8in and 5ft 10 in height, of Sallow complexion, thin in build, and with very thin, clean-shaven face. He was wearing an old dark navy blue suit, soft shirt and collar, black boots, and a black felt hat."* (113)

In February 1926 Evelyn Peterson, aged thirty two, was charged at Kogarah Court with having used indecent language within hearing of persons passing in King Street, Rockdale. Constable Stephenson stated that Peterson had been thrown out of her brother-in-law's house, in Kurnell Street Brighton-le-Sands, and that he had locked her up for being drunk and disorderly. Peterson had also used abusive language in the cells towards Constable Stephenson, numbering forty four in total on the charge sheet, twelve of which were indecent. Peterson was fined £5. or two months in gaol for her behaviour. (114)

Assaults on police in the line of duty have been a common occurrence over the decades. On the 14 May 1926 Constable A. J. Wilson had his face attacked during the course of the arrest of one Mary Downes, aged thirty seven. Whilst he was placing her into the patrol wagon, she turned on him and clawed his face and was reported as saying she would scratch his face off. In court Downes plead guilty to having assaulted the constable. She received fourteen days imprisonment as a punishment and was admonished by Mr. Pelsey, B.M: 'If the police are to be expected to do their duty the courts must afford them all the protection it is in their power to give". (115)

Sometimes the officers had to travel outside their jurisdiction for court appearances such as the one in Bulli on the 29 Oct 1926. Brothers William Stanley Shadlow and Norman Shadlow were charged with breaking into a garage situated on the Main Road, Thirroul, belonging to James Hill, and stealing motor tyres, tubes, spark plugs and other motor accessories. Detective Sergeant Matthew Thomas Sedgwick with Constable Hale and other police visited a house in Ramsgate and arrested Norman Shadlow. Some of the evidence tendered were facts about the driver of a biscuit coloured Hudson car, registration number 33823. (116) Numerous witnesses gave evidence regarding the car and the men it contained. Surprisingly Norman was quite happy to blame his brother, William and visa versa. The stolen goods were found in the same car garaged on a vacant allotment of ground at Ramsgate. Both men were committed for trial with bail fixed at £200 each. There was no honour amongst these two thieves despite being siblings.

One of the saddest events a police officer has to deal with is the death of someone from a car accident. It is even more tragic when the victim is a child, as in the case of an accident at Brighton-le-Sands on the 20 March 1927. Young Nellie Wittenbecher, aged six years, who lived at 17 England-Street, Brighton-le-sands, received fatal Injuries when she ran out in front of a car at around nine pm at the intersection of Bay Street and Crawford Road. (117) The driver of the car had dimmed his lights when passing through the intersection, which was the common practice of the day and did not see the young girl. It was not until he felt the car bump into something and he stopped that he found Nellie lying on the roadway. The St George Ambulance service arrived and Doctor Watson found that Nellie had died from her injuries which included a crushed skull. Her body was removed to the City Morgue and poor Constable Boyd of Rockdale Police was left to make the inquiries for the Coroner.

## The Bronya Disaster

Botany Bay can be a treacherous place for the locals of Rockdale, with strong currents and sudden storms. For over thirty five hours from the 19 April 1927, a terrific cyclone with torrential rain and damaging winds lashed Sydney and its suburbs. The natural destruction also brought human death for the locals of Rockdale. The first anyone knew that there had been a tragic boating disaster at Easter in April 1927 was when a young boy reported that he had seen a naked body floating in Botany Bay. Soon afterwards Constable Stephenson of Brighton, and Sergeant Johnson of Arncliffe, and other police officers from the area were at the scene and two bodies were discovered on the sands near Brighton baths. Further down the beach was the seventeen foot “Bronya” embedded in the sand. The police had to dig deeply into the beach to retrieve the two bodies. Constable Stephenson also had to swim into the deep water and fight the undertow to retrieve the floating naked body.

Another body, that of a female, was found in the Cook’s River and was removed to the City Morgue. The police had difficulty identifying the bodies and locals went to gaze upon the dead in the hope of recognizing the corpses. As the day progressed it was found that the “Bronya” had sunk at dusk on the Monday evening, whilst travelling from Kurnell to the Cook’s River. The heavy seas had caused her to founder on the breakwater around the entrance of the Cook’s River and her passengers thrown into the water; there was no light at the entrance to the breakwater. The weather was so squally and the seas so rough, the occupants would have been dashed against the rocks. The storm front was so violent Matterson's baths at Brighton experienced £200 damage, while many homes were unroofed and the low-lying areas flooded. The newspapers were full of details of those who died on the fatal voyage.

### *“THE VICTIMS.*

*The following have been identified -*

*WILLIAM JAMES LAWSON aged 20 coppersmith, of 18 Virginia-street,  
Kensington*

*JOHN GORDON MACHIE aged 19, electrician of 10 Addlson-street  
Kensington*

*PETER B MARSHALL aged about 60, believed to have resided in  
Waterloo-street, Botany*

*JAMES JARVIS aged 44. of Merle Carlotta Street Artarmon, railway employee, married with five children.*

*JAMES CHARLES HAMKIN, aged 42, of Kurnell a miner, employed by the Main Roads Board at Cattai Creek*

*FRANK COOK aged 31, of Woodville, via West Maitland shop assistant, employed by Smith and Co, Tamworth*

*HERBERT FRANCIS HOPEL, aged 37. hair dresser. of 4 Nelson-street, Rozelle*

*DAISY MAY HOPEL wife of Herbert Hopel, aged 37. The Hopel's had married the previous Christmas*

*Those missing are -*

*GEORGE ANSELL, aged about 40, of Maroubra Bay-road East Kensington, owner of the Bronya, contractor*

*GORDON MELVILLE, aged 19, of Ramsgate who had been working in the country for some time*

*A man named Edwards, of Artarmon, who was in Cook's company is also said to have been on the boat." (118)*

Sergeant Johnson spent time at the City Morgue until the early hours of the next day, dealing with identification procedures for the reclaimed bodies. In July Constable G. F Stephenson was rewarded for his heroic work in recovering the bodies after the disaster He was presented with a silver inkstand on behalf of the Melville family, who had lost two members of their family in the wreck. Those present voiced their regret at the circumstances that led to the bravery award but congratulated Constable Stephenson for his devotion to duty and bravery under terrible circumstances. Both Council and Police Association officials spoke at the event which was attended by many local residents. (119)

THE BRONYA ON THE BEACH.



REMOVING THE SAND FROM WITHIN THE LAUNCH.

SCENE AT BOTANY AFTER THE DISASTER OF MONDAY NIGHT



THE LAUNCH BRONYA DRIVEN ON TO THE BEACH AT BRIGHTON-SEA-SIDE

As a result of the tragedy eleven lives, it is believed have been lost. Eight bodies have been recovered, and three other members of the party are missing.

Above:

Trove. (2016). SCENE AT BOTANY AFTER THE DISASTER OF MONDAY NIGHT. - *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954) - 21 Apr 1927. [online] Available at: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article16386656> [Accessed 26 Apr. 2016].

A late December raid on the Home Recreations shop in Princes Highway Rockdale resulted in the snatching of the cashbox containing twelve pounds. (120) The thief had been perusing gramophone records waiting for the opportunity to strike just before the shop shut for the night. A shop girl followed the thief outside and flagged down a passing motorist, who chased and fought the crook, punching him in the nose and holding him until Constable Allard arrived. It was a good punch, fracturing his nose; the culprit was then treated in St George Hospital and charged at Rockdale Police station.

An accident between a motor car and a cart on January 13, 1928 at the corner of Cameron Street and Bay Street, Brighton-le-Sands resulted in the death of Mr. Alfred Dunn. Mr. Patrick Joseph Brown, a carpenter, was charged with manslaughter and arrested by Constable Boyd. Doctor John Bede Whlttemore from St George District Hospital, stated Dunn was conscious and alert, suffering from severe shock, head injuries and a black eye. Doctor Francis John Graham of Rockdale examined Mr. Brown at the police station reported that he was capable of answering questions. (121) Constable Boyd discovered the car in a side street, with all lights turned off and damage to the front axle, side mud-guard and bonnet. Under the back seat of the car, Constable Boyd found six full bottles of beer. Mr. Brown had to be helped into the car at Gibbs Street, and out again at the police station. Mr. Brown was committed for trial on the charge of manslaughter, with bail set of two hundred pounds.

An abduction charge followed two young lovers when they ran away together in June 1928. After six weeks of travelling and living together sixteen year old Unita Turner and her beau Dick Hanier, found themselves in court facing an unimpressed Mr Turner, the girl's father and Sergeant Caban. The star crossed lovers also faced the issue of Mr Hanier already being married. They had met two years earlier at Rockdale Station but the Turners had sent Dick packing as their daughter was too young. Her mother later relented and by the time she was sixteen, Hanier was boarding with the family. However, once the fact of his marriage became common knowledge, he was thrown out of the house and young Unita went with him. Their travels took them from Sydney, to Newcastle, West Maitland to Dungog; at Tenterfield they bought a tent and started to walk to Byron Bay. Once there, they worked on a farm for three weeks. However, Unita had tired of their trek and wanted to go home...time to face the music. Bail was allowed at £60 and Sergeant Caban was happy for it to be paid and stated:

*"The worst thing is that he cannot marry the girl!"(122)*



Left: Sergeant Caban  
Trove. (2016). *DOWN HIGH WAYS  
AND BY WAYS - UNITA'S ODYSSEY  
When Charming Sweet Sixteen  
Trudged the Road to Romance  
THE PROSAIC AFTERMATH - Truth  
(Sydney, NSW : 1894 - 1954) - 24  
Jun 1928. [online] Available at:  
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/168700913?searchTerm=%22sergeant%20caban%22%20rockdale&searchLimits=sortBy#>  
[Accessed 28 Apr. 2016].*

The same month, a habitual vagrant was causing problems for Sergeant Irvine at Rockdale. The good looking and attractively dressed young lady was reaping a harvest by pretending to faint in front of the shops of sympathetic tradesmen. (123) Once being assisted by the men, she would pick their pockets or ask for money. Many complaints had been received by the local constabulary, so when Sergeant Irvine became suspicious of a certain young woman's behaviour, he interviewed the lady in question, arrested her and removed her to the Rockdale Police station. However, another tragic case was about to unfold for the local police staff.

#### The Ghastly Crime at St. Elmo

The stately house "St Elmo" designed by the respected architect William Kenwood, was situated in Harrow Road, Bexley. It was the home of the Palmer family until 1928, when three members of the



Palmer family and their housekeeper were murdered by a deranged relative. The story filled the newspapers for weeks and helped to create reputations for the police involved.



*Left: St. Elmo  
Upload.wikimedia.org.  
(2016). [online] Available  
at:  
<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/f2/BexleyHouse.jpg/220px-BexleyHouse.jpg>  
[Accessed 29 Apr. 2016].*

On the 1 November 1928 the shocking tragedy was played out in the Palmer home, resulting in the deaths of three woman and a man, with another man hospitalised in a critical condition. The dead were: Garnet Robert Robb, (42), a returned World War One soldier, Miss Jessie Ada Palmer (49), a nurse, Mrs. Edith Phoebe Palmer (39), Mrs. Edith Astley, (60) their housekeeper. (124) The wounded man was Joseph Palmer,(83) the almost blind and invalid father-in-law of Mrs. Palmer, who died a few days later in hospital. The tragedy was discovered by a family friend, Mrs Bagnall, when she called at the house. Edith Palmer had been a great worker for charity and was very well known and popular in Rockdale. Robb, a farmer from Nimbin, was somewhat of a religious zealot and a nephew of Joseph Palmer. He shot his female victims with a rifle as they were at lunch and Mr Palmer as he was resting on a couch on the veranda. He then barricaded himself in an upstairs room, with two rifles and a hundred rounds of ammunition, before committing suicide. Two Palmer sons and a daughter Yvonne, survived the massacre. The friend, Mrs Bagnall drove frantically to Rockdale Police station, summoning Constables Collis and A J Wilson, who raced back to the house and did what they could for the wounded whilst awaiting the arrival of the ambulances. With Sergeant Hale, the aforementioned police reconstructed the crime for a coronial report. They also had to greet sixteen year old Yvonne Palmer upon her return from Business College and tell her the sorry tale.





*Left: Mrs. Claude Palmer*

*(Edith Phoebe)*

*Trove. (2016). Woman's World - News  
(Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954) - 7 Nov 1928.*

*[online] Available at:*

*<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/129021121?searchTerm=%22shooting%20tragedy%20at%20rockdale%22&searchLimits=> [Accessed 29 Apr. 2016].*

The New Year brought with it crimes of housebreaking, when on the 18 January 1929 a burglar entered the home of Mrs Thelma Lillian Morris at Rockdale. (125) The robbery took place at midday when the occupant was at home. The robber grabbed Mrs. Morris by the arm and hit her with an iron bar, but she managed to break away from him and screamed for help. The burglar ran off and Mrs. Morris' screams brought Constable Stephenson who was walking nearby, and with another policeman, they gave chase in a motor car. However, the criminal had a head start, running to Arncliffe Station where he jumped onto a passing train and escaped capture.

Spring of 1929 saw the tables turned on three men as they attempted to burgle a jeweller's shop in Frederick Street, Kogarah, when they were frustrated by the curiosity of a man passing by. Late that evening, Adam Fotheringham heard the sound of breaking glass. Approaching the shop he sighted one man in the doorway and two men standing outside the shop. Fotheringham noticed that the large plate-glass window of the shop was broken and glass was all over the street kerb. When the thieves noticed the passer by, one of them produced a revolver and pushed it into his ribs, telling him to move on. Fotheringham left the scene and sought out some local policemen; Constables

Carney and Collis, of Rockdale, and Sergeant North and Constable Cowden, who were on the night patrol. The officers searched the area but could not trace the thieves. It appeared that no articles had been stolen from the shop, so Mr Fotheringham had foiled the robbery. (126)

Rockdale Police Station had been in existence for a considerable time when, on the 10 September 1929, tenders were called for renewals, repairs and painting of the building through the Public Works Department. There were eight tenders in total, with Mr. F. W. Beaumont winning with the lowest bid of £68. (127)

The safebreakers were back in Rockdale later that month with three suspects arrested after an attempt to break open a safe at the Acme Picture Theatre, Princes Highway, Rockdale. Early one morning, around 3 am, Constable Brodie disturbed the thieves who made their escape, leaving a car which was traced to a Surry Hills address. (128) The thieves were aged between eighteen and twenty four years and a search of their premises turned up the belongings from at least six safes, as well as a loaded revolver and safe breaking equipment. Their modus operandi was to remove the safe from the premises via a motor car, then cut them open at a quiet, secluded spot. The three men were eventually arrested and charged with breaking and entering a theatre and a garage at Kogarah. There were another set of safe breakers working at the same time who were using gelignite to blow open the safes. The business community of Rockdale were at risk from this behaviour and the local police were hot on the trail.

In early October 1929, a brawl at the Grand Hotel was in all the newspapers due to the sheer number of people involved. Mr. O'Brien, manager of the hotel, unsuccessfully tried to stop the disturbance, before summoning the police. Two hundred men were initially involved inside the hotel, with another four hundred other men and women who tried to force their way in to see what was going on. Two rival gangs were the instigators, one group of which had arrived at the hotel in a lorry. Sergeant Irvine and Constable Wilson rushed to the hotel and had to draw their batons and threaten the fighters before they could restore peace. The hotel floor and walls of the bar were splattered with blood, and a large number of men were bleeding from cuts about the head, face, and hands. The police eventually stopped the fight and three arrests were made and five men were taken to hospital; a number of other suspected fighters escaped in a car, observed by Constable

Wilson. Of the five in hospital, two refused to give their names, but the other three were named in the press:

*“Thomas Carey, of English-street, Brighton-le-sands, cuts on the head. James Franklin, of Bestlc-street, Rock-dale, cuts on head and hands, and bruises. John Bowler, of Bonar-street, Arncliffe, slight concussion and cuts.” (129)*

*Left: The Grand Hotel  
Pix0.agoda.net.  
(2016). The Grand  
Hotel, Rockdale.  
[online] Available at:  
[http://pix0.agoda.net/hotelimages/862/862285/862285\\_15021811000025422760.jpg?s=800x600](http://pix0.agoda.net/hotelimages/862/862285/862285_15021811000025422760.jpg?s=800x600) [Accessed 4 May 2016].*



Similar to a story my father once told me about a rabid dog in Bondi, a huge white bulldog terrorised the locals of Railway Street, Rockdale for two weeks from late October to early November 1929. (130) People were bailed up and too afraid to walk the streets, having to make detours to avoid the angry canine. A RSPCA officer had been attacked when he attempted to lasso the animal and then went for help from the Rockdale Police force. The two men then drove back to the property and the Constable jumped out and walked towards the dog. Once the dog was close, the Constable placed a well-directed bullet into the animal. These two last stories were an example of the varied career of a Rockdale Policeman; that of mad dogs and drunken brawls.

The Depression had tragic consequences for so many people; with financial woes sometimes leading to fatal circumstances. On the second last day of 1929, a young man's worries led to his eventual suicide at the Acme Garage, Princes Highway, Rockdale. A passer-by had heard the dying man's groans from inside the building and telephoned Rockdale Police station. Sergeant Bridge, along with the owner of the business, Mr Pedler, proceeded to the building. (131) There they found twenty eight year old Charles Donald Pedler, the owner's brother, with a gas ring and an overcoat over his head. He passed away soon after despite the hard work of a St George Ambulance Officer and Doctor John. J. Gearin of 588 Princes Highway Rockdale for over two hours. Doctor Gearin had the same month donated £15/15 to help build the St Joseph's Convent at Rockdale and was well known in the district.

### The Thirties

The new decade brought more crime for the police to deal with in Rockdale; car accidents increased as more cars flooded the local roads. The problem of youth risk taking and drink driving was not to be limited to the future. April Fool's Day saw Mr. W. Napier of Forest Road Bexley sideswiped by a speeding car as he was driving along Princes Highway, Rockdale. (132) The eighteen year old man who was driving the speeding car at fault found himself trapped upside down in a vacant block after his car ran off the road. Luckily he escaped with minor injuries but was charged at Rockdale Police station with driving a motor car whilst under the influence of liquor. The modern event of the "Booze Bus" would have made the Thirties policeman's life a lot easier.

Sometimes it is not easy to tell who the criminal is and who are the police, especially with modern under cover situations. However, the same problem occurred in September 1930, when a police patrol car chase and subsequent arrest with guns drawn, led to another passing motorist to believe he was witnessing an armed robbery taking place. (133) He then drove to Rockdale Police station at speed to make a citizen's report. The laughs that would have ensued when the wireless patrol received a message that they had been reported for a holdup would have echoed throughout the station; sadly however, not all inquiries were this humorous for the local police.

On the 6 October 1930 Detective Sergeant Langworthy, of Kogarah, with Sergeant Bridge, officer in charge of Rockdale police, were instructed to make inquiries into a bus smash at Rockdale in which three people were killed and about forty others injured. (134) The drivers of both vehicles made statements regarding the cause of the accident. One driver, William McAcham, aged twenty three, of Bexley, was interviewed from his hospital bed at St. George Hospital where he had been admitted with concussion and back injuries.

Sadly, tragedy could strike the lives of all the residents of Rockdale, even those of their serving police officers. In late December 1930, the twenty seven year old son of Sergeant Hibbard of Rockdale station was killed in a bike speedway accident at Wentworth Park. Geoffrey "Buss" Hibbard was thrown against the fence when he rear ended another rider, causing a fractured skull, ribs and arm. (135) The successful and well respected Hibbard passed away in hospital from his injuries. He had been one of the first Australian riders to try his luck on the English and Continental speedways with great success, being in his best form at the time of the accident. This tragedy would haunt Sergeant Hibbard for the rest of his career.

Even closer to home, Constable Cole was knocked down was knocked off his police bicycle by a motorist who sped away after the collision, which had occurred at Princes Highway Rockdale. (136) Constable Cole had been hit from behind, with him escaping serious injury...his bicycle was not so lucky! No driver was ever caught for the offence. After Sergeant Hibbard's recent loss of his son and the injury sustained by a fellow officer, no wonder he was agitated when he saw the following events occur.

On the 19 September 1931 Sergeant Hibbard played the main role in a wild car chase through Rockdale and Banksia. (137) The fugitive's car eventually ploughed into the stone wall underpass at Banksia railway station and at one stage of the chase the Sergeant fell from the running board of the escaping car; luckily he was unhurt by his fall. Once again liquor was involved with the incident, with two men being charged with being under the influence. The first driver had been charged after running up onto the footpath by Constable Boyd and after his arrest another intoxicated man took to the wheel. Sergeant Hibbard gave chase and jumped onto the running board of the car, which by this time was zig-zagging across the road, causing pedestrians to jump out of its path. Hibbard had to

leap from the vehicle and rolled onto the footpath to safety and commandeered a passing car to give chase before the car crashed into the wall. Sergeant Hibbard happily arrested the second driver on the charge of driving under the influence of alcohol.

Often the police had to deal with laws that were hundreds of years old as in the case in October 1931, when five builders were charged with working on Sundays. Sergeant Bridge alleged that the men contravened the three hundred year old Sunday Observance Act of 1671, passed during the reign of Charles II. Neighbours' complaints to Rockdale Police had led to the charges of the construction workers; being the first case of its kind.

*"Any person, being of the age of 14 years, or tradesmen, artificer, or workman, labourer, or other person whosoever doing or exercising any labour or work of his ordinary calling upon the Lord's Day or any part thereof, works of necessity and charity only excepted. The convicted person shall forfeit the sum of £5, in default two hours in the stocks."*  
(138)

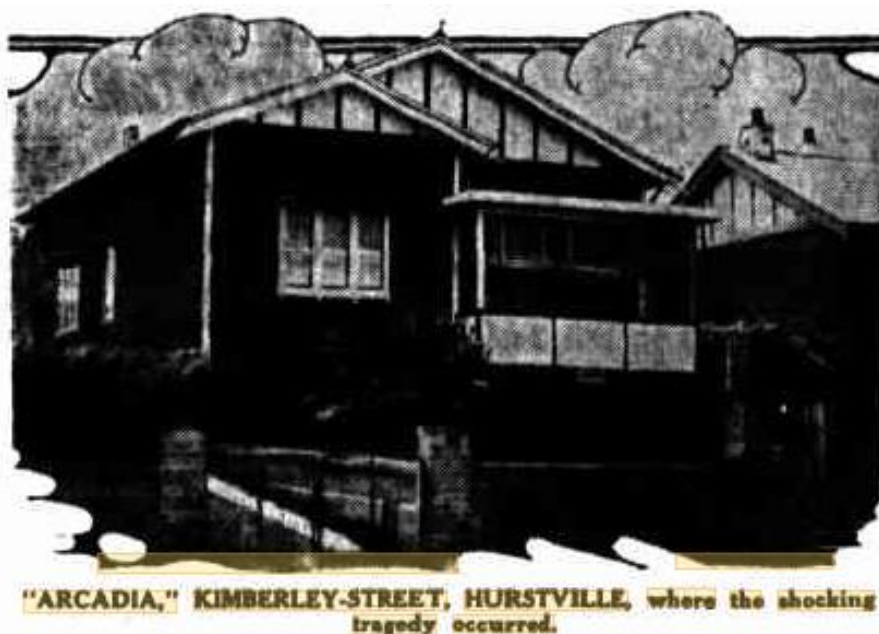
Detective Sergeant Arnold also had to deal with another aged law in July 1932, when Mabel Florence Green, aged thirty eight, was charged with bigamy. (139) Green had originally plead guilty to the offence, but after some consultation with the Judge, changed her plea to not guilty due to the circumstances involved. Green stated she had received a telegram saying her first husband was dead, however Detective Sergeant Arnold was unable to ascertain the truth as the originals had been destroyed. The detective also dealt with a case of housebreaking the same month, when he arrested two youths in Monahan Avenue, Rockdale. He had surprised them near a tobacconist's shop, resulting in a fight; Sergeant Arnold eventually overpowering and handcuffing one thief; the other ran away and escaped justice. The first young man was taken to Rockdale Police Station where he was charged with breaking and entering into numerous houses in the Rockdale district. (140)

The Acme Picture Show at Rockdale was once again the victim of safebreakers in September 1932. Manager Mr Frank Edson was involved in a desperate fight in the vestibule area of the theatre one morning. (141) Mr Edson was able to cry out for help whilst fighting the intruder, who fled only to be captured by Constable Wilkinson after an exciting chase through the streets of Rockdale. Nothing

was stolen from the safe, the robbery had been foiled when fifty five year old Edson had gone to work to complete some paperwork and caught the thief trying to break into the safe. The safebreaker then attacked Mr Edson with an iron bar, causing head injuries. The fit Constable Wilkinson had been on traffic duty at the Seven Ways and heard his cries, jumping over an iron grille at the theatre entrance. The culprit was eventually charged with breaking and entering.

In October 1932, a man was caught in the act of climbing through a window of a block of flats at Rockdale. An observant local woman had informed Constable Peters that she had espied the man in the act and the Constable , with Constable Wilson caught the said man inside the units, wearing a black mask and carrying an iron bar. (142) Constable Wilson used his revolver to cause the would be thief to surrender with his cache of stolen jewellery and bank notes. Despite carrying the weapon of choice of the time, an iron pipe, the criminal surrendered quietly to his fate.

Sergeant North was involved in a tragic murder in November 1932, at “Arcadia”, Kimberley Street, Hurstville, when John Henry Bent slashed his wife Lily’s throat after sending their children out of the house to a neighbour to call an ambulance.



*Left: Arcadia, Kimberley Street, Hurstville. Trove. (2016). Dying Husband On Bed Beside Viciously Slashed Wife - STUNNING Tragedy Smashes Devoted H'VILLE COUPLE. [online] Available at: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article169139106> [Accessed 9 May 2016].*

Constables Truman and Hollingworth and Sergeant North discovered a blood-stained razor blade on a dressing-table and a note written by Bent. The neighbours were surprised that they did not hear a

thing and did not realise what was going on until they saw the ambulance and police car! Mr Bent was a returned soldier, having been severely gassed in the trenches and had suffered a nervous breakdown prior to the murder. This murder surprised the entire neighbourhood and the family was remembered as being quiet and well behaved for the twelve years they had lived in Kimberley Street.

Cowboys and Indians was the game of choice for most children growing up in Rockdale. Most children just had fun but for ten year old Ronald Vivian Simpson, the game came to a tragic end. One Sunday in November 1932, young Ronald was strangled in his playroom whilst standing on his tiptoes, strangled by a leather strap. Detective-Sergeant Geldhardt and Constable Wilson believed that the boy had been playing both hero and villain and had reached up and placed the leather belt on a nail nearly six foot up on the wall. (143)

A simple bag snatch in Arncliffe in December 1932 resulted in a car chase from Bexley to Rockdale. Miss Muriel Hughes had been walking along Wollongong Road at Arncliffe, when a passing car pulled into the kerb, and a passenger jumped out and snatched her handbag, then rushed back to the car and drove off. (144) A passing motorist driving a lorry pursued the thieves through Bexley to Rockdale before calling upon Constable Peters, who had been on traffic duty and the chase continued along Prices Highway to Tempe. The chase concluded in St Peters where the thieves abandoned the car and the stolen handbag; sadly the contents were missing, a total of sixteen shillings.

December also saw Constable King attacked near the Sea Breeze Hotel at Tom Ugly's Point, when he attempted to save the son of the proprietress from assault. The three men involved in the attack on Constable King had first attacked Harold Sydney Westbrook when he refused to sell them alcohol and then the police officer when he came to Westbrook's aid. (145) The attackers ran off but were arrested by Rockdale police and charged with assault on the two men.



Police were often under attack, as in this assault by the two brothers in December 1932. Vincent Anthony Stevens, twenty four, a presser, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, with his brother, John Joseph Stevens, twenty seven, also a presser, originally sentenced to two months gaol, but later it was suspended to a £60 bond. Constable King was paid £10 compensation; he had to attend hospital for five weeks after the attack for treatment.

Sometimes the original street patrol would uncover evidence of crimes to come. While he was on patrol duty in West Botany Street, Rockdale in February 1933, Constable Vogan discovered a motor car with a complete set of housebreaking tools and explosives, possibly for use in safe breaking activities. With Constable Lambert's assistance he arrested one man after a violent struggle but another man escaped despite a volley of shots fired at him. Subsequently, three suspects were arrested, one of whom were in possession of a large set of bolt cutters. The men were suspected of being involved in another robbery at Enmore Theatre earlier in the year. (146)

In April 1933, an on duty Rockdale policeman found a lock up open and ransacked by burglars on his beat. A strong smell of kerosene and capsules of potash caused Detective-Lawrence, Detective Sergeant Quinn, Detective Sergeant Hale, and Detective Miller to arrest the owner of the lockup and charge him with the quaint crime of incendiarism. (147) This case became quite newsworthy when the owner, well known sporting and local business personality Percy Wentworth, was committed for trial for maliciously attempting to set the premises alight. (148) Constable Wilson had been first on the scene and had discovered that someone had stopped the burglar alarm and the locks had been forced from the inside. Wentworth's stock was insured for £2000 and he owed £951 in debt; he was allowed bail of £80 and committed for trial.

The residents also brought their own law to the area, as in the case in July 1933 at Bruce Street Brighton, the home of Mr. W.E. Lemaire, when the homeowner caught a thief escaping through a window. A tussle ensued with blows exchanged; with the result of the burglar being knocked out by the homeowner. Mr Lemaire then phoned Rockdale Police and Constables Collard and Wilson arrived to finish the arrest. The thief was found with various items and was charged at Rockdale Police station with breaking and entering. (149)

Everyday violence was part of the policeman's lot as seen in the situation in February 1934 when a man with a razor fought the police and ambulance officers. A telephone call had sent Sergeant Kinkead and Constable Wilson to a house in Brighton le Sands, where they had come upon two men locked in a desperate struggle. (150) One of the men had sustained a severe wound to his neck and was holding a razor. The police officers had a battle to subdue the man, as did hospital staff upon his admittance. The man was later transferred to a mental ward due to his state of mind. The next month the officers faced an attempted suicide in their station cells. The drunken offender had been arrested at Arncliffe and then tried to hang himself with his shirt in the cell. Constable Williams had to break into the cell and pull the man down, saving his life. (151)

Brawls, whether in the street or in private residences, were also an issue at times for Rockdale police. (152) In May 1934, four men and a woman were arrested following a brawl in a house in Undercliffe. When police arrived at the house, they were greeted at the gate by a man covered in blood and upon entering, they found seven people lying around the house, most with head injuries. There were pools of blood everywhere and most of the furniture was smashed to pieces; all five were taken to Rockdale Police station and charged.

Being under arrest at Rockdale Police station could sometimes be dangerous, at times deadly. There was a police investigation into the death in hospital of young Albert Penrose in June 1934. (153) He had been picked up lying unconscious in the street by a Rockdale police constable, who had believed him to be drunk. When Penrose failed to recover he was taken to hospital, where he died without regaining consciousness. There was no suspicion of foul play, rather a sad case of misadventure from alcohol.

The arrest of three suspects was made at Arncliffe in January 1935 after a chase over fences and through local backyards when three men were seen loitering outside a house. (154) The police were notified and Sergeant Kinkead and Constables Brown and Cole sped to the house in question. They spied three men who were by then inside the house. Two ran out and were chased down by Constables Brown and Cole, who climbed fences and leapt over other obstacles. The third man had locked himself inside a room of the house, where he was eventually persuaded to surrender to

police. All three men were charged with breaking and entering the property. Police also dealt with another suicide in January 1935, when Roland Kair, aged thirty three, was found shot dead in his home at James Street, Rockdale. (155) Sergeant Kinhead and Constable Cole forced open the locked door of his room and found him dead on a couch; a rifle lying nearby. Neighbours stated that Kair had been unemployed for some time and was obviously suffering from a depressed state of mind.

When a horse drawn baker's cart bolted at Kogarah in April 1935, a nineteen year old bravely tried to stop it by leaping from an adjacent car into the swaying cart. He was thrown from the horse but saved small children who had been playing in the path of the runaway steed. The horse kept running in fear until it was stopped by a motor cycle policeman. William Rigley was the brave young man and with his older brother Michael, of Railway Street, Banksia. (156) they had stopped the horse. It had been Michael who had driven the car and William who had leapt onto the horse. As a result William had his wrist badly sprained, his nose broken and he suffered lacerations and severe abrasions to his body. Detective Gee, of Kogarah, went to Rigley's assistance, and took him to hospital. Meanwhile, Constables Cole and Harrison of Rockdale police chased the horse and eventually Constable Cole stopped the horse in a side street. Transport of the day still consisted of horse drawn vehicles as well as bicycles, motor cycles and ever increasing motor cars. Travelling to and from work provides its own risks, as forty two year old Constable Jefferson Browne found to his dismay, when he was thrown from his bicycle in Princes Highway Rockdale in May 1935. (157) He had been involved in a collision with a car and received scalp wounds and shock; there were no bicycle helmets in those days!

Drink driving was a crime that was on the increase, especially around the Christmas period of the same year, when three men were fined at Kogarah Police Court for driving motor vehicles whilst under the influence of liquor.

*Manuel Townsend, 44, whose offence concerned a lorry in Croydon-road, Hurstville, on December 20, had to pay £8. Sergeant North stated that the man had collided with a car, resulting in a child being admitted to hospital with a serious injury. John Henry Dean, a manager, was fined £5 for a similar offence with a motor car along Princes Highway, Rockdale, on December 21. It was stated by Constable Browne that the speedometer of a police cycle showed 45 miles an hour when Dean's car*

*was being pursued. Charles Henry White, 49, had to pay £5 for his lapse of road driving manners, which in his case occurred along General Holmes' Drive, Brighton le Sands, on December 21. (158)*

New Year's Eve was often a problem for alcohol fuelled behaviour, as in the case of Arthur Raby Copp, a well-known dentist from Railway Street Rockdale, who was charged with being drunk and disorderly, as well as assaulting Constable Brown. (159) He had been drinking at the Royal Hotel, Rockdale, with a history of drunken violent behaviour and struck the officer as he was being arrested. The magistrate convicted the dentist and fined him a total of £4; £2 on each charge, with a gaol alternative. The drunken behaviour continued into the New Year when twenty four year old Donald Vincent Jack, a glass cutter, admitted to having consumed a few drinks. He had been driving whilst barely able to stand upon his arrest and was unable to state the time when prompted by local police at Rockdale station. His few drinks had consisted of two quarts of wine; he was fined £5 for drunken driving and his license was suspended for six months. (160)



*Left: Dentist Arthur Raby Copp  
Trove. (2016). Rockdale Dentist  
Was Copped [online] Available  
at:  
[http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/  
article/169595198?searchTerm=  
constable%20%22jefferson%20b  
rowne%22&searchLimits=  
\[Accessed 14 May 2016\].](http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/169595198?searchTerm=constable%20%22jefferson%20browne%22&searchLimits=)*

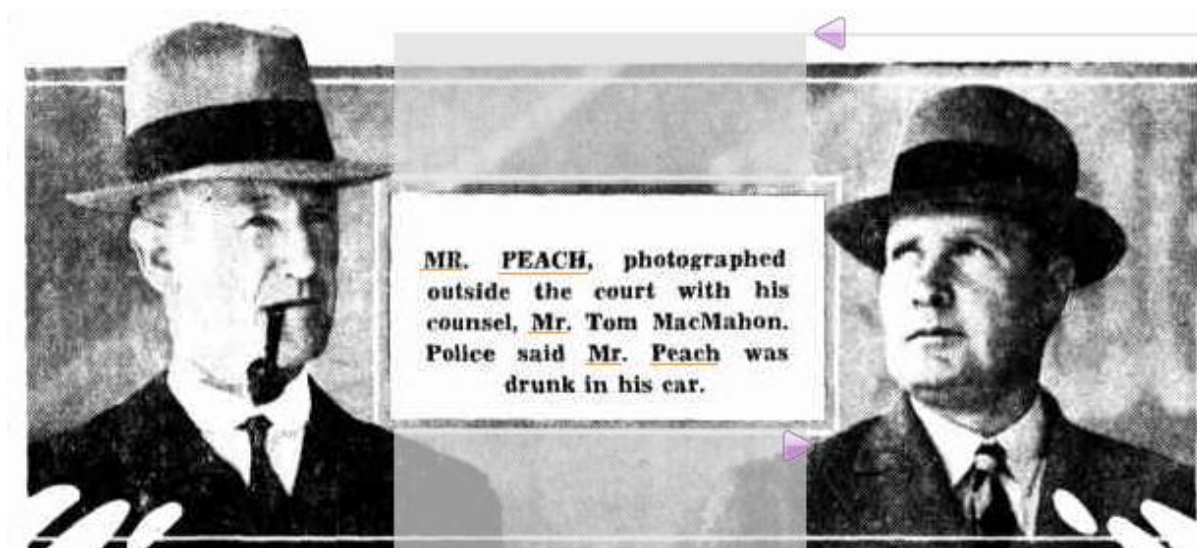
Police events were also caused by religion, or rather the lack of it, as when storekeeper Thomas Kelly was fined £2 and ordered to pay fifteen shillings compensation for maliciously damaging the front door of a house belonging to Albert Edward Mather, of Farr Street Rockdale. Kelly pleaded guilty and was also fined a further £6 for damaging the front veranda and walls of the same house. (161) Constable Boyd questioned Kelly regarding his impulsive act which was claimed to have been caused by suspected interference by Mather upon his family affairs. Kelly blamed Mather for influencing his son's enthusiasm for atheism and criminal activities; the Judge found the reasoning unfounded.

Sad suicides continued to haunt the police with the inquest of John Henry Pocock, a fifty two year old master printer of Chapel Street, Rockdale in October 1936. (162) Constable Colless had met Pocock when he had called at the Police Station and mentioned his concerns regarding taxation claims. Soon after, Pocock's body was found hanging from a branch of a tree on the polo ground. Pocock had also visited a nearby shopkeeper and asked to have his will witnessed. A suicide note found upon his body mentioned a gambling addiction and the fact that his wages had been garnisheed. There had been many opportunities for people to divert the tragedy as Pocock had spoken and acted as one in distress; the Coroner recorded a verdict of suicide for the poor man.

The local constabulary were sometimes the victim of crime within their own beat. Constable Colless had his high powered sedan car stolen from out the front of his Rockdale home on Tuesday 28 October 1936. Three children truanting from school, two aged ten and one aged fourteen, stole the car and went on a joyride around the local area and parts of the Illawarra region for hours. (163) The errant children were eventually seen by Constable Gilbert whilst on a police motor cycle, travelling along General Holmes Drive. The older boy reached speeds of over fifty miles per hour before Gilbert forced the car into the sandy edge of the road. The three children were given a severe talking to by the local Sergeant at the station and were then allowed to go home. In January of the next year thieves ransacked the Bexley home of the Sergeant, Alexander McClung in broad daylight. (164) The brazen thieves turned out every drawer in the house and made away with his revolver pouch, baton and various pieces of jewellery. Sergeant McClung came home from duty to find the mess left behind and ironically had to investigate his own theft.

## The Alfred Norman Peach Case

Some cases pique the public's interest more than others and the charging of Alfred Norman Peach for drink driving filled the newspapers for weeks and led to an ongoing legal battle for the arresting officer. Forty seven years old Peach was well known in tennis circles and real estate when he was caught driving under the influence at Beaconsfield Street, Bexley on 8 January 1937. Sergeant Alexander McClung and Constable Vogan had followed Peach after seeing him driving in an erratic manner and approached the vehicle when he stopped in the middle of the road. He refused to show his licence and resisted arrest both at the scene and at the police station. Constable Archie Boyd, also of Rockdale Police station, stated in court that Peach kicked the cell door and verbally abused him whilst in the cell. All three police officers were in agreement that Mr Peach was intoxicated when he was arrested.



*Above: Mr Alfred Norman Peach (left) and Mr Tom MacMahon (right)*

*Trove. (2016). Bexley Real Estate Man On Drunken-Driving Charge - NORMAN PEACH BEFORE KOGARAH CT.:*

*DENIES POLICE ALLEGATIONS - Truth (Sydney, NSW : 1894 - 1954) - 24 Jan 1937. [online] Available at:*

*<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article169605703> [Accessed 14 May 2016].*

Peach was a former Davis Cup Captain and denied all charges laid, stating that he had only consumed five whiskies and had not resisted arrest. Supported by solicitors, his perfect driving record and clean police record was tendered as supporting evidence in court. Peach also claimed a

loose bolt in his car caused it to be travelling erratically. (165) Peach's defence called family, friends, colleagues and a motor mechanic to give evidence, however, bail was allowed in total of £20 before Peach was fined £5 in default ten days gaol.

It was back to basics in April 1937, with an early morning chase and arrest at Rockdale by Constable King. A series of robberies from shops along Princes Highway, Rockdale had caused the police to set up watch, the thief generally entering a shop through the roof, by lifting a sheet of iron, or through a fanlight. Over a hundred pounds worth of radios and assorted goods had been stolen in the five robberies so far. At four in the morning Constable King sighted a fourteen year old male and gave chase after he had left the backyard of a hardware store. After the first arrest, the police took into custody the boy's brother, seizing about £50 worth of radio goods; the brothers were charged at Rockdale police station. (166)

In May 1937, Constable Jefferson Davies Browne gave evidence at the Starting Price Betting Royal Commission on Police that his career had come to a screeching halt over the case, claiming that he had been transferred to another police station due to the arrest of a wealthy local man:

*"For doing my duty in a fearless, honest manner I was transferred from Rockdale police station to Marrickville. I arrested one of the wealthiest men in the St. George district for driving under the influence of liquor. The case was dismissed, but I worried the Premier (Mr. Stevens), the Chief Secretary (Mr. Chaffey), the Minister for Justice (Mr. Martin) and the Commissioner of Police (Mr. Mac kay) so much that they took the line of least resistance, and they transferred me to Marrickville." (167)*

Constable Browne also stated that he had been threatened and bullied by Superintendent Pattinson, who had inquired how long he had been in the force and how many children he had; four in total Pattinson had then banged the table and apparently said:

*"There will be no High School for your girls. I will send you to Milparinka. where it is all sandy blight, sore eyes, no green vegetables and all black gins, and you will be there, for; the rest of your life." (168)*

Browne had refused a bribe and arrested Mr Jack Darymple on a charge of driving a car while drunk. Letters were then written to politicians and high ranking police suggesting Browne be transferred and the case against Dalrymple was dismissed. Browne asserted that the man worried members of the Ministry so much that they took the line of least resistance and moved him to Regent Street. In the inquiry it was stated that Browne was a temperamental and overzealous officer due to his war service and it had taken that into consideration. It was also stated that there had been a charge against him over the destruction of a certain document concerning a hotel case. However, that had not been proceeded with, Browne being merely placed on good behaviour probation for twelve months. (169) Along with Constable Browne, Constables Jefferson and Davies were transferred from Rockdale. The ramifications of this case were to shatter more lives. The tragic aftermath to this case eventuated when the wealthy retired Kogarah poultry farmer, John Frederick Dalrymple, was found dead on a vacant allotment at Harrow Road, His heart was almost blown to pieces, and a shot gun with one spent cartridge in the breech was found nearby. (170) There were definitely no winners in this case.

The charge of bigamy was not common, but could arise, especially if the husband was a sailor, as in the case that occurred in September 1937. Terence Patrick Kerwin, a twenty seven year old seaman faced charges of bigamy in Kogarah Police Court placed by the aptly named Constable Court. (171) Kerwin stated he had never lived with his wife, Mrs Doris Louisa Kerwin, supported her or their child. Mrs Court had sought to divorce her husband however the final papers had not been made absolute. Miss Linda Elizabeth May Lindsay of Princess Street Bexley, had married Kerwin in a ceremony of sorts and had a child by him as well; Kerwin had told her he was a widower. The bigamist was committed for trial.

Greyhounds and stolen cars were the next cases that had to be dealt with by Rockdale Police. On the 17 October 1937 police investigated a fire that destroyed dog boxes used for the training of greyhounds at North Brighton. Rockdale Fire Brigade attended and put out the fire, luckily with little



damage done. (172) Eighteen year old twins George and Harry Phillip found themselves in trouble with the law when they offered a lift to man whilst they were in illegal possession of a car being driven by an unlicensed driver; the man turned out to be Detective Wightley! In July 1938 they faced court and were sentenced to suspended terms of six months each and ordered to pay £1 compensation to the owner, George McKenzie, of Rockdale, for damage done. The wife of a well-known dentist paid the fine for them; the twins were parentless and George was homeless; she was thanked by the Magistrate for her kindness. (173)

In December 1938 a man entered Rockdale Police station and asked for shelter as he was homeless, friendless and broke. Constable Howell refused to lock him up and the man ran off to break a window which would enable his arrest. He returned ten minutes later, stating that he had done the deed and police followed him to the shop of Rachael Sarah Kinsella, a milliner of King Street Rockdale. The man was successful in his aim and was charged with damaging a window to the value of £5. The unnamed man finally got the shelter he had sought and was placed in a cell for the night (174)

#### A Boy in a Sack

A missing child brings fear to all parents and the fear that the child is not still alive is foremost in the police officer's mind in such a situation. The Grenfell family were lucky in their case, when four year old Peter Robin Grenfell went missing in September 1939. Peter, one of seven children, had been sent to the shops with a list of items for his mother around lunchtime. When had failed to return, his mother started to search for him and after not being able to find a trace of her son, she called in reinforcements. A large search party comprising of the boy's father, over sixty locals and police from Rockdale, Kogarah and Campsie stations searched all night for the missing boy.

At 4.45 am John Stanley Moore was heading to the station for work when he heard cries coming from the creek bank. Upon searching, Moore found a tied up sack from which sobs were emanating. After tearing off the wire securing the top of the sack, Moore tipped out the missing boy, who was wet through and covered in pond slime. The meat that he had picked up from the butcher was also in the sack. Police were notified and the boy was whisked away to hospital, luckily only suffering from

mild exposure. The police returned him to his much relieved parents, however Peter could not tell them much about his escapade except that a big boy had put him in the sack. The police believed that Peter had been dumped in the blackberry bushes next to the creek and the boy had rolled into the creek in his struggles to break free. The bracken had held him out of the main waterway, thus saving him from being submerged and drowned. Detective Sergeant Arnold was placed in charge of the police investigation of the case. Like most young children Peter made a speedy recovery from his ordeal and soon was back playing with his brothers and sisters...his poor mother took a little longer to recover from her ordeal. In 1972 Peter Robin Grenfell was giving back to his community, listed as a member of Bundeena Honorary Fire Patrol, with his brother Ralph Leslie Grenfell. (175)

*Right: Peter Robin Grenfell*

*Trove. (2016). BOY FOUND TIED IN SACK. - Night on Creek Bank. PARTY'S LONG SEARCH - The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954) - 14 Sep 1939. [online] Available at: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/17630798> [Accessed 15 May 2016].*



It was back to basics for Constable McMahon and Constable Baker at Brighton in December 1939 when Constable Baker had his bicycle stolen by labourer John Day. Constable McMahon was on

special duty at Brighton le Sands when he sighted Day mounting the bicycle; he arrested him immediately and took him to Rockdale Police station. He copped an earful of indecent language for his troubles. John Day was fined five pounds with all costs for the bike and also fined three pounds for using indecent language. (176)

In October 1940, the police dealt with a domestic stabbing attack on forty five year old Paul Martin, of Valda Avenue, Arncliffe. Martin had been stabbed by his wife Maude, who had driven him out of his home with a knife. He suffered ten stab wounds to his back, abdomen and his arms and was taken to St George Hospital for treatment, reported to have been in a serious condition. Constables Overstone and Crocker arrested Mrs Martin and took her to Rockdale Police station where she was charged with inflicting grievous bodily harm. She had apparently just got out of bed and stabbed her husband without provocation. The Magistrate recommended future medical supervision for Mrs Martin. (177)

The war came to the people of Rockdale on the 23 January 1941, when a trailing target came loose from a passing R.A.A.F plane as it flew over Banksia, falling into Bowmer Street. (178) The residents took possession of the lightweight target and gave it to Rockdale Police, who then passed it on to the Royal Australian Air Force.

In February, nineteen year old Donald Curtis faced Court, charged with indecently assaulting an eleven year old school girl at Arncliffe the previous December, resulting in him being bound over for three years. (179) For the previous eighteen months, young Curtis had been a member of a religious cult, members of which abstained from sport, alcohol, smoking, dancing or even going to the pictures. The abstinence of the cult followers from everyday pleasures was blamed for Curtis' actions. Even the Police gave Curtis character references and when questioned, Detective C. Chaseling, the arresting officer, stated that Curtis was very truthful and in fact appeared incapable of telling a lie.

The same month teenager Betty Collins of West Botany Street, Arncliffe was treated in hospital after a pepper attack when she was waylaid on her way home. (180) The assailant rubbed pepper into her face and she was later treated at Kogarah Hospital suffering from shock and for inflammation to her

eyes. Miss Collins had screamed loudly which drove the man away, but he was later arrested by Constables Wilson and Cooper from Rockdale Police.

On the 8 June 1944 a motor lorry accident, in which a seventeen year old young man died, was the subject of a coronial inquiry. Alan Francis Ratcliffe was killed instantly when the vehicle turned over in Forest Road, Arncliffe. (181) Three other young men were also in the back of the lorry, two of whom were pinned under the upturned truck. The driver of the truck Frederick George Hook, denied the truck was overloaded and it had been the passenger, plainclothes Constable Miller, who had caused the accident. Miller had grabbed the steering wheel to straighten the truck when it had hit a rut in the road. It was claimed by the driver that this had caused the truck to swerve and eventually crash. Constable Chaseling, of Rockdale Police had examined the truck and stated it was top-heavy and the skid marks on the road indicated that the swerve was scarcely appreciable. There was no explanation of why the policeman was in the truck in the first place, but he may have been acting undercover.

Five armed men were arrested at gun point at Arncliffe in November 1945 after police inquiries regarding thefts of clothing and dress materials from a Wollongong tailor, Louis Harry Solomons. They were charged with breaking, entering and stealing after local police recovered goods valued at £500 from a stolen car; two of the men were also charged with having unlicensed guns. (182) The men were Ronald Singleton, twenty eight; Lionel Jennings, twenty three; Len Singleton twenty five; William Reginald John Rowley and John Brendon Parker both forty. The synchronicity of this case appealed to me as my late father worked as a tailor with Louis ten years later, just before he left the profession to become a police constable himself.

The Grand Hotel was back in the newspapers in June and July 1946, when the establishment was the victim of another cat burglar. The first occasion occurred one Thursday night whilst the staff was busy with the 6pm "swill", with a second floor bedroom being ransacked. The thief was disturbed by a staff member, Mrs Power but he escaped with £3/10/ in cash, taken from her handbag. (183) Then in July 1946, the hotel's manageress, Mrs Agnes Buckley, aged thirty five was attacked when she disturbed the burglar in her room. (184) The police believed the man had accessed the hotel by climbing onto the roof and then scaling a downpipe to the next floor. Poor Mrs Buckley had pepper thrown into her face, which damaged her eyes for a time.

The 1940's were so crime laden there were calls for Parliament to resit in order to propose an increase in penalties for crimes of violence and the Attorney General announced the Government's intention open warfare on thugs, gunmen and criminals. Still, a fierce gun battle occurred at Bexley between a prison escapee and various police officers on the 25 September 1946, with many detectives placing their lives on the line during the fracas. Sixteen year old Alexander Henry Mitchell had escaped from Emu Plains Prison Farm a week earlier and had broken into at least ten local houses during his period of freedom. (185) He was also eventually charged with intent to murder two detectives and of being in possession of an unlicensed pistol stolen from one of the homes. Nearly two hundred police had rallied to the Bexley North scrub after Mitchell had been disturbed in his latest attempted break in. Detectives Wightley and Duff and Sergeant Packett, the first three police to take chase into the scrub, crawled on their hands and knees through the dense undergrowth. After nearly hitting the detectives in a volley of shots, they returned fire and Mitchell gave himself up to police. There was a brief struggle and Mitchell was overpowered and handcuffed. Mitchell had already killed a police officer, so no one was taking any chances with him. He faced seventeen charges in the Children's Court due to his age, but was under heavy guard at the time. The charges included having shot at Detective-Sergeant Donald William Gee, Detective Cecil Ferguson Wightley and Detective Thomas Mitchell with intent to murder. Mitchell was sentenced to twelve years in prison; the owner of the unlicensed pistol was also fined £50 due to his negligence. (186)

It was not all guns and criminals for Rockdale police, sometimes they found themselves being temporary carers for wandering toddlers. In late January, a two year old boy was found by a tram driver ,Mr Jack Wilson, walking along the tram line at Brighton le Sands at 10 pm. Young Terry Line was shivering with the cold and Constable Brown wrapped him in a blanket and nursed him to sleep. (187) His mother woke to find him missing a few hours later and overheard two passing tram workers mention a child being found in the street. The co-workers directed her to Rockdale Police station where she was reunited with her wandering son. In the middle of winter, Jack Wilson again rescued a wandering baby girl along the same stretch of tram track, taking her to Rockdale Police station. (188) Another set of distressed parents, Mr and Mrs Lang, soon found themselves at the station and collected their baby girl. Like the other toddler, she had crawled from her bed in the middle of the night and went for a stroll through an unlocked door. Parents were sure to lock doors after the news of these little escape artists had appeared in the press. Finally, in March 1947 a man walked into Rockdale Police station wearing only his shirt and a pair of socks. Thirty year old Gerald

Anthony Deeney reported to police that his trousers, along with his cash, had been stolen whilst he was asleep in a nearby park. After the initial shock, and possibly a few quiet laughs, police launched inquiries into the theft. (189)

The sad multiple murders of three children was the next case Rockdale police had to deal with on the 25 August 1947. Keith Edmund Arnold, aged thirty two, was charged with the murder of his small children; Erica Margaret Arnold, aged seven, Veronica Marcelle Arnold, aged three and Edmund William Arnold aged twelve months, whose bodies were found at their home in Annie Street, Hurstville...their throats had been cut. Three year old Denise Marie had survived the gruesome attack. (190) The bodies had been found by Detective Sergeant Donald William Gee who then sought out their father in a hospital ward, suffering from a self-inflicted slashed throat, where he was deemed not of sound mind and taken to the State Penitentiary. Arnold was acquitted on the grounds of delusional insanity; a fear complex leading from a fear of body odour and his body rotting away from cancer, to believing he had been struck by lightning, signing his home away and eventually to the horrific murders.

In November 1947, nine police officers formed a cordon and tried to arrest a man who had allegedly indecently exposed himself at the Ramsgate baths. The man had escaped capture and was chased into a neighbouring house's garden by Detective Ramsay. He disarmed the man, who was brandishing a sawn off 303 rifle, by taking off his coat and throwing it over the culprit's head; Ramsay escaped being shot when a cartridge became jammed in the rifle. The man was eventually charged with indecent exposure and with having attempted to discharge a firearm at the police with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm. (191)

Sometimes, it was the police who themselves who faced the courts, as in the case of Sergeant Ernest James Hillier in December 1947. (192) The police sergeant, a veteran of over twenty five years' service with an impeccable record, was convicted of the assault of his daughter in law, Betty Alfreda Hillier. Sergeant Hillier had countered that she had assaulted him in a cross summons. A conviction was not recorded but he was placed on a ten pound good behaviour bond for twelve months. The domestic situation was dragged out in the press, much to the detriment of Hillier's police reputation.

Buried treasure turned up on a rubbish tip in January 1948 with a bundle of notes totalling about £150, was found in an old rusty tin at Banksia. The council tip was located at the time in Eve Street Banksia and the honest forager, John Saville, immediately took the tin of station. (193) By the state of decomposition the money was in, it was generally believed to have been buried at the tip for many years. Poor Mr Saville did not get to claim the cash and it was destroyed by the police.

The Grand Hotel was once again the site of a ruckus in May 1948, when Constable Walker of Rockdale, was knocked down and viciously kicked while attempting to stop a brawl. He and Constable Chaseling had tried to break up a fight between fifteen men inside the bar and as the brawl rolled outside Constable Chaseling was also kicked in the head. (194) Reinforcements in squad cars and motorbikes from all over the district sped to the hotel after a radio alarm was broadcast and peace was eventually restored. Two young brothers were later charged with having used indecent language and having assaulted police. The brawl was reported in the press as far afield as Cairns and parts of Western Australia.

In the period when reliable contraception was not easily available, female deaths often occurred due to backyard abortionists, as was the case in court in June 1948. Thirty six year old Catherine Allen was charged with the murder of Joyce Marjorie MacDonald, from complications from what was described in the press as an illegal operation. (195) Mrs Allen of Tabrett Street Banksia was released on bail of £250 with a matching surety, on the condition she reported daily to Rockdale Police station.

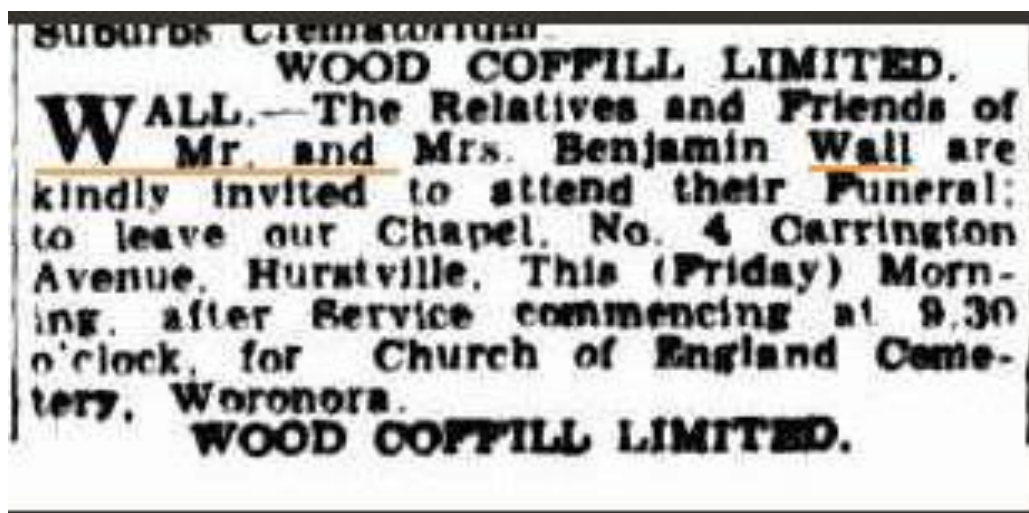
Another runaway toddler was keeping the local Police busy midwinter the same year. Barefoot and wearing only his pyjamas a two year old Laurence Field was found wandering around Rockdale streets in the middle of the night, crying for his Mummy. He was swept up and taken to Rockdale Police station by Mr J Irwin, where he was wrapped in blankets and placed in front of the fire. Police doorknocked many homes but it wasn't until Mr Elwyn Field, of Lennox Street Rockdale was found searching the streets at seven the next morning that the child was reunited with his family. (196)

A much more tragic occasion was experienced by the Rockdale staff in September 1948 when nineteen year old Charles Rice of Fripp Street Arncliffe, was killed in a motor cycle accident. (197) He

was thrown from the pillion seat of the swerving cycle into the path of a passing truck on the Princes Highway at Arncliffe. Detectives McLaren and Molloy took the bike rider to Rockdale where he was charged with dangerous driving and manslaughter. Often police will use humour to cope with such tragic work; the humour in March 1949 was provided by an errant penguin. Sounding like the start of a joke, a man had walked into the Police station with a penguin and handed it to startled Constables Martin, Reynolds and Gilmour. The penguin was kept in the exercise yard of the station and was later returned to the ocean. (198)

### The Wall Murder Suicide

Tragedy again struck on the night of the 15 November 1949, thirty four year old Benjamin Herbert Wall shot his wife, Mary May Belle Wall (nee Cooke), only twenty one years old, then killed himself. The Wall family had lived at James Street Rockdale and their two children, five year old Noel Herbert Wall and three year old Laurie James Wall had slept through the sounds of gunfire. Detective Constable Brown and police had found the bodies; Mrs Wall was found dead in the bath. Mr Wall had alerted his neighbour, Mr J Coad and asked him to call for help and gave him a note for the police. Whilst Mr Coad walked to a phone box, Mr Wall had re-entered the house and shot himself. Another neighbour, Mrs B Graham collected the children and put them to bed in her house. (199) Despite the tragic circumstances, Benjamin and Mary Wall were buried together at Woronora...



*Above: Mr and Mrs Benjamin Wall's Funeral Notice*

*Mv.ancestry.com.au. (2016). Mr and Mrs Wall Funeral Notice. [online] Available at:  
<http://mv.ancestry.com.au/viewer/a00402f1-3536-4d6e-9afd-f8b1c4703f6c/82937976/42473133581> [Accessed 27 May 2016].*



Fatal car accidents are never a pleasant event for policemen. A man bled to death from his injuries on the night of 22 July 1950, after being involved in a motor accident in the often fatal stretch of Bay Street, Rockdale. Twenty eight year old William James Taylor from Ramsgate, was driving his car when he ran into a furniture van, veering off into a stone wall. Taylor, in the time before mandatory seatbelts, was flung out of the driver's seat onto the road surface, and suffered severe head injuries including gashes to his face and throat. Despite being rushed to St George Hospital, Taylor was pronounced dead upon arrival. Three other people were injured in the accident and kept in hospital for observation.

Constable Brotherson was first to the scene and called ambulances immediately for all the victims, but nothing could be done for Taylor. Lloyd John Canovan, aged thirty, of Nielson Avenue, Carlton suffered cuts to the face and shock; Sylvia Maria Rankin, aged thirty nine, of Beach Street, Kogarah had concussion and shock; and Noelene O'Neill, also aged thirty, of Fraters Avenue, Sans Souci suffered only bruises and shock. It would be another twenty one years until seatbelts saved lives in New South Wales and the provision of traffic lights at the corner of Bay Street and Princes Highway made the intersection marginally safer. Constable R Green, of Rockdale police was given the job of the crash investigation. (200)

A few months later a car flipped and overturned after being hit by a truck on General Holmes Drive at Mascot, but luckily in this situation the two passengers escaped almost unhurt by the crash. The driver of the car was thirty five year old Frederick Jones of Hollywood Street, Kogarah and the passenger was Edward John Burrows, aged thirty two of Alice Street Ramsgate. (201) The two men were taken by ambulance to St George Hospital for treatment and were allowed to leave; the two men in the truck were not hurt in the accident. Constables K L Towers and E Wood of Rockdale Police found in their inquiries that the truck driver lost control when he had swung wide to pass another car; all men involved had a very lucky escape.

In August 1950, a thirty one year old Kingsgrove father was involved in the Coroner's Court, charged with the murder of his two children the previous June. Two year old Peter Herne and his three year old sister Jane were battered to death by their father Ernest Alfred Herne. (202) Herne had also assaulted his twenty six year old wife, Grace, before slashing his own throat. Detective Constable Gregory George Brown of Rockdale stated that Herne had used a tomahawk, a razor and a golf club

to inflict the terrible wounds. Both children had been attacked whilst they were in their beds. Quiet accountant Ernest Alfred Herne, was later found not guilty due to the fact he was insane at the time, but he was kept in strict custody for his Governor's pleasure.

A gruesome find in February 1951 was made by Constables S Wood and K Towers, of badly decomposed, decapitated remains of a man, under a shed at the rear of the Odeon Theatre at Rockdale. The police officers had been making a regular check of the premises whilst on patrol when they noticed a bad odour. The fingerprints of the corpse were taken in order to try to make a positive identification. This was achieved by using the human glove system by forensic officers; the dead man was eventually identified as Stanley Harry Hannan, aged in his mid-sixties, of no fixed address. (203) The police did not suspect foul play in this instance, but could not believe that Mr Hannan's body had not been discovered earlier as the theatre was a very popular venue and thousands of people passed by the shed every day.



*Left: Opening of the  
Rockdale Odeon 23 March  
1947*

*Pelosi, F. (2016). The  
Rockdale Odeon Theatre.  
[online] Rockdale Library.*

*Available at:  
[https://www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/library/Pages/pdf/RonRathbone2013/Pelosi\\_Fiona.pdf](https://www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/library/Pages/pdf/RonRathbone2013/Pelosi_Fiona.pdf) [Accessed 28 May 2016].*

Being hurt or killed on duty was always a risk for members of the police, as it still is today for modern police officers. In March 1951, Bay Street was once again the site of a car accident with two vehicles colliding and a local policeman being injured during the rescue of the three trapped occupants.

Thirty year old Constable Keith Lloyd Towers, from Rockdale Police station was admitted to hospital with severe concussion, shock, and possible fractured skull, after being hit by a third passing vehicle. (204) However, Towers was made of stronger stuff as he had served as a Lance Corporal in World War Two and made a good recovery.

Another pub fight was keeping the local police busy in August 1951 at a Carlton hotel, when a simple matter of arrest turned into an all in brawl involving forty men. Sergeant T. L. Howell and Constable G. C. Dobson had been knocked down and attacked by the unruly mob as they were trying to arrest five local drinkers at the Royal Hotel at Carlton. Brothers Donald Summers, aged twenty five; Clifford Summers, aged twenty three; and Kenneth Summers, aged twenty seven all of Mill Street, Carlton; Reginald Michael Peters, aged twenty, of Railway Parade, Kogarah; and George Sidney Hunt, aged twenty five of Edgehill Street, Carlton were all charged with assaulting the police, resisting arrest, behaving offensively and using indecent language. (205) It had all started with the use of offensive language and the fight broke out when Sergeant Howell had asked them to stop using such language. The five men were remanded on bail of £100 each. The hotel still stands at the corner of Jubilee Avenue and Railway Parade, Carlton, opposite the railway station.



*Left: The Royal Hotel, Carlton  
Publocation.com.au. (2016).  
Royal Hotel, CARLTON, NSW |  
Pub info @ Publocation. [online]  
Available at:  
[http://publocation.com.au/pubs/  
nsw/carlton/royal-hotel](http://publocation.com.au/pubs/nsw/carlton/royal-hotel)  
[Accessed 28 May 2016].*

The local police were called to various incidents over the years during their shifts at Rockdale Police station. On a spring day in 1951, thirteen year old Peter Reid of Gibbes Street Rockdale was shot through the stomach by schoolmate Ronald Tate, also aged thirteen, whilst playing with a military rifle. (206) The shooting occurred at Tate's home in Bestic Street Rockdale. The shooting was deemed accidental by Detective Sergeant McLachlan and Reid fought for his life in St George Hospital but he must have survived as no death notice can be found for that period.

In March 1952 young Yvonne Murdoch, aged ten had a lucky escape when the horse she was riding along the Grand Parade, Brighton le Sands, received a strong electric shock and died. ( 207) Rockdale Police officer, Constable Keith Towers instigated an investigation by Sydney County Council. The Council reported ironically that a wire to the police call box had short circuited and when passing through underground pipes, had caused the road to become live when struck by the horse's metal shoe. The girl's mother was reported to have stated the mare had been valued at £300; a very expensive accident.

Sergeant Shearer of Rockdale Police faced a difficult situation in July 1952 when an unidentified man collapsed and died on a train. His body was removed from the train at Turrella Station with the deceased carrying a weekly rail ticket for the East Hills to Sydney line being the only form of identification. He was described as being of forty five to fifty years of age, five feet and ten inches tall, had light auburn hair and was of a stout build with a florid complexion. The man had been wearing a fawn gabardine overcoat, brown scarf, maroon polo necked sweater, yellow sloppy joe shirt, dark brown sports trousers, black shoes, and a new blown hat. (208)

Also in July, there was a tragic gas leak which caused the death of an eighty four year old man and the hospitalization of his eighty two year old wife. Police had to break into the home of Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Caroline O'Toole at Ascot Road Bexley to find gas leaking from a lamp in the bedroom. (209) Mr. O'Toole was found dead in his bed and his wife lying unconscious on the floor. Sergeant T. Small gave Mrs. O'Toole artificial respiration for more than half an hour. Still unconscious and in a serious condition, she was taken by an ambulance to St. George Hospital. Mr. O'Toole had suffered from a heart attack the previous Saturday and neighbours had contacted police when they had seen the uncollected newspaper on the front lawn. Inspector F. Cranston, Sergeant T. Small, and Constable E. Wood, of Rockdale police were in charge of the enquiries.

A bull in a china shop had nothing on the bull that chased a man around a bus shelter at Bardwell Road, Bardwell Park in December 1952. (210) The man, Mr. Gibson of Kyle Bay, was terrorised for over twenty minutes before a passing truck driver came to his rescue. The truck driver opened the door to his vehicle and kept the engine running to allow Mr. Gibson to escape the mad bull. Other locals, frightened by the bull, rang the Rockdale police and soon after a police constable, assisted by a few local volunteers, rounded up the bull and put it in a paddock, to be collected later by the owner.

In July 1953, Gordon Lambert Dunn was killed near his home in Preddy's Road Bexley when a car struck him as he was returning home to retrieve tools to fix his own car. Detective Leslie McDowell, went to a house in North Bexley, where they arrested a forty three year old man and took him to Rockdale police station, where they charged him with manslaughter and failure to stop after an accident. Dunn had only married Marjorie Vera Gilbert on September 24, 1952, after returning from serving his country in World War Two. More about Mr. Dunn can be found in his biography...

*On the 10th May 1921 Gordon Lambert was born at Camden to William Lambert Dunn and his wife Winifred May. Upon joining the AMF on 29 May 1941 he was attached to 605COY where he was promoted to Lieutenant on 30th June 1942. At Victoria Barracks in Paddington NSW on the 28th August 1942 he volunteered and was accepted for service in the Australian Infantry Forces retaining his officer's rank. He served continuous service in both the AMF and AIF in Australia and overseas during his term of enlistment.*

*On the 15th June 1945 he received a promotion to the rank of Captain while attached to the 8 Base Ordnance Depot. He saw operational service at Mataranka in Australia's far north for six months from 28 October 1944 to 22 June 1945. On 13 December 1945 he embarked the Westralia at Brisbane bound for New Britain, an island off the coast of New Guinea and returned the following year arriving Sydney on 9 July 1946 via the Ormiston.*

*On the 21st May 1947 he returned to "civvy street" upon receiving his discharge from the AIF and took up his former occupation as public servant. After marrying Marjorie Vera Gilbert on 24 September 1952 at Brighton le Sands in NSW they moved to Bexley to settle down to married life.*

*He was hit by a car on 4 July 1953 and subsequently died in the St. Georges Hospital, Kogarah later that day. Following his cremation at the Eastern Suburbs Crematorium his ashes were buried in the Round Rose Garden B8. (211)*



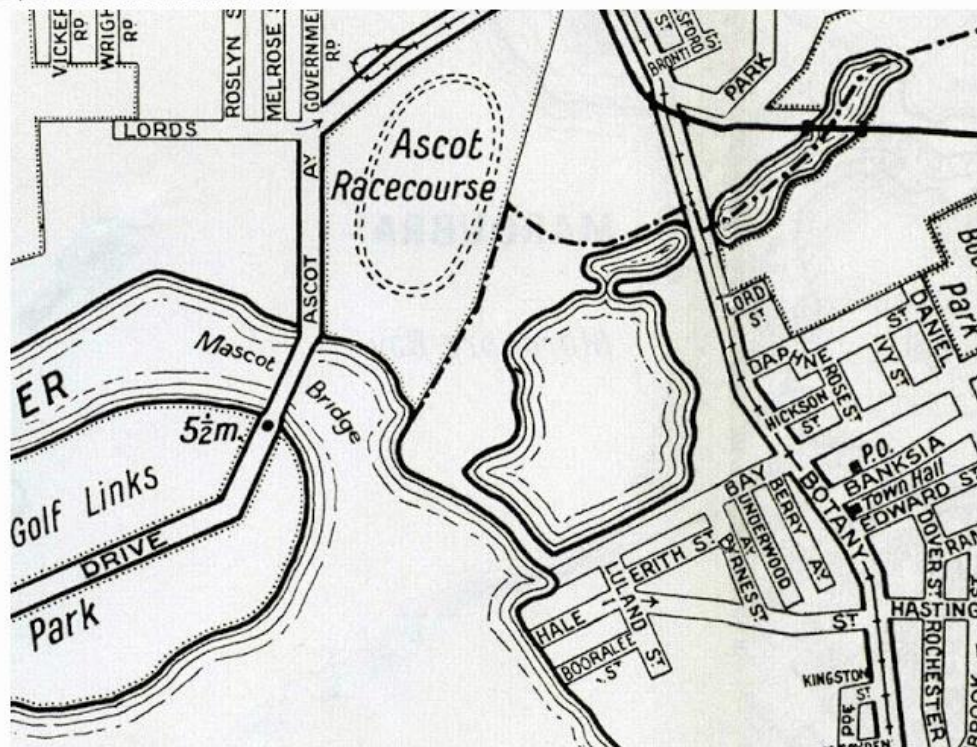
*Left: Gordon Lambert Dunn  
Mv.ancestry.com.au. (2016).  
Gordon Lambert Dunn. [online]  
Available at:  
[http://mv.ancestry.com.au/viewer/fadf1e58-63c4-433b-9e0e-c7f7c854a396/47172924/25110774381?\\_phsrc=rxN263&usePUBJs=true](http://mv.ancestry.com.au/viewer/fadf1e58-63c4-433b-9e0e-c7f7c854a396/47172924/25110774381?_phsrc=rxN263&usePUBJs=true) [Accessed 28 May 2016].*

When a local fisherman hooked a returned soldier's badge in the Cook's River in November 1953, the police thought immediately of foul play and dragged the mouth of the river looking for a body for over three hours. Mr Allen Stark had sought out the police at Rockdale after snagging the badge and Detective Sergeant McLachlan, Detective Bluett and Sergeant Shearer immediately went to the Cook's River breakwater. Another policeman, Constable Griffiths, brought a launch and rowing-boat to the site from Blakehurst Water Police Station. (212) After a thorough search they then decided to check the details of the badge and found the owner to be alive and well, living in Sydney. The policemen luckily came up empty handed, Mr Stark on the other hand, caught three nice blackfish along with the badge.



The result was not so happy the following January when a man drowned in the Cook's River whilst on a Saturday night fishing trip. Twenty nine year old married labourer John William McLeod of Wollongong Road, Arncliffe was fishing with two male relatives when they decided to return home. McLeod decided to swim to the car on the opposite bank, a distance of approximately ninety yards, but when his brothers in law Arthur John Edney and John Robinson Edney, reached the bank there was no sign of him. They quickly went to Rockdale Police station to summon help and a police search of the river directed by Sergeant C.S Johnson and with the aid of strong searchlights found McLeod's body at two in the morning. (213) An unfortunate act of foolishness led to tragic results for the McLeod and Edney families.

The original mouth of the Cooks River (which was roughly located near today's BP petrol station on General Holmes Drive) was also popular with our local fishermen. They often hauled large catches in this area and possibly nicknamed this spot 'the basket' for this reason.



Location of Mascot Bridge, Gregory's Street Directory, 1938

The fishing village of Boralee was centred around the streets of Hale, Booralee and Luland, which you can see

Above: Map Cook's River

*Historyatbotanybay.blogspot.com.au. (2016). The Cooks River Project - History @ City of Botany Bay. [online] Available at: <http://historyatbotanybay.blogspot.com.au/2013/09/the-cooks-river-project.html> [Accessed 29 May 2016].*

Young men were also taking risk at the end of the same month when five young adults were injured in a late night crash at Princes Highway Sylvania. The car went into a skid on a patch of wet road, overturned and then rolled down an embankment. All five men were taken to St George Hospital, with two in a serious condition with head injuries; Edward Bromley, aged twenty, of Como and Graham Heagney, aged eighteen, of 18 Miller Street Bexley North. Niall Dwyer, aged nineteen, of Unwin Street, Bexley, suffered lacerations; John Beddows, aged twenty three, of Strathfield, also suffered lacerations; and John Hummelstead, also aged eighteen, of Como, had minor head injuries. Bromley and Hummelstead were next door neighbours. Two ambulances took the injured to hospital, with Constable R. Howell, now of Sutherland Police, in charge of investigations. (214)

The intersection at Seven Ways Rockdale once again was proven to be a traffic black spot in March 1954 when widow Mrs. Lavinia Beatrice Tindale, aged sixty six, of Monterey Street, Kogarah, was knocked down while crossing Prince's Highway, adjacent to the Seven Ways. (215) Mrs Tindale was seriously injured with an ambulance taking her to St. George Hospital, where she was admitted suffering from head injuries, abrasions and shock. However, in this particular case, it was not a car that hit Mrs Tindale. Sergeant Shearer of Rockdale Police Station wanted witnesses who had seen a boy on a bicycle hit the lady to come forward with details. Sadly Mrs Tindale passed away six days later in hospital; her late husband, retired Sergeant Albert Owen Tindale, had only died the previous year. I would imagine Sergeant Shearer would have put his all into the investigation of the death of the mother of three.

#### A Deadly Gas

Winter 1954 saw the police, fireman and ambulance officers of Rockdale involved in the dramatic six hour rescue attempt of two Water Board employees trapped ten feet below the surface in a pipe at Rockdale. More than two thousand onlookers watched the rescue attempt of the men, who had been overcome by carbon monoxide fumes. The rescue workers recovered the bodies of overseer Douglas Hugh Bell, aged thirty six and William Wallace Yarrington aged twenty three. The water main ran under the Princes Highway, near Rockdale Town Hall and Yarrington had gone into the pipe in the afternoon to do a routine inspection but had not come back out. His overseer had gone in after him, after being notified by driver Anthony Massen and when there no answer from the second man to enter the pipe, Massen went to Rockdale Police station for help. Sergeant Small



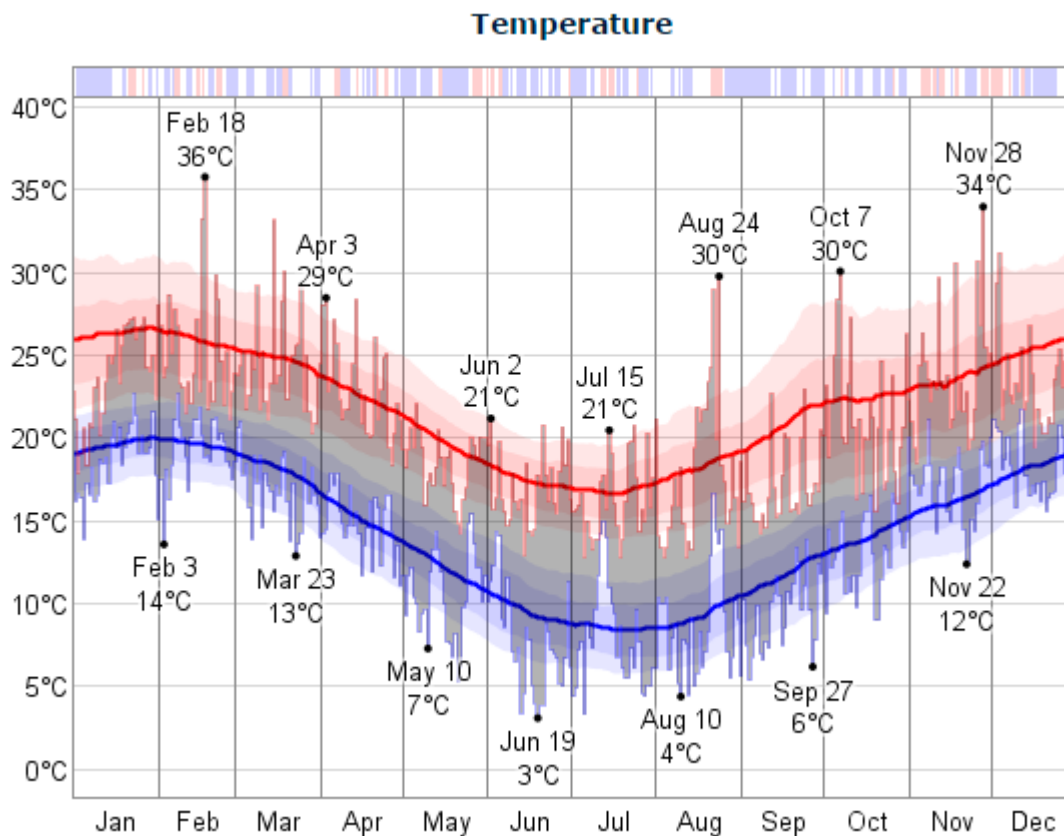
accompanied Massen to the pipe and climbed into it; he smelt a strong gas odour and retreated immediately to the surface. His appeal for help led to an influx of special rescue squad, fire brigade and ambulance officers to crawl along the pipe to retrieve the bodies. (216)



*Above and left: Gas Rescue at Rockdale*  
*Trove. (2016). DRAMATIC ATTEMPT TO RESCUE TWO*  
*MEN FROM GAS-FILLED PIPE - 2 Water Board Men*  
*Die Of Fumes In Main - The Sydney Morning Herald*  
*(NSW : 1842 - 1954) - 30 Jun 1954. [online] Available*  
*at:*  
*[http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/1842592](http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/18425927?searchTerm=water%20board%20gas%20deaths%20rockdale&searchLimits=dateFrom=1954-01-01||dateTo=1954-12-31)*  
*7?searchTerm=water%20board%20gas%20deaths%*  
*20rockdale&searchLimits=dateFrom=1954-01-*  
*01||dateTo=1954-12-31 [Accessed 30 May 2016].*

A car stealing and stripping system was disclosed in court in July 1954 when two men were committed for trial on eleven charges of having stolen cars and one charge each of having an unlicensed pistol in their possession. Thomas Henry Mills, a builder, of Burrell Street, Beverly Hills, and George Charles Cashion, a fitter, of Edgeware Road, Marrickville used a radio to tune into police reports and to steal cars. (217) They used the system of driving up to a picture show, parking their car nearby and watching people going to the pictures, usually on a Friday or a Saturday night. One of the men would then select a car and drive it out to a stripping ground at Heathcote. If the vehicle was reported stolen before they reached the stripping ground, they would leave it and come home in their own car. The cars were stolen from the Bankstown. Bexley, Rockdale, and Ramsgate areas, totalling £9,361, over a twelve month period.

The safe crackers were back in action on the 4 October 1954 when thieves escaped with a safe containing £1780. (218) They did not bother to actually crack the safe, rather they carried it away in a truck to be dealt with at a later date. The safe contained the weekend takings from an ice-cream distributor, W. G. Kendall Pty. Ltd. The warmer weather would have caused increased sales over that spring weekend, as seen in the graph below.



Above: Graph of Maximum and Minimum Temperatures for Sydney in 1954  
 Weatherspark.com. (2016). Historical Weather For 1954 in Sydney, Australia - WeatherSpark.  
 [online] Available at: <https://weatherspark.com/history/34088/1954/Sydney-New-South-Wales-Australia> [Accessed 30 May 2016]. Australia [Accessed 30 May 2016].

A local mother and son were found dead inside a tent in the Royal National Park in November 1954, apparently as the result of a suicide pact. Forty four year old Sidney Sherlock and his seventy year old mother Emily Sherlock left their Innstone Street Arncliffe home on the 1 November and drove to the National Park. (219) The son then connected a hose to the exhaust pipe of the car to a small

hiking tent, which had been tightly closed, making it almost airtight. When the site was discovered, the petrol tank of the car was empty and the ignition was still in the on position.

The last day of the 1955 financial year proved to be unlucky for prison escapee Mervyn Vincent Kingsley Holmes, aged twenty six when he flagged down a passing motorist for a ride...and found himself being arrested by an off duty policeman. Holmes had escaped from Long Bay Goal earlier that day and was spotted by eagle eyed Constable Arthur Horder near Moorefield Racecourse, at Kogarah, trying to thumb a ride from passing motorists. (220) As Constable Horder drew alongside he recognised him definitely as Holmes. Horder then chased Holmes and captured him, with both men returning to Rockdale Police station; Horder then had to go to work and Holmes back to gaol.

Two young females were locked up in July 1958 and their parents thanked the police for doing so on that particular occasion. The two girls Rae Cohen, aged thirteen and Patricia Cavanagh, aged only eleven were unhappy at Ainslie migrant hostel in Canberra and took it upon themselves to hitch hike to Sydney. (221) They had been driven to Petersham where they wandered the streets for hours before turning up on the doorstep of Rockdale Police station at ten pm. The police fed them and bedded them down on the floor of the station while they telephoned their parents in Canberra. The two girls went home with their parents the next day and were probably lectured all the way by their relieved relatives.

Rockdale had its own chapter of the Road Safety Council and in November 1959 it was regarded as the best in the state. At the general meeting that year it was recommended by the Commissioner for Road Transport, Mr Walsh, that the suffering after effects of motor vehicle accidents should be made visible, with offending drivers taken to hospitals to see the suffering of victims. Along with the Mayor, Mr H. Jones and local politicians, Inspector Boyd, of Rockdale Police, and Sergeant Norton, who was representing Superintendent Chaseling, all spoke in praise of the branch. (222) The police were often the first on the scene of motor accidents, sometimes emotionally scarring them for life.

Illegal gaming continued to be a problem for the local police, when on the eve of Australia Day 1965, sixty men, some of them pensioners, were charged with breaches of the gaming laws. (223) Rockdale Police station would have been packed to the rafters after they were apprehended by

police in a raid on a house in Stoney Creek Road, Rockdale. The police also had to deal with a crowd outside the hotel opposite the house, who heckled police as they escorted the men into police patrol trucks. It would have been a busy night processing all the paperwork involved in so many arrests.

## 2006 Closure

There were many more arrests and crimes that were covered by the press over the next few decades, however due to political and financial constraints, the decision was made to amalgamate the police presence in the St George area into the St George Local Area Command, based at the new headquarters at Hurstville. With a few satellite stations available, Rockdale Police Station's King Street premises were closed in 2006 and staff joined St George local area command. In 2009 a \$130,000 St George mobile police station was established as a trade-off for this closure, based in Brighton le Sands to keep hoons under control over the summer months. The mobile police station was equipped with a police radio, a terminal for police to access their data base, television monitors, warning lights, digital message boards and an interview room. It was one of nineteen being utilised around the state at the time. (224)

# Whoops, there goes one more cop shop

*Leader 23.04.09 p2*

AUTHORITIES say police work would not be affected after the State Government admitted Rockdale police station was to be closed as part of an asset-sale program.

A spokesman for Police Minister Tony Kelly said the closure was part of Police Force's long-standing program to dispose of surplus assets.

He said there were no plans to shut down other stations in the district and that proceeds would be used to build new "state-of-the-art police stations and make improvements to existing facilities".

St George area commander Helen Begg said the closure would not affect police work in Rockdale, resources allocated to trouble spots or response times.

Superintendent Begg said officers from the station would be transferred to Kogarah police station three minutes away.

The station has operated as a "shop front" for a few years.

"We've spend a lot of time engaging with the community," she said.

"It's important police are out on the beat, not sitting behind a desk."

Opposition police spokesman Mike Gallacher said that in spite of increased numbers of police, the Government continued to close stations that were operating well 15 years ago, like Rockdale.

"Every time you shut down a station



**To go:** Rockdale police station is the second to be closed in St George in the past year.

you take one more step away from community based policing," he said. "By centralising police resources at Kogarah you limit local knowledge."

Rockdale Chamber of Commerce president Rami Abdallah said businesses would not be concerned about the closure if there continued to be a strong police presence in the area.

Rockdale Council denied it planned to acquire the site.

A spokesman said "no official notification" was received that the site was being offered to the council.

In the meantime, Kingsgrove police station remains closed because of structural damage despite Kogarah MP Cherie Burton's lobbying to see a transit police unit stationed there.

She said preliminary talks were under way with the council about selling the site if a new station would be established.

**Should Rockdale police station be sold?**



[www.sirsidynix.net.au](http://www.sirsidynix.net.au)

Left: Leader article regarding the Police Station closure  
[Swftsw.sdp.sirsidynix.net.au](http://swftsw.sdp.sirsidynix.net.au).  
(2016). Rockdale Police Station Closure, The Leader. [online]  
Available at:  
[http://swftsw.sdp.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en\\_AU/search/asset/157125/0](http://swftsw.sdp.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/search/asset/157125/0) [Accessed 1 Jun. 2016].

# Police streets ahead



Cop that: Superintendent Helen Begg, Police Minister Tony Kelly and Rockdale MP Frank Sartor inspect a mobile police station.

Picture: Lisa McMahon

Stories by Murray Trumbath

Leader 13.08.2009 p1.

## Van replaces station

ST GEORGE will get a \$130,000 mobile police station as a trade-off for the closure of Rockdale police station.

The van, known as a command bus, will be used for police operations, targeting hot spots, maintaining order during large gatherings and educational and community relations.

Businesses leaders welcomed the announcement made at Brighton-Le-Sands on Tuesday by Police Minister Tony Kelly, who was accompanied by Rockdale MP Frank Sartor and police area commander Detective Superintendent Helen Begg.

Rockdale Mayor Bill Saravinovski said the mobile station would forever change policing in the area and would "have criminals shaking in their boots".

Mr Kelly said the mobile station, similar to one displayed at the announcement, would be supplied before Christmas. It would have a mobile data terminal linked to the police computer system, television monitor, exterior lights, a digital message board and an area for interviews.

Mr Kelly said Mr Sartor had insisted that money from the sale of Rockdale police station be put into better technology for officers.

Mr Sartor said the van would give officers more flexibility. "We are talking about police being around where they need to be, not stuck behind a desk," he said.

Superintendent Begg said similar vans were used in Miranda and Botany Bay area commands and could be used to set up operations at a moment's notice.

Brighton-Le-Sands Chamber of Commerce president Patrick Medway said his group had pushed unsuccessfully for a permanent police base near The Grand Parade but felt the van was "a good compromise".

"If there are problems in Brighton, having a police station in Rockdale is not necessarily going to help you."

Superintendent Begg said similar vans were used in Miranda and Botany Bay area commands and could be used to set up operations at a moment's notice.

Brighton-Le-Sands Chamber of Commerce president Patrick Medway said his group had pushed unsuccessfully for a permanent police base near The Grand Parade but felt the van was "a good compromise".

CONTINUED PAGE 2

## MPs stand by Rees as talk grows

ROCKDALE MP Frank Sartor is adamant he is not fuelling speculation he will stand for the top job if Premier Nathan Rees is forced out.

He and Tony Kelly, the two key figures in the leadership rumblings, had plenty to talk about when announcing the new mobile police station at Brighton-Le-Sands.

But they insisted the only topic up for discussion was buses not ballots.

Mr Kelly, reportedly one of the ministers working to replace Mr Rees, said it was "speculation by some troublemakers".

"I support the Premier, I have said that persistently," he said.

Mr Kelly said talk of a cabinet reshuffle was also "an invention" and he had been assured by Mr Rees it would not occur.

Mr Sartor said he was "doing nothing" and "waiting for nothing".

Asked if Mr Rees would lead Labor to the next election he said: "I suppose so, I see no reason why not. I don't know."

"A week's a long time in politics, but it's got nothing to do with me."

Was Mr Rees the best person to lead the Government?

"He is the current one and the current one is always the best," Mr Sartor said.

Above:

Police Streets Ahead – Van Replaces Station, The Leader 13 August 2009

Swftnsw.sdp.sirsidynix.net.au. (2016). Police Streets Ahead - The Leader. [online] Available at:

[http://swftnsw.sdp.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en\\_AU/search/asset/156771/0](http://swftnsw.sdp.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/search/asset/156771/0) [Accessed 1 Jun. 2016].

Locals missed their police station and officers and business owners in the area were rightly concerned about an inadequate police presence. In 2014, Rockdale saw seven hundred instances of damage to property, seventy robberies and over five hundred break-and-enters. The issue became a political football, with both sides promising to reopen the station, to no avail.





*Left: Rockdale MP John Flowers  
St George & Sutherland Shire  
Leader. (2012). Rockdale police  
station stays closed one year into  
term. [online] Available at:  
[http://www.theleader.com.au/st  
ory/258304/rockdale-police-  
station-stays-closed-one-year-  
into-term/](http://www.theleader.com.au/story/258304/rockdale-police-station-stays-closed-one-year-into-term/) [Accessed 1 Jun. 2016].*



NSW Opposition Leader Barry O'Farrell bemoaning the closure of Rockdale Police Station, with John Ajaka in 2009. Picture: Chris Lane

*Above: Barry Farrell and John Ajaka  
St George & Sutherland Shire Leader. (2014). Libs silent on Rockdale police station pledge. [online] Available at:  
<http://www.theleader.com.au/story/2406956/lib-silent-on-rockdale-police-station-pledge/> [Accessed 1 Jun.  
2016].*

Vale Rockdale Police Station...

## Police Officers in Rough Chronological Order of Service at Rockdale

### Constable James Joyce 1897

When James Joyce was born in 1849 in Sydney, New South Wales, his father, John, was twenty nine and his mother, Jane, was twenty seven. He was the fourth of eleven children. His father had spent time in Darlinghurst Gaol for drunk and disorderly conduct for a period of forty eight hours and his mother died in Darlinghurst Gaol in 1864, aged only forty two and leaving her youngest as two year old twins. (225) His parents behaviour must have had a positive effect on young James Joyce as he became a police officer in the mid 1870's, based on facts in his retirement coverage in the press.

He married his first wife, Margaret Connor, in 1869 in Armidale, New South Wales and by 1892 he had married his second wife, Agnes Bath. This was also the time he worked on the MacDonalddtown Murders, and the trials of the Makins. Possibly due to this infamous case he was promoted from the rank of Senior Constable to Sergeant just before Christmas Day 1902. In July 1909 Police Sergeant James Joyce retired on a pension after over thirty years' service and was tendered a retirement social at his home, 'Richmond House' in 41 Livingstone Road, Marrickville. Local politician, Mr. Carmichael, M.L.A., on behalf of the attended guests, presented Mr. Joyce with an illuminated address and Mrs. Joyce received an oak and silver biscuit barrel. (226)



*Left: 41 Livingstone Road,  
Marrickville*

*Realestate.com.au. (2016). 341  
Livingstone Road, Marrickville  
NSW 2204 - View Sold History &  
Research Property Values -  
realestate.com.au. [online]*

*Available at:  
<https://www.realestate.com.au/property/341-livingstone-rd-marrickville-nsw-2204> [Accessed  
5 Jun. 2016].*

Ex-Sergeant James Joyce, late of the Newtown Police, died at his home, in Livingstone Road, Marrickville, on the 14 May 1912; the cause of his death was heart failure.



*Above: James Joyce*

*Person.ancestry.com.au. (2016). Senior Constable James Joyce- Sketch Taken in Court at The Makin Case. [online] Available at: <http://person.ancestry.com.au/tree/20448150/person/28889883673/gallery> [Accessed 5 Jun. 2016].*



### Constable Frederick Spencer 1901

Constable Frederick Spencer was based at Rockdale in 1901, however not much is known of him. In November 1899, Spencer was listed as a member of Rockdale Swimming Club, which was based at Lincke's Brighton Baths at Lady Robinson's Beach. He swam in the seventy five yard handicap, winning with a thirty second start. He was much older than the other placegetters, Bell and Corbett, who were referred to as being just lads. (227)

In 1904 Spencer was on the receiving end of malicious, grievous bodily harm by three men. James P. Brabston, Charles Moran, and Daniel Brabston were arrested and charged with the attack on the policeman, with Spencer receiving a head wound about three inches long and a kick to the jaw. (228) The policeman tried to chase down the thugs but was unable to continue the pursuit and was eventually taken by ambulance to hospital, where he was bedridden for thirty six hours. The accused were committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions on the 31 October; bail was allowed for each in £60 and with securities of £60 each. The next year Constable Frederick Spencer was found not guilty of the charge of demanding money with menaces. He was accused by Andrew Rodgers of threatening to make false allegations; i.e. to accuse Rodgers of cattle stealing. (229) Constable Spencer was last heard of holidaying with his father, Mr. W. Spencer in Cudgen during 1936.

### Constable T. McTaggart 1901 - 1903

Constable McTaggart was based at Rockdale Police station for only four years and was obviously held in high regard by the locals. In May 1903, at a special general meeting of the Rockdale Borough Football Club, members decided to make a presentation from the club to Constable McTaggart, a member of the club, due to imminent departure for his Scottish homeland. (230) McTaggart had resigned from the New South Wales police force, due to family illness and there was much sympathy and regard for the popular officer and his wife. At a Lodge presentation at Brighton le Sands, McTaggart was presented with an inscribed gold shield shaped medal; at Rockdale Town Hall with the Football Club, he received a travelling bag and finally, at a Number Twelve Police Division function, his colleagues presented him with another gold medal and his wife, a diamond spray brooch. (231)

The McTaggart's final farewell was at Brighton-le-Sands, on May 9 1903 when Constable T. McTaggart was presented by the Mayor of Rockdale, on behalf of the local residents, with a purse of thirty sovereigns. Complimentary reference was made to the four years of good service by the constable in the district, speeches being made by Messrs. R. A. Price, M.L.A., and other local dignitaries. After the presentation by the Mayor, some personal friends presented Constable McTaggart with a hand-painted portrait of the late Sir Hector Macdonald. (232)

#### Constable William Henry Hewitt 1901 – 1908

William Henry Hewitt was appointed as a Probationary Constable, Badge Number 6294 on the 6 January 1892. (233) Nine years later Hewitt was based at Rockdale where he worked for the next nine years before being transferred to Marrickville. At his farewell presentation at Rockdale Town Hall in 1908 officials, including Mayor W. Taylor, spoke of his painstaking thoroughness and courtesy in his police work when he was presented with a framed illuminated address and his wife a silver teapot. (234) The locals were indeed sad to see Constable Hewitt leave the area and hopes were mentioned of his return in the near future. Constable Hewitt was last heard of working at Dulwich Hill in 1911; "Constable W. Hewitt, a cocksure cuss who hits the mark first pop ". (235)

In 1918 Hewitt was pensioned out as Constable 1<sup>st</sup> Class on a temporary pension of seven shillings and ten pence per day to take effect from 1 June 1918. The pension was approved by the Governor of New South Wales the next year and continued throughout the period of 1919 to 1921. It appears that Constable William Henry Hewitt had been hurt on duty. (236) He and his wife, Sarah Elizabeth Hewitt, were living at 49 King Street Rockdale in 1933 with a William Edgeworth Hewitt, a packer. (237) On the 29 September 1943, his wife Sarah passed away:

*"Mr W H HEWITT and FAMILY of 49 King Street Rockdale sincerely  
THANK all relations and kind friends for letters, telegrams, cards and  
floral tributes received in their recent sad bereavement in the loss of  
their loving wife and mother. Will all please accept this as personal  
thanks" (238)*

Five years later, on the 20 February 1948, William Henry Hewitt passed away at his daughter's home at 20 King Street Rockdale aged eighty two.

*HEWITT, William Henry.-February 20, 1948. at his daughter's residence, 20 King Street, Rockdale, dearly loved husband of the late Sarah Elizabeth Hewitt and dear father of Mary (Mrs. J. Young), Mona (Mrs J. Stafford). Alice (Mrs. A. Barnes), and William, aged 82 years.*

*HEWITT.-The Relatives and Friends of Mr. and Mrs. J. Young, Mr. and Mrs. J. Stafford. Mr. and Mrs. A. Barnes, and of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Hewitt and their Families are invited to attend the Funeral of their dear Father and Grandfather. WILLIAM HENRY HEWITT, of 20 King St. Rockdale, which will leave Our Private Chapel. Seven Ways, Rockdale. This (Saturday) Morning. after service commencing at 10.30 clock, for the Crematorium. Woronora. . and C. Hardy. AFDA. Rockdale and Hurstville. (239)*

Constable James Newell 1901-1905

In 1905 Constable James Newell was living at 9 Gordon Street, Rockdale as per the Sands Directory. By the 6 March 1906 he was living at 31 Coomber Street, Paddington off duty but still at work. He was involved regarding the "Push" when fifty year old Charles Sawyer, was charged at the Water Police Court, with inflicting grievous bodily harm upon Reginald Cooper, at Sydney. (240) Constable James Newell was at his home at 31 Coomber-street, Paddington, when he heard gunshots and a whistle being blown; there was a shooting in his own street, the result of the young men involved in the "Push", the larrikins of the time.

In April 1914 his integrity called into question in court over the character of a boarding house and the occupants who lived there. Constable James Newell gave the house an excellent reputation, describing it as an ordinary boarding-house. Newell said he had used it on several nights as a place from which to watch a suspected gambling house. Allegations of factions within Darlinghurst Police and police corruption were made in court. The point in dispute was dropped, and, after further evidence, the case against the women from the boarding house was adjourned. (241)

### Sergeant Robert J Rogers 1902-1907

Senior Sergeant Roberts served at Rockdale for five years. The last he is mentioned in the press was when he was living in Ashburner Street Manly in 1914.

### Constable Richard Augustine Herbert 1906 - 1907

Richard Augustine Herbert married Kate Beston in 1898 in Sydney and by 1903 Herbert, Badge Number 5371 Constable First Class, had been promoted to the rank of Senior Constable. (242) He was a strong man and a very good swimmer, winning races for the Police Force at a Royal Life Saving Society carnival in 1906. (243) Herbert was again promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 1917 and he remarried in 1920 at Burwood to twenty four year old Miss Grace P. Kerr.

Three years later Richard Augustine Herbert received an Imperial Service Medal from the King, listed as being retired at the time. He had achieved the rank of Inspector 1st class, with nearly thirty six years' service in the force. The medal was presented by the Governor, Sir Dudley de Chair. (242). Richard and Grace lived at 1 Ethel Street Burwood from 1924 to 1931, with Richard passing away in 1952.



*Left: 1 Ethel Street Burwood  
Onthefhouse.com.au. (2016).*

*1 Ethel Street, Burwood.*

*[online] Available at:  
[http://www.onthefhouse.com  
.au/12434806/1\\_ethel\\_st\\_bu  
rwood\\_nsw\\_2134](http://www.onthefhouse.com.au/12434806/1_ethel_st_burwood_nsw_2134) [Accessed  
3 Jun. 2016].*

## Detective John James Hawe 1907

Prior to coming to Australia Irish born Hawe had an illustrious career in Ireland and England. In 1881 John James Hawe joined the Detective Department at Dublin Castle and was based there when Lord Cavendish and Mr. Burke, Undersecretary for Ireland were murdered. He had a role in the arrest of the murderers, six of whom were subsequently hanged. Detective Hawe was then stationed in London for twelve months, his principal duty being to monitor arms dealers who were instrumental in sending guns to Ireland. His arrest of a prominent gun runner who had given the authorities considerable trouble led to the man being sentenced to seven years in the Old Bailey Prison. (245)



*Left; Detective John James Hawe Trove. (2016). LONDON LETTER Detective Hawe - Swimmers and Piano Players PLUM WARNER'S CURTAIN Look Out for Patsy Hendren SEPTEMBER 7. RETIRES FROM FORCE After 30 Years Service - Evening News (Sydney, NSW : 1869 - 1931) - 30 Oct 1920. [online] Available at: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/117714185?searchTerm=%22detective%20hawe%22&searchLimits=#> [Accessed 4 Jun. 2016].*

He left the Royal Irish Constabulary in 1884 and travelled to Australia, joining the police in Queensland, leading the police in the locality of the Johnstone River for two years. Hawe then came to Sydney in 1889, where he joined the New South Wales police, building up an excellent record. In 1902 Senior Constable John James Hawe was working with the Detective Office, as a reserve and was eventually appointed a detective on probation. The new Detective Hawe had already distinguished himself by making important captures, and his promotion was a well-deserved and popular decision at the time. With Inspector Fullerton, ex-Senior Detective Ward, and Senior

Detective Murdoch, he arrested Digby Grand at Erskineville for the murder of Constable Long at Auburn, in 1903. Detective Hawe, with Detective-Sergeant Robson also made the important arrest in the series of 1913 housebreaking offences, when they apprehended a man at Paddington, and recovered about £2000 worth of stolen property. For work during the First World War regarding aliens, Detective Hawe was also especially thanked by General Lee.

In 1920 he retired after being on leave for three months, after a career spanning thirty years. One of his last official duties was to form one of the Prince of Wales' bodyguards during his visit to New South Wales, being personally thanked by His Royal Highness.

In his private life, Detective Hawe had married Frances May Bickerton in 1890 and when he retired they were presented with an oak sideboard and a silver epergne to place upon it as a mark of esteem; an epergne was an ornamental centrepiece which could hold fruit or flowers. On Australia Day 1923 he received an Imperial Service Medal, but sadly on 30 June the same year, ex-Detective John James Hawe passed away at home at Glenholme, 10 Glen-street, Marrickville, aged only fifty two. (246)

Detective Jones 1907

Nothing else could be found regarding the life of Detective Jones.

Constable Mark Scott 1906-1907

Constable Mark Scott had been born on July 25, 1858, in Gateshead, Durham and he arrived in Australia on the 7 Sept 1885. By the next year he had joined the Police Force and was listed as a Constable.



*Left : Jessie Scott with twins George  
and Tom*

*Mv.ancestry.com.au. (2016). Jessie  
Scott. [online] Available at:  
[http://mv.ancestry.com.au/viewer/2ca  
6e807-2e61-43cb-ad78-  
44c02e6842db/25876961/1736146251  
?\\_phsrc=rxN369&usePUBJs=true](http://mv.ancestry.com.au/viewer/2ca6e807-2e61-43cb-ad78-44c02e6842db/25876961/1736146251?_phsrc=rxN369&usePUBJs=true)  
[Accessed 4 Jun. 2016].*

Constable Scott married Jessie Jane Robb on the 29 May 1895 at St John's Darlinghurst; they had ten children, five boys and five girls, including identical twins George and Tom who were only thirteen when Jessie passed away



*Left: Constable Mark Scott*

*Mv.ancestry.com.au. (2016). Mark Scott.  
[online] Available at:  
[http://mv.ancestry.com.au/viewer/aa83  
04ca-31b4-4f25-a49f-  
54d0c64711d7/25876961/1735895637](http://mv.ancestry.com.au/viewer/aa8304ca-31b4-4f25-a49f-54d0c64711d7/25876961/1735895637)  
[Accessed 4 Jun. 2016].*

Another son, Mark, followed in his father's footsteps; this photo was taken when they were issued their first uniforms as Probationary Constables. Mark is in the middle of the front row.



*Mark Scott, Junior*

*Person.ancestry.com.au. (2016). Mark Scott. [online] Available at:*

*<http://person.ancestry.com.au/tree/25876961/person/1865779736/facts> [Accessed 4 Jun. 2016].*

Mark Scott Senior reached the rank of Sergeant, Badge Number 5021 in 1917 and was retired on a pension of eleven shillings and threepence a day. Sergeant Scott passed away on December 15, 1934, in Paddington, New South Wales, at the age of seventy six. (247)

Constable Ernest Crawford Brodie 1906 -1907

Constable Ernest Crawford Brodie was born 1880 in Jindabyne and his brother Constable William Brodie born 1884 in the same town. However, it was Constable Ernest Crawford Brodie who worked in Rockdale and its environs. (248) On the 31 October 1912 there was a Presentation Honour for Constable Brodie at Tom Ugly's Point, Blakehurst, due to him being transferred to Mudgee. The presentation took the form of a double-barrelled breech-loading pigeon gun, made by Hollis and Sons, of Birmingham. Brodie was described as a zealous and energetic man by the locals who toasted him, despite the man of the hour not even being present. The gun was forwarded to him to Mudgee where Constable Brodie had already taken up his new position. (249) Constable Ernest Crawford Brodie died in Marrickville in 1945.



#### Constable Edward Michael Hogan 1906 -1907

Edward Michael Hogan was born in 1867 at Braidwood, New South Wales. He married Ellen A Carew in 1890 in Deniliquin, New South Wales and they had three children during their marriage. (250) Sadly, Constable Hogan died at his residence, Rockdale Police Station at the young age of thirty eight years, after a long and painful illness, extending over many months. He had been based there as the late lockup keeper of the Station. He was the second oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hogan, of Araluen, who visited him at Rockdale during his illness. He had been a member of the police force for seventeen years, based at Jerilderie for six years and at Hay for four years, before being transferred to Rockdale.

Hogan was highly respected and many turned out to his funeral in January 1907, with officers from Rockdale, Marrickville, Kogarah, Hurstville and Sutherland stations attending:

*“The chief mourners were: Mrs. Hogan (widow) and daughters, Sergeant John Hogan (Warialda), and Mr. James Hogan, Araluen (brothers), Mrs. J. J. Carroll and Mrs. 'T. Carpenter (sisters), Mr. H. J. White (brother-in-law), Messrs. T. and E. Carroll (nephews), Misses A. and M. Carroll (nieces), Misses M. and C. Constantine and T. Manning (cousins). A number of police from the different stations were present. Wreaths were sent; from the various police stations, as well as from No. 2 station. — R.I.P.” (251)*

#### Constable David Robert Garden 1907

David Robert Garden was based at Rockdale in 1907, however by the 22 September 1909, Garden was at Marrickville Police Station.

*"A Reported Outrage. SCHOOL CHILDREN AND CYCLIST*

*Detectives Walker and Malone, with Senior-Constable Garden and another officer, are engaged in investigating a dastardly affair that has been reported from Marrickville, of which, a little girl about nine years of age was the victim. It is stated that at about 2 o'clock on Friday; afternoon two girls, 8 and 9 years of age respectively; left their home to go to the Edgeware-road school. On the way a young man, riding a bicycle, accosted them and induced them to accompany him into the scrub. He sent the younger child off to look for wild flowers and then attempted to outrage the other. The child. screamed and the man decamped. A good' description; of the wanted person was supplied by the. children, the elder of whom was suffering badly from shock as a result of the encounter ;and the officers are hopeful , of making an arrest."* (252)

He was promoted from Senior Constable to Sergeant at Marrickville on 9 July 1912. (253) Garden was a pensioner, ex-police Sergeant when he died on the 16 May 1922.

Constable Frank Whitney 1908

Frank Whitney married Clarice Maud Troy in 1906; they had one son Francis, and twin daughters Alma and Clarice. (254) On the 1 May 1908 Constable Whitney received notice of his removal from Bombala to Rockdale. In 1916, Badge Number 2829 Frank Whitney, was appointed as a Special Constable, living at The Avenue, Rockdale. When war broke out Frank Whitney followed the call, in 1918 he enlisted at the age of thirty seven and embarked at Sydney on the SS Tambo on the 26 April, 1918, strangely listed as a labourer, His service number was 1291 and he was discharged on the 12 October 1919, when he returned to his employment as a police officer.

(EMBARKED AT SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, PER S.S. "TAMBO," 26TH APRIL, 1918.)

Pay Book commences 26th April, 1918.

1253	506341	FOY, Patrick (alias ALLEN, James)	Private	48	Blacksmith's striker	M.	2nd	20 Sixth-street, Clyde, Sydney, N.S.W.	Wife, Mrs. C. Allen, 20 Sixth-street, Clyde, Sydney, N.S.W.	R.C.	26.3.18	..	6 0
1289	506343	KERR, Joseph Henry	"	45	Hairdresser	M.	2nd	Care of Girls' High School, Elizabeth-street, Sydney, N.S.W.	Wife, Mrs. A. Kerr, care of Girls' High School, Sydney, N.S.W.	C. of E.	23.2.18	..	6 0
1290	506345	SHAW, John Joseph	"	45	Labourer	M.	2nd	18 Bowes-avenue, Paddington, Sydney, N.S.W.	Wife, Mrs. M. E. Shaw, 18 Bowes-avenue, Paddington, Sydney, N.S.W.	R.C.	"	..	6 0
1291	506347	WHITNEY, Frank	"	37	Labourer	M.	2nd	The Avenue, Rockdale, Sydney, N.S.W.	Wife, Mrs. C. M. Whitney, The Avenue, Rockdale, Sydney, N.S.W.	C. of E.	25.2.18	..	6 0
				43	Traveller	M.	2nd	44 Queen-street, Woollahra, N.S.W.	Wife, Mrs. G. E. Long, 44 Queen-street, Woollahra, N.S.W.	R.C.	2.4.18	..	6 0

Above: Frank Whitney WW1 Embarkation Details

Australian War Memorial. (2016). Australian Imperial Force - Nominal Roll for Frank Whitney. [online] Available at: [https://www.awm.gov.au/images/collection/items/ACCNUM\\_LARGE/RCDIG1067357/RCDIG1067357--83-.JPG](https://www.awm.gov.au/images/collection/items/ACCNUM_LARGE/RCDIG1067357/RCDIG1067357--83-.JPG) [Accessed 4 Jun. 2016].

Right: Frank Whitney's Army Pay Book

Recordsearch.naa.gov.au. (2016). Frank Whitney's Army Pay Book Cover. [online] Available at: <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8386657> [Accessed 4 Jun. 2016].



*Left: Frank Whitney  
 Person.ancestry.com.au. (2016).  
 Frank Whitney. [online] Available  
 at:  
<http://person.ancestry.com.au/tree/75088660/person/30416048497/facts> [Accessed 4 Jun. 2016].*

On the eve of his retirement from the force, Constable Whitney was entertained by the members of No. 12 Police Division and presented with a silver tea and coffee service and silver tray. Constable Whitney had been lock-up keeper at Kogarah for the last few years of his thirty years' service. (255) Frank Whitney died on the 28 June 1956 at Paddington aged sixty seven years old; his wife Clarice had died in 1947.

#### Senior Constable John Irvine 1913

Less is known of Senior Constable John Irvine, with the 1931 Electoral Roll having him listed living at 43 Villiers Street Rockdale with wife Helen and their thirty year old daughter Barbara Mildred, a bank clerk. (256) He had been stationed at the G.P.O. Sydney for many years before his appointment to Rockdale in 1913 as a senior constable. When he took charge of the Rockdale district, there were only six constables; by 1920 the ranks had swelled to twenty one men. When he retired from the force in 1930 there was a gift at his farewell of a substantial sum which had been subscribed by business men and others, which he refused to accept. Most of the money, instead, was used to

endow a cot at the St. George District Hospital. Irvine was an incorruptible and good man to the end, stating:

*"that during the whole of his term in the police force he had taken nothing out of it, and would not do so when leaving."* (257)

Ex-Senior Sergeant John Irvine, passed away on the 25 June 1933, listed as still living at 43 Villiers Street Rockdale and his remains were cremated at Rookwood Crematorium.

Constable James Allen Cairns Robertson 1907-1913

When James Allen Cairns Robertson was born on January 17, 1871, in New South Wales, his father, William, was forty three and his mother, Anne, was thirty eight. He married Agnes Cramp in 1895 in and they had four children. He was initially based in town at Sydney as seen by the reports of his cases in the press.

In February 1893, he was assaulted and given a split lip whilst arresting twenty year old Thomas Baird after he heard him using foul language. Baird's friend, George Davidson, also received a charge of resisting arrest. (258) The next year Constable Robertson saved the life of chemist Frederick William Hibbert, when the chemist slashed his own throat. Robertson transported him to St Vincent's Hospital where five stitches were put in the wound and he was then handed back to the custody of the constable. (259) After a few problems of where to keep the patient for his own safety, Hibbit was finally accommodated with a bed in the charge room of Number Three police station, where he would be under the direct watch of the officer in charge... Constable Robertson.

Over the Christmas and New Year's Eve period of 1896 Constable Robertson had to deal with the known "Rockdale Rioters":

*“A man named Walter Fisher created a disturbance on New Year’s Eve at Rookwood by interfering with an open air service then being conducted by the local Wesleyan Band. The resident police officer Constable Robertson had eventually to arrest Fisher, who was brought before the Parramatta Bench on New Year’s Day and fined 40s, in default seven days imprisonment for riotous behaviour, and on another charge was remanded to following Monday. The ‘Rockdale rioters’, some of whom are more or less directly associated with Rookwood, paid a preliminary visit to the township on Christmas Day ; but after making a slight disturbance left before police attention to their disorderly conduct could be obtained.” (260)*

In March and April of 1902, Constable Robertson was in court dealing with the “Dulwich Hill Tragedy” where Mr. F Lukins was charged with the wilful murder of Mrs. Rachael Baikie, his housekeeper, at Dulwich Hill. (261) She and her husband Alexander lived in the property with the widower Lukins and his two children. Lukins had been a rates collector and was apparently temporarily insane at the time of the murder. Constable James Robertson, of Marrickville, and John Harper, of Newtown, gave formal evidence in the court case. Lukins was eventually sentenced to death for the shooting murder of Rachael Baikie.

On the 20 May 1912, Constable Robertson conveyed a pedestrian, Rockdale resident John Hardy, aged eighteen, to hospital after he had been knocked down by a motor bike. Robertson made sure he was moved safely to Sydney Hospital, where he was admitted suffering from concussion and leg injuries. (262)

Sadly, Robertson was another officer to die too young; on Christmas Day 1920 Constable James Robertson passed away at his residence, “Valma”, Bay Street, Rockdale, aged only forty nine years old. (263) He left a grieving widow, Agnes Robertson, and four small children Milly, Dorothy, Marjorie, and James. He was buried at Woronora Cemetery on the 27 December the same year; a very sad Christmas for the Robertson family.

## Constable Alexander Brown

Alexander Brown married Alice Rachel Wright in Lismore in 1936 and had four children in the next four years. (264) The marriage must not have been a happy one as Brown became involved in an extra marital affair with another married woman, which proved deadly. In April 1940, Mrs. Jean Carlos Cox, a barmaid aged twenty six, was shot three times at the Australian Hotel in Sydney and died in hospital. Constable Alexander Brown, of Forest Lodge, was shot when detectives went to his home to interview him the same night; he was rushed to hospital in a critical condition. (265)

Sadly, Constable Alexander Johnson Brown, aged forty two, who was attached to the Balmain Police station, eventually died in the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. He had been followed home by detectives and shot himself through the head whilst they were about to disarm him. Detective-Sergeant Gorman, who tried to snatch the revolver, was temporarily blinded in the left eye, and had his face blackened by the powder from the gun's muzzle. (266) It was alleged that Mrs Cox had been shot by Constable Brown a few minutes before he left the hotel. Brown was mentioned in an article three years later, about people being shot in the head and recovering...sadly Constable Brown did not.

*"Constable Alexander Johnson Brown (42) lived for three days after shooting himself through the head. On April 16, 1940, Brown put his revolver to his left temple and pulled the trigger. The bullet passed through his head and pierced the wooden wall behind him. The police thought Brown was dead, but while the ambulance was taking him to hospital it was found that he was still breathing. He was given oxygen from time to time, and doctors "were astounded that he still lived." (267)*

However, although it was hoped initially that he would recover, the constable died, three days after he shot himself.

## Detective Stuart Robson 1911

Stuart Robson was born in 1880 in Tamworth, to father, William and mother, Mary Robson. He married Ida Mary Catherine Field in 1905 in Sydney, New South Wales. They had four children during their marriage, Edna, Edgar, Stuart and Bessie. Robson had a prolific police career, starting in 1901, that was splashed over the newspapers of the day.(268)

Robson's first big case in court was a £3,300 robbery in July 1914 when Ernest Alexander Ryan was charged with having robbed Frederick Charles Miller of £3,300 at Eveleigh Railway yards, whilst using a revolver. (269) He was escorted back from Melbourne to Sydney by Detectives Robson, Souter, and Jones. Detective Robson also took back a lock of Ryan's hair to Sydney, where, if necessary, it would be analytically examined, as it was stated that Ryan had dyed his hair in order to evade arrest. Samuel Freeman, also involved in the heist, was arrested in Tasmania. When Ryan and Freeman fronted court, they asked if they could be sent to the Front; they were both sentenced to ten years penal servitude apiece instead. They were cheeky lads, with a long list of priors for robbery and housebreaking: Ryan asked that his revolver be presented to Detective Robson as a memento and Freeman added said they could give his to the King. The jury stated in summing up that gross negligence was shown in the railway department's methods of transferring so large a sum of money as that stolen from one place to another.

By the 1 January 1919, Detective Robson from the CID was back to uniform upon his own request and was stationed in Clarence Street, Sydney on patrol duty. (270) There in 1920 he was involved in a case that was so spectacular that it is in the Police and Justice Museum at Circular Quay today. The shocking discovery by Harry Birkett about his mother's demise and the person who had killed her filled the newspapers for weeks at a time. The extraordinary chain of events that Detective Robson was involved in culminated in the arrest of Eugenia Falleni, aka Harry Crawford, the cross-gender murderer.



*Below: The Two Eveleigh Robbers*

*Trove. (2016). Inner Story of the Famous Eveleigh Hold-up - Truth (Brisbane, Qld. : 1900 - 1954) - 28 Dec 1924.*

*[online] Available at:*

*<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/198673683?searchTerm=%22ernest%20alexander%20ryan%22sentenced%20eveleigh&searchLimits=> [Accessed 7 Jun. 2016].*



Over some days, Harry Birkett became utterly convinced that his mother had been murdered by Harry Crawford and that the body that had been found near the Cumberland Paper Mills in 1917 was hers. He became determined to uncover his mother's fate, no matter what it might have been, and, if she had been murdered by his stepfather, to bring him to justice, whether he was a man or a woman. When Harry Birkett reported his mother Annie Crawford as a missing person, he was interviewed by Detective Sergeant Stewart Robson, who assumed the role of chief investigator. (271) Detective Sergeant Robson located the police documentation about the 1917 investigation of the body that had remained unidentified ; the file and exhibits had been retained at the Chatswood police station. He then showed Harry the jewellery, shoes, enamel cup, picnic basket, and the small piece of gabardine material that had been recovered from the park, which were identified as being his mother's belongings. More than two-and-a-half years after Annie's death, there was sufficient circumstantial evidence to conclude that the body was hers. Robson also used forensic evidence to

pull the case together. It was when Robson arrested Crawford, that Crawford's true identity was admitted... that of his original identity as Eugenia Falleni.



*Above: Eugenia Falleni*

*DailyTelegraph. (2016). Crime Week: Harry Crawford revealed to be Eugenia Falleni; A female-to-male transgender murderer. [online] Available at: <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/crime-week-harry-crawford-revealed-to-be-eugenia-falleni-a-femaletomale-transgender-murderer/story-fni0cx12-1226912895004> [Accessed 7 Jun. 2016].*



*Above: Fellini as Harry Crawford*

*DailyTelegraph. (2016). Crime Week: Harry Crawford revealed to be Eugenia Falleni; A female-to-male transgender murderer. [online] Available at: <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/crime-week-harry-crawford-revealed-to-be-eugenia-falleni-a-femaleto-male-transgender-murderer/story-fni0cx12-1226912895004> [Accessed 7 Jun. 2016].*

In August 1921, Detective-Sergeant Robson was given another gun by a grateful American colleague; a very special revolver indeed! The revolver was presented to Detective Robson by Sheriff R. R. Veale, of Contra Costa County, California as a mark of appreciation. Sheriff Veale had come to Australia to transport a prisoner who was wanted on a charge of stealing 100,000 dollars, back to America. He had obviously heard about Detective Robson's marksmanship. The gun was once stolen from Robson by a colleague and he had to sue him for its return.

*"In possession is a revolver which is the admiration of the police force. It is a Police Positive 38 Special, and has six chambers. There are two barrels — the top the business one and the lower the tell-tale. This second barrel is a powerful electric torch. Set in its base is a high*

*candlepower low-voltage electric lamp. The barrel is scientifically constructed so that the light strikes the lens at the end at the proper angle. In the handle of the revolver is carried the battery which supplies the power for the light. When the revolver is grasped for shooting, the electric lamp is automatically switched on, and on dark nights it will throw a circle of light on an object as far as 100ft away. The big feature is that the bullet will lodge in the centre of the spotlight, wherever it falls. In a test carried out the other night the' revolver was clamped down and the light set on a target. The first shot tore a hole through the centre of the lighted portion of the target, and the remaining five bullets followed and disappeared without making the slightest additional mark. Detective Robson, who is one of the best shots in the force, needs no artificial aid for his marksmanship, but he points to one great attribute the gun has. When entering a dark room the searchlight can act as a torch, and the man behind it has the advantage over the burglar. In the meantime this gun is being anxiously talked about in criminal circles. It is generally conceded that when the man running away from Detective Robson senses a three-inch circle of light warming the middle of the back of his head, the best thing he can do is to forget and forgive.”(272)*

A mystery body and a case of mistaken identity in Manly in 1922 was partially resolved in July 1923, when a ship's engineer, originally believed to be the charred corpse, was found alive in England. Investigations by Detective Robson led to the new belief that the body may have been a returned soldier, Douglas Lewis, who had been missing for many months. (273) The body had been found by three boys playing in the bushland. Initially, it had been thought the body was Herbert J Hudd, missing from his ship since the previous February, identified by the remains of the burnt boots found with the body. Robson had not been certain of the identification and with the Scotland Yard ruled out Hudd as the corpse and sought to identify the true personage. It was generally believed to be the returned soldier, who had not visited friends or collected his mail since that time, but public aid was sought by police to finalise the case.

In 1924 Detective Sergeant Robson was a candidate as the assessor of the Police Appeals Board with an impressive resume for the role:

*“Detective-Sergeant Robson is an officer of very wide experience, and is exceptionally conversant with police conditions in the country as well as in the city. He has been stationed at Mudgee, Gilgandra, Dubbo, and other towns, and, for a time, was acting clerk of petty sessions at Tomingley. He has also done duty in several of the metropolitan divisions, performing the varied tasks that fall to the lot of a section sergeant, licensing inspector and station sergeant. For many years Detective Robson has been attached to the Criminal Investigation Branch at Police Headquarters, and has cleared up many major crimes, most of them in the country. He has been president of the detective branch of the Police Association since the inception of that body” (274)*

However, he was unsuccessful in his bid, being resoundingly beaten by Senior Sergeant Moylan of North Sydney; 1741 votes 586. (275) Robson retired from service twelve years later and died on June 13, 1946, in Little Bay, New South Wales, at the age of sixty six. For a man who was so often in the press with regard to his cases, even down to grappling with de Groot at the Sydney Harbour Bridge opening and described as a man of commanding appearance when appointed Inspector in 1935, there were very few photos of him to be found, even with his death notice; only one regarding the theft of his beloved pistol.



*Left: Inspector Robson*

*Trove. (2016). BIG GUNS—AND A GUN - Inspector Robson Sues Brother Officer GETS PISTOL BACK - Truth (Sydney, NSW : 1894 - 1954) - 5 Apr 1931.*

*[online] Available at:*

*<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/169131378?searchTerm=%22Inspector%20Robson%22&searchLimits=> [Accessed 7 Jun. 2016].*

Right: Stuart Robson Death

Mv.ancestry.com.au. (2016).

Stuart Robson. [online] Available  
at:

<http://mv.ancestry.com.au/viewer/762f2ab4-5898-4b03-8c6c-b8611f1d9943/1318010/24657829150> [Accessed 8 Jun. 2016].

## Ex-Superintendent of Police Dead

**SYDNEY, Friday.**—Mr. Stuart Robson, 66, a former police superintendent in New South Wales, died last night. As a detective he figured in the arrest of many desperate criminals.

He was born at Tamworth and joined the police force in 1901, after returning from the Boer War, where he was awarded the Queen's Medal with four clasps. He was promoted to superintendent in 1935 and stationed at Broken Hill, where he completed his service and retired in 1936.

### Constable Sidney Wearin 1911

Sidney Wearin was born 1860 in Hartley and by 1913 he was living at Harnett Avenue Canterbury with wife Mary (nee Beavan), whom he married in 1885 in Goulburn. Along with the couple were Irene, a bookkeeper, Axie, a nurse and Sidney Roderick Wearin a cabinet maker, with Wearin listed as Sergeant of Police. (276) He was not in the press as much as some of his colleagues, however, his obituaries when he died in 1921 were very kind and flattering. His wife Mary passed away nine years later; they had been running an orchard on the Central Coast in their retirement.

*"Mr. Sidney Wearin; retired Senior Sergeant of Police, died at his residence in Sydney, last week, aged sixty years. The late officer was a native of the Lower Manning, his mother having lived at Pampoolah up to the time of her death. The late officer joined the police force when he was quite a young man, and earned a fine reputation in the service, both with the officers of the department and with the public. He was for some*



years in the Investigation department of the service. At the time of his retirement he had charge of the Marrickville division. When the Hon. W. B. Dalley was Premier of this State in the '80's, Great Britain was having some trouble in the Soudan region, and there was anxiety to relieve General Gordon, who was besieged at Khartoum. Mr. Dalley offered a contingent of men from New South Wales to the Imperial authorities, which was accepted, and a detachment of picked men — splendid specimens of their race — were despatched, sailing, on the steamers *Iberia* and *Australian*. Mr. Wearin was one of the contingent. On returning to Sydney, after some eventful experiences, Mr. Wearin again joined the service. Recently Mr. Wearin visited his brothers on the South Passage, and spent five weeks with them. He returned to Sydney in excellent health, but a couple of weeks later he had a paralytic seizure from which he never recovered consciousness. He leaves a widow and grown-up family. His only sister (Mrs. Geo. Lowe) resides at Sidebottom, and his brothers are Mr. John Wearin, Lower Manning; retired Sergeant W. H. Wearin, Pampoolah; and Mr. F. G. Wise, of Pampoolah, who is a step-brother. The brothers went to Sydney to be present at the funeral, which was largely attended by chief officers of the police, and by residents of the Manning who knew the deceased. The late Mr. Wearin was an officer and a gentleman. His cheery disposition, his unfailing good humour, the tenderness of his nature, and his great charm as a conversationalist made him a popular figure in any gathering. There are many in this district, especially on the Lower Manning, who will keenly regret the death of one widely esteemed as a friend." (277)

"Mr. Sidney Wearin sustained a paralytic stroke on Saturday last, and died from the effects of it at 3 o'clock yesterday morning. Deceased was born on the Manning River 60 years ago, and when about 30 years of age joined the police force, being stationed in Newcastle, North Sydney, and Marrickville. retiring from the latter station with the rank of Sergeant. He was a man of splendid physique, and figured in many an adventure in the carrying out of his official duties. In company with Sergeant Brennan he arrested Dean, the notorious wife poisoner, who

*was employed at the time on one of the Manly boats. As a young man he enlisted for the Soudan war, journeying across the ocean in the troopship Iberia. An all-round athlete, he figured prominently as a sculler and swimmer, and possessed cups and trophies showing many a success in the field of sport. After resigning from the Force about four years ago Mr. Wearin settled on an orchard property at Lisarow, and last year was appointed to the Commission of the Peace. He leaves a widow and grown-up family of four sons and four daughters — Messrs Milton and Fred (Lisarow), Reginald and Garnet (Marrickville), Mrs. A. O. H. Taylor (Lisarow), Mrs. R. G. Blamire (Marrickville), Mrs. C. H. Stanbury (Marrickville), and Miss Cora Wearin (Lisarow). The funeral will take place on Friday, the remains being taken to Sydney for interment in Rookwood Cemetery.” (278)*

Constable William Norman Jackson 1911

William Norman Jackson was born in 1885 in Sydney, New South Wales, the child of William and Sarah Jackson. He was married in 1906 in New South Wales to Mary Ellen Glazebrook, but the marriage had its problems, as we will see later. (279) In September 1919 he received an award from the Royal Humane Society (280) and was listed living at Gordon Street, Brighton le Sands in 1913 with his wife Mary, occupation being a police constable.

**SAVED FROM THE SURF**  
**CONSTABLE WILLIAM NORMAN JACKSON.**—On January 22, at Bondi, he saved the lives of Mr. and Miss de Longchamp and Miss Foster from drowning. Constable Jackson, who had been bathing, suddenly heard cries for help. He at once swam out and rescued Miss Foster, who had been carried out by the undertow, and landed her on the beach, and then went to the assistance of Mr. and Miss de Longchamp, and also brought them to a place of safety. (Awarded bronze medal and certificate of merit.) (281)



Something must have gone wrong somewhere, either in the job or in his marriage as in 1921, at age thirty eight, ex-police Constable William Norman Jackson was listed in the New South Wales Police Gazette for the charge of wife desertion.

**Sydney.—A warrant has been issued by the Children's Court Bench for the arrest of William Norman Jackson, charged with wife desertion. He is 38 years of age, 5 feet 10 inches high, stout build, dark complexion, black hair, blue eyes, clean shaved; an American flag and an Australian flag supported by the figure of a woman tattooed on the left arm; an ex-police constable; is said to be in the company of Beatrice Maggs, and has stated his intention of leaving the State. Complainant, Mary Jackson, 13 South-street, Double Bay. Arrest urgently desired.** (282)

Constable Robert Dunworth 1911

Robert Dunworth was made a Probationary Constable on the 27 April 1892, Badge Number 6389, rising to the rank of Ordinary constable in 1893 and Constable First Class in 1901. (283) In 1904 he was tested by fire in Arncliffe where a man burnt to death in his home; a very sad case:

*"A fatal burning accident happened at Arncliffe last night. Carl Vogt, 54, a widower, residing with his five children in Marsh-street, Arncliffe, was reading in bed by the aid of a kerosene lamp, when the bed clothes caught fire, and the room was quickly enveloped in smoke and flames. Vogt, it is surmised, fell asleep before the clothes caught fire, and it was some time before the fire was discovered. One of the children first became aware of the accident by the smoke spreading, and immediately went for assistance, and succeeded in getting Mr. and Mrs. Pert, and Mr. Hilliard, of Kyle-street, to hurry to the spot. This was about 11.30 p.m., and with all possible speed the man was removed from the room, and first aid (in the shape of a liberal application of oil) was rendered by Mrs. Pert. Vogt was subsequently removed to the St. George Cottage Hospital by Constable Dunworth, of Arncliffe, but the injuries he sustained were so severe that he succumbed about 4.30 this morning. Further*

*particulars show that Vogt followed the occupation of a rough carpenter. The flames, which were confined to the bedclothes, were extinguished by the five children, the eldest being a girl, aged 17, who is nearly blind. It is stated that Vogt had been in the habit of inhaling - chloroform, and it is surmised that while doing this he accidentally knocked over a lamp. He was also in the habit of reading in bed.” (284)*

Sometimes the cases were a little stranger such as in the case of Mrs Soline Ahearn in 1908:

*“Solina Ahearn, a married woman, residing at Arncliffe, told a somewhat sensational story to the local police last night. Mrs. Ahearn and her husband are old residents of the suburb. She stated, that she had a few drinks with a strange man at a hotel near Cook's River during the evening. She left him shortly before 10 o'clock, and proceeded towards her home. While walking along the main road, in the direction of Arncliffe, Mrs. Ahearn stated the man, in whose company she had been, overtook her a short distance from Cook's River bridge. He, according to her statement, suddenly caught, her round the waist, threw her on the ground, and violently assaulted her. She suffered considerably from the effects of the attack, but subsequently recovered, and went to the residence of Constable Dunworth, who is stationed at Arncliffe, to whom she gave an account of the affair. The police are making inquiries into the matter” (285)*

In March 1926, Sergeant Dunworth, who had spent forty years in the police service, the last ten years of his career at Mosman, was presented with a wallet of banknotes, and a gold watch, by the Mayor (Alderman Carter) on behalf of the residents of Mosman. (286) Later that year the Police Association also presented him with a gold watch upon his retirement. Robert Dunworth passed away in 1932 at Neutral Bay, aged seventy two years old. His obituary was placed in the Catholic Press:

*"The many friends of Mr. Robert Dunworth, retired sergeant of the N.S.W. Police Force, will regret to learn of his death at his residence, 'Euripedos,' Neutral Bay, on the 15th inst. Mr. Dunworth was born at Barnagh, County Limerick, 72 years ago. As a young man, he identified himself vigorously with the Land League movement. He was also a prominent exponent of hurling and of Gaelic football. He came to Australia in the year 1891, and joined the Police Force at Sydney. At different times he was stationed at Marrickville, Arncliffe, and Mosman — at the latter place until his retirement. Although Mr. Dunworth had a great love for his adopted country, he never forgot his native land, and to the last was keenly interested in the progress of Ireland. The funeral was of a private nature. Requiem Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph's, Neutral Bay, by Rev. Father Ferrari, and was attended by many comrades and friends. He leaves behind him his sorrowing widow, four sons — David (Brisbane), Joseph (Coogee), Robert (Brisbane) and James (Lane Cove), and one daughter (Mrs. A. F. O'Rourke, Leeds, England).— R.I.P." (287)*

#### Constable Thomas Wood Leonard 1911

When Thomas Wood Leonard was born on June 17, 1886, at Wingidgeon Station, Coonamble, in New South Wales, his father, Edward, was thirty six and his mother, Elizabeth, was thirty two. He married Violet Rabey on December 1, 1908, in Windsor, New South Wales. He then had three children by the time he was twenty seven. Thomas Wood Leonard was made a Probationary constable on February 7, 1910, Badge Number 9062. (288) The family initially lived between 1931-1937 at 140 Balmain Rd Leichhardt East but by 1949 he was a Sergeant living at 200 Belmore Road Blakehurst with his wife and children. He was a Sergeant Third Class upon his retirement on the 16 June 1946, the day before his sixtieth birthday and was awarded the Imperial Service Medal on the 25 March 1947. He had been based over the years at Petersham (11 Division), Central (1 Division), Regent Street (2 Division), Balmain and Narrandera to name a few stations. Ex- Sergeant Leonard died on April 10, 1957, in Sydney, New South Wales, at the age of seventy from heart failure (289)



*Left: Thomas Wood Leonard  
Australian Police. (2015). Thomas  
Wood LEONARD. [online]  
Available at:  
[http://www.australianpolice.com.  
au/thomas-wood-leonard/](http://www.australianpolice.com.au/thomas-wood-leonard/)  
[Accessed 8 Jun. 2016].*

#### Constable Daniel Wirth 1912

Daniel Wirth was born on the 18 August 1873 in Wellingrove, North West of Glen Innes, New South Wales, the eldest of eleven children with four brothers and six sisters. He was made a Probationary Constable in 1896, Badge Number 1896 and was a Constable First Class by the 1 January 1910. He married Bertha McKenzie in 1912 at Petersham but by then he had already had a busy police career. (290)

A policeman's lot is often a very varied one, with everything from traffic accidents to lost children; Constable Wirth appeared to be a regular visitor to hospitals as part of his workday. On the 27 August 1903, Charles Moore, a tailor, employed by Mr. William Bruce, of 18 Victoria Arcade, was suddenly taken ill at his workplace, as though with a fit, dying almost immediately. (291) Traffic Constable Wirth, with a relatively new ambulance service, conveyed the body to the morgue at

Circular Quay. Poor Mr. Moore was apparently only forty years old at the time of his sudden death. Then in February 1908, Constable Wirth found a woman, Helena Roberts with her neck jammed between two of the spikes of the iron rail fence outside her house in Bourke Street, Sydney. He removed her unconscious body and took her to Sydney Hospital, where she was admitted suffering from the effects of strangulation. (292) The next year, in late August, Albert H. Osborne, aged fifteen, from Silver Street, Marrickville, was riding on the back of a lorry. The shaft of a van, approaching from the rear became too close to the back of the lorry and struck his left leg, stripping part of the flesh from the bone. Constable Wirth took the boy to Sydney Hospital, where doctors stitched the wound. (293) As a change of pace in January 1915, he dealt with a robbery, when he noticed a big hole in the window of Lloyd's Jewellery shop, in Pitt-street, near the Haymarket. Constable Wirth's initial inspection showed that a number of watches and various articles of Jewellery had indeed been stolen. (294)

Sadly, in February 1930 Constable Wirth was hurt on his way home from duty, suffering a broken leg. (295) He had alighted from a tram in Parramatta Road, Petersham and was knocked down by a passing motor car. He spent some time in Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, recovering from the damage to his left leg. Ex- Sergeant Daniel Wirth passed away in 1938 in Marrickville, aged sixty five.

#### Constable Oswald James Stear 1912

Oswald James Stear was born in 1875 in Yass, New South Wales and he married Clara Alberta Anderson in 1897 in Bathurst, New South Wales and had two children. (296) Oswald apparently had a wonderful singing voice and belonged to a musical group, the Wattle Park Band of Hope before he joined the Police Force in October 1896, as Probationary Constable Number 7000. (297) The family lived at "Nada", Carrington Avenue, Hurstville and Oswald was a Sergeant by 1915.

In 1947 the Stears celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary in Queanbeyan, with the story written up in the Canberra Times. Two years later Oswald passed away, he died on October 3, 1949, in Queanbeyan, New South Wales, at the age of seventy four, with Clara dying the next year.

*“To commemorate the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Oswald J. Stear, of Queanbeyan, a social was held at the Methodist Church hall last night. The Rev. G. A. Knight, superintendent minister of the circuit, was chairman and more than 50 people attended. During the evening items were contributed by Miss Bessie Kilby, Miss Audrey Kilby, Miss Eleanor Beazley, Mrs. L. Robins, Mr. L. Robins, Mr. Ray Mole and Mr. Athol Kilby. A feature of the supper was a two decker wedding cake surrounded and trimmed with gold leaves and orange blossom.” (298)*



*Left: Oswald and Clara Stear's Grave*  
*S3.amazonaws.com. (2016). Stear Gravesite.*  
*[online] Available at:*  
*<https://s3.amazonaws.com/bg.ami.com/headstones/images/20140413/6229535.jpg>*  
*[Accessed 8 Jun. 2016].*

#### Constable William Frederick Walker 1912

There is not much available regarding Constable Walker, although we know that he was a Constable First Class in 1908 and his Badge Number was 6765. The 1931 Electoral Roll shows policeman William Frederick Walker and Ettie Jane Walker living at 8 Villiers Street Rockdale. (299)

#### Constable Thomas Langworthy 1917

When Edwin Thomas Carl Langworthy was born in 1880 in Liverpool, New South Wales, his father, Fredrick and his mother, Emma, were both twenty four. He married Eva Ripon in 1905 in Moss Vale, New South Wales and they had three children during their marriage. (300) The children included a

son Edwin, born in 1906 in Goulburn and his sister Myrtle, born in 1911. In 1908 Constable Langworthy's Badge Number was 8836 and his big case was in 1917 as a plain clothes Constable.

When eleven year old Dorothy M. Small met her death under shocking circumstances at Rockdale in a bush locality lying in a northerly direction from Burns' timber yards, between Rockdale and Kogarah, it was Langworthy who first dealt with the murder. Constable Thomas Langworthy happened to be at Kogarah police station when a report of the affair was received and he proceeded on his bicycle to the spot and arrested a man for the crime. In 1935 he was listed as a police constable living at 832 Rocky Point Rd, Ramsgate. (301) He died on January 24, 1959, in Rockdale, New South Wales, at the age of seventy nine and was buried in New South Wales.

#### Constable Herbert Wilkinson 1919

Herbert Wilkinson was born in 1894 in Penshurst, New South Wales and he married dressmaker Elsie Ireland on June 5, 1915, in Peakhurst, New South Wales; when he was listed as a labourer. They had seven children during their marriage, including Ronald Milton born 1916, Jean Gladys 1917, Herbert Russell 1921, Violet 1925 and Ruth Olive 1932 plus another son and daughter. (302)

NEW SOUTH WALES  
BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION ACT 1955  
MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

REGISTRATION NUMBER  
1915 / 010942

Date and place of marriage	Names and surnames of parties	Usual occupation	Usual place of residence
1915 5 June Peakhurst NSW	Herbert Wilkinson (formerly known as Herbert Langworthy)	Labourer	Peakhurst NSW
	Elsie Ireland	Dressmaker	Peakhurst NSW

Married at: Peakhurst NSW

The Consent of \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bridegroom, was given in writing to the Minister.

The Consent of \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bride, was given in writing to the Minister.

According to the rites of the \_\_\_\_\_ Church of \_\_\_\_\_

Conjugal status	Birthplace	Age	Father's name, mother's name and maiden surname	Father's occupation
Bachelor	Sydney NSW	21	Wm Wilkinson	
Spinster	Peakhurst NSW	20	Charles Taylor Ireland Mary Ann Hanson	Impending Officer

This Marriage was solemnized between us  
Herbert Wilkinson  
Elsie Ireland  
By us: Herbert Green  
Officiating Minister

In the presence of us:  
Edward Harrison  
George Ireland

Witnesses and Registered by me, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1915  
1915  
\_\_\_\_\_ District Registrar

Before accepting copies, sight unaltered original. The original has a coloured background.  
I hereby certify that this is a true copy of particulars recorded in a Register in the State of New South Wales, in the Commonwealth of Australia  
SYDNEY 20 Aug 2012  
Greg Curry  
Registrar

Wilkinson's Marriage Certificate  
Interactive.ancestry.com.au. (2016). Herbert  
Wilkinson. [online] Available at:  
[http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1207/31242\\_100459\\_0007-00383?pid=163598741&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-g%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsfn%3dherbert%26t%2b%26gsfn\\_x%3dNN%26gsln%3dwilkinson%26gsln\\_x%3d1%26MSAV%3d1%26mssng%3delsie%26gskw%3dconstable%26gskw\\_x%3d1%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26catbucket%3drstp%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3dROOT\\_CATEGORY%26h%3d163598741%26db%3dAUSelectorolls%26indiv%3d1%26ml\\_rpos%3d2&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true](http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1207/31242_100459_0007-00383?pid=163598741&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-g%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsfn%3dherbert%26t%2b%26gsfn_x%3dNN%26gsln%3dwilkinson%26gsln_x%3d1%26MSAV%3d1%26mssng%3delsie%26gskw%3dconstable%26gskw_x%3d1%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26catbucket%3drstp%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3dROOT_CATEGORY%26h%3d163598741%26db%3dAUSelectorolls%26indiv%3d1%26ml_rpos%3d2&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true) [Accessed 8 Jun. 2016].

Constable Wilkinson was an athlete of some note; in September 1932 he chased a would be safe cracker at the Esme picture theatre for a mile into a swamp to make an arrest. (303) He was also an excellent cricketer, playing for the Rockdale Kia-Ora team in 1934.

*"CONSTABLE'S TEN WICKETS*

*Constable H Wilkinson a member of the Rockdale Kia-Ora team performed a splendid bowling feat against the Rockdale Municipal Band team on Saturday when he took 10 wickets for nine runs The side was dismissed for 43 runs; Rockdale Kia-Ora made 106."* (304)

By 1934 he and wife Elsie were living at 32 Carruthers Street Penshurst but in 1943 he was listed living with Elsie at 63 Grand Parade Brighton le Sands. Herbert lived a long life post retirement, passing away in 1979 at the age of eighty five.

Constable and Sergeant Albert Henry Harrowsmith 1917-1924

Albert Henry Harrowsmith was born on June 19, 1879, in Chertsey, Surrey, the child of Albert and Sarah Ann Harrowsmith. He married Catherine Miller in 1906 in Sydney, New South Wales. They had five children during their marriage; Sara Gertrude 1908-1985, Albert 1909-1921, Frederick 1909-1988, Isaac Henry 1911-1978 and Mary 1915-1917. (305) Sadly only three reached adulthood.

Harrowsmith's career covered cases from finding lost nuns, locating missing milk cans and stolen garden tools to the alleged fraudulent misappropriation of funds. He was made a Constable in 1902, was in Broken Hill, living at the Police Station in 1910 selling a typewriter, in perfect condition. (306); by 1918 he had achieved the rank of Sergeant. His professional trajectory continued in 1932:

*"On 26 Aug 1932, R. W. D. WEAVER. Chief Secretary's Department.*



*THE Governor-in-Council has approved of the following Police appointments:—Sergeant 1st Class Albert Henry Harrowsmith to be Acting Inspector as on and from 3rd August, 1932. FRANK A, CHAFFEY.” (307)*

And On 9 Dec 1932:

*“Chief Secretary's Department.*

*IN pursuance of the provisions of the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act, 1912-29, the Governor-in-Council has approved of the following Police appointments:—*

*Acting Inspectors Albert Henry Harrowsmith to be Inspector 3rd Class, from 3 November, 1932. FRANK A. CHAFFEY.” (308)*

Albert Henry Harrowsmith died on June 26, 1947, in Manly, New South Wales, at the age of sixty eight and was buried in Sutherland, New South Wales.

Constable Percy George Hale 1921 - 1933

When Percy George Hale and his twin sister Mabel May were born on March 9, 1887, in New South Wales, they were two of fourteen children. He was an athletic man and a boxer of some repute when he married Laura Anne Kelleher in 1913 in Sydney and they went on to have eight children together. He joined the Police Force and in 1922 he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. The 1931 electoral roll showed that Percy George Hale, police sergeant and his wife Laura Anne were living at 31 Bembridge Street, Kogarah. Percy George Hale passed away in 1953 in Sydney, New South Wales, at the age of sixty six from a coronary occlusion.



*Left: Percy George Hale and Laura  
Anne Hale ( nee Kelleher ) and  
children*

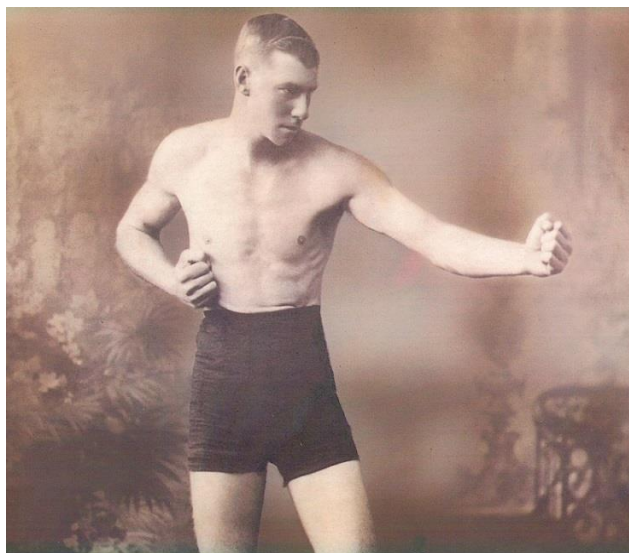
*Person.ancestry.com.au. (2016).*

*Percy George Hale. [online]*

*Available at:*

*<http://person.ancestry.com.au/tree/76001340/person/30335290953/gallery> [Accessed 8 Jun. 2016].*

*Right: Percy George Hale – Champion Boxer  
Person.ancestry.com.au. (2016). Percy George  
Hale. [online] Available at:  
<http://person.ancestry.com.au/tree/76001340/person/30335290953/gallery> [Accessed 8  
Jun. 2016].*





*Above left: Percy George Hale – New Policeman*

*Above right: Percy George Hale – Older Policeman at Maitland*

*Person.ancestry.com.au. (2016). Percy George Hale. [online] Available at:*

*<http://person.ancestry.com.au/tree/76001340/person/30335290953/gallery> [Accessed 8 Jun. 2016].*

Constable Gilherd 1922 (no other information)

Sergeant Edgar Beattie Caban 1922

Edgar Beattie Caban was born in 1883 in Scone, New South Wales, to Thomas and Sarah Ann Caban (nee McMullen); He had two brothers and two sisters; Irvine Caban, William Freeman Caban, Ada Caban and Edith Mary Caban. (309). He married Mildred May Harper and they had four children

together. Edgar became a Probationary Constable, Badge Number 8327 in 1905 and had been promoted to Constable the next year. In 1921 he was again promoted:

*"A POLICE PROMOTION'.*

*Recently promoted to the rank of sergeant was Edgar Caban. well-known as police prosecutor at Paddington, .Redfern, Glebe, , Newtown and Kogarah. Sergeant Caban, who originally came from Scone, Northern Rivers, has been in the police force for over sixteen years, and during two years of that time has been prosecuting at various courts, chiefly those mentioned above, Those who often come in contact with Sergeant .Caban are struck by his gentlemanly bearing, and kindness and courtesy to all. His promotion has been well earned, and as he is still a young man, he should reach high office in the Department."* (310)

This belief came to fruition in 1939:



Edgar Beattie Caban died in 1955 in Chatswood, New South Wales, at the age of seventy one.



#### Constable Adner Allen Colless 1922-1936

Adner Allen Colless was born on June 24, 1892, in Coonamble, New South Wales, to Eli and Eliza Colless. He married Emma Chatwin on October 13, 1919, in Longreach, Queensland. They had four children during their marriage, two daughters and two sons, one of whom Neville, also became a police officer, Constable Neville Colless. (312)

May 1923 brought personal danger to Constable Colless when he was involved in a serious motor accident at Rockdale. (313) He was knocked down by a car whilst standing on the corner of Rocky Point Road and King Streets and carried along Rocky Point Road for some distance before being run over again by a Bushell's Tea Wagon. He received internal injuries and was taken by St. George Ambulance to hospital. The driver of the initial car, Arthur Thomas Edwards, of Drummond Street, Belmore, did not hold a licence or permit to be driving and was arrested afterwards. In 1936, poor Constable Colless faced the embarrassment of having his police car stolen by three children from in front of his house in Market Street, Rockdale. An unlucky event to happen to a good policeman.

Also, in 1936 Constable Colless, accompanied by relatives, arrived in Bathurst and addressed local police on protective measures against war gasses. Constable Colless went to Lithgow, inaugurating a campaign to be conducted among western police centres, including Orange, Parkes, Dubbo and

Mudgee. His lectures dealt with anti-gas precautionary instruction, and as he had a thorough grasp of a difficult subject, apparently proved most interesting and instructive to those who attended. (314) Colless, a Salvation Army Officer, had seen firsthand the dangers of gas in war as a member of the Army Medical Corps Special Reinforcements, when he had enlisted and travelled overseas in 1916. (315) He had also lost his twenty year old brother Christie Charles Colless, killed in action in France as well as four cousins; Lt Stanley. Colless; Pte John William Colless; LS Frederick Joselyn Colless and LCpl E. Rhynhart. (316) This would have been a very personal journey of education for Constable Colless.

Constable Adner Allen Colless died on October 2, 1945, at the age of fifty three in Lynwood Private Hospital. A much happier occasion for the Colless family occurred in December 1950, when his son, Constable Neville Colless, younger son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Colless, of Rockdale married Joy, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Foxlee, of Newcastle, and Mt. Pritchard at Cabramatta Baptist Church. (317) Tragically, Neville died four years later at the very young age of twenty six, on the 20 December 1954: Joy Eleanor Colless remarried four years later to Drk Zier Jol at Fairfield.

#### Constable Richard Netta Kinkade 1923-1927

Richard Netta Kinkade was born on July 12, 1876, in Cavan, Ireland, to his dairy farmer father, Thomas and mother, Dora. He lived in Pyrmont, New South Wales after he arrived in Australia sometime before 1884. (318) He was made a Probationary Constable, Badge Number 6185 in 1891 and an Ordinary Constable in 1892. He was based originally in Bathurst dealing with everyday policing matters such as drunkenness, vagrancy, horse stealing and other theft. He had to also deal with the great shearing strike of 1894, when he and Constable Garner were sent out west to Coonamble to assist in quelling the shearers trouble, with other members of the Police Force from the surrounding districts. (319)

In September 1899, he was once again sent away from Bathurst to be attached to the force at the Railway deviation works at Newbridge for a proposed period of nine to twelve months. (320) Mention was also made of his seven years in Bathurst, the number of friends he had made during that time and the esteem he had earned of his superior officers. He was back in Bathurst in March



1903, however he had been confined to Bathurst Hospital with an unnamed severe illness, but soon recovered and was released from hospital. (321)

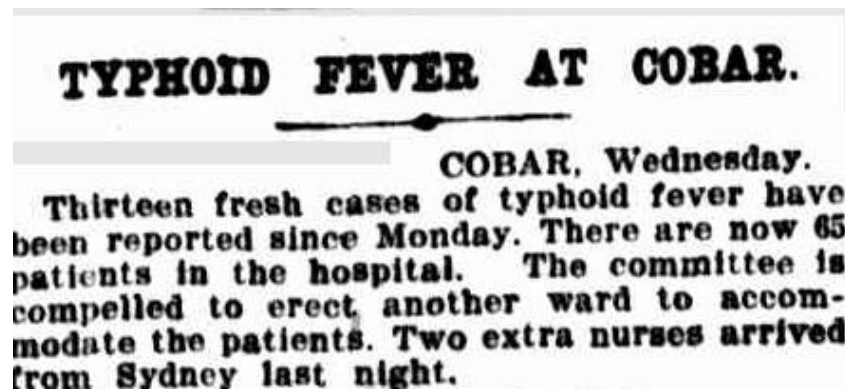
In July 1904, Constable Kinkade had to deal with the apparent shooting suicide of Mr. James Thomas Isaac Wilmott Eckersley, a local man; apparently, death was instantaneous and there was no motive. (322) The police were subsequently informed and Constable Kinkade was despatched to the scene. On examining the pea rifle, he discovered an empty shell, which to all appearances had only been recently discharged. His wife had been hanging out clothes in the back garden when she heard the shot. The thirty seven year old deceased had been employed in the fitting shop at the Bathurst Railway Station, and had been a resident in the district for about three years. He left a widow and two children

On a happier note on the 9 March 1905, Richard married twenty one year old Estella M Gartrell in Bathurst, New South Wales; home was 317 Howick Street, Bathurst for the newlyweds. They had five children, but sadly one daughter Leonie died before her first birthday in 1905, as did son William in 1906. The remaining surviving children were: Jessie born in 1908, Richard Gartrell born in 1913 and Ruth born in 1918, all of whom lived into old age.



*Left : Kinkade Family Home at 317  
Howick Street, Bathurst  
Google Maps. (2016). 317 Howick  
Street, Bathurst. [online] Available at:  
<https://www.google.com.au/maps/@-33.4115228,149.5758142,3a,75y,55.76h,90t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m4!1srQKBe9ItXTwbxDakWmHRHg!2e0!7i13312!8i6656!4b1!6m1!1e1> [Accessed 9 Jun.  
2016].*

In March 1908, Constable Kinkade was back in hospital, however he had been transferred by this stage to Cobar and the Cobar locals were hoping that he was not suffering from typhoid, he once again fell very ill in the February of 1910. This had been a very real fear for the locals in 1906...



*Above: News Report on Typhoid Outbreak of 1906*

*Trove. (2016). TYPHOID FEVER AT COBAR. - COBAR, Wednesday. - The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954) - 26 Apr 1906. [online] Available at: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/14767863> [Accessed 9 Jun. 2016].*

Senior Constable Kinkade's ongoing illness required him to undergo another operation in Sydney in April 1910 (323) but was reported as recovering well in hospital. He was soon back on the job in Cobar dealing with a murder case with strong racial overtones.

An alleged murder in September 1911 caused a sensation at Cobar, when a local Chinese man went to the Police Station and reported that a dead man was lying in a vegetable garden.

*"Senior-Sergeant Reid and Senior-constable Kinkade, accompanied by several other police officers immediately proceeded to the place indicated, and there found a mad named Charles Thomas Cowin lying dead out-side the hut occupied by several Celestials. The unfortunate man's skull was badly fractured, besides which there were two extensive lacerated wounds on the front portion of the head, just behind the forehead. From the nature of the injuries it was at once apparent that a tragedy had been enacted. The body was removed to the morgue, where*



*a post mortem examination was held on Sunday the attention of the police officials was then directed to ascertaining how deceased came by his wounds, and later on they secured such evidence as justified them in arresting two Chinamen, named Lee Chew and Georgie Lee, on suspicion of being concerned in the death of Cowin, It is stated that deceased went to the Celestials' hut to see a certain woman who was supposed to be there, but who appears was at the time at another camp. However, Cowin it would seem, imagined the woman was there, and refused to leave the vicinity of the premises. What then actually occurred at present known, but no doubt it will be brought to light at the inquiry which will be opened in a few days. Cowin, who was a single man, 37 or 38 years of age, resided with his mother and sisters at Meryula. He was a ganger on the railway line, and besides the particulars here stated little is known of him. We understand the police, who deserve great credit for the patient and careful way in which they have handled this case in the face of very great difficulties, are in possession of strong presumptive evidence. It is said a couple of shots were also fired from a rifle, but the post mortem examination held on Sunday revealed no evidence of deceased having been shot. However, the police authorities are in possession of a garden hoe with a broken handle, which it is thought might have had something to do with the crime.” (324)*

Georgie Lee had the charges dropped and Lee Chew was eventually charged with the murder of Cowin. He was found guilty of manslaughter due to self-defence against a drunken assailant and sentenced to three years gaol.

Early in 1912 and despite his ongoing ill health, Senior-Constable Richard Kinkade was appointed Sub-Inspector under the Liquor Act for the Cobar district. (325) There was a case of bushranging and highway robbery in the April of that year upon two local Chinese men. Constable Kinkade arrested Cyril White and Robert Hagar, two teenagers for the crimes. (326) The two young men had used masks and a revolver in two separate highway robberies. Kinkade received another promotion in the June of the same year, which was an obviously popular decision:

*“Cobarites will be very pleased to hear that Senior Constable Kinkade has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant. The promotion has been richly deserved.. At the Licensing Court on Friday Mr. J. Leah, Deputy Licensing Magistrate, extended congratulations to Mr. Kinkade. Personally he had every reason to believe the promotion was well deserved. He expressed the hope that he would not long remain a sergeant, but that he would soon receive further promotion. Mr. M. J. Duffy, on behalf of the legal profession, also added his congratulations on the well merited rise. Also as Mayor of the town, he was sure that the news of the promotion would be very pleasing to the citizens. He was an officer whose acts always showed the exercise of common sense, tact, and ability. He had no doubt that he would fill the position with every credit. On behalf of the profession and the citizens he heartily congratulated him. Sergeant Kinkade, who was really surprised, thanked the Bench and Mr. Duffy for their kind re-marks. He did not know what he had done to deserve them. At all times he endeavoured to do his best. He thanked them sincerely for their very kind remarks.” (327)*

Kinkade was in Rockdale by the time of a report of insulting language being used against him at the Prince of Wales Hotel at Sandringham in March 1923. (328) The defendant was drunk at the time and being a nuisance to the police; he pleaded guilty and was fined five pounds and eight pounds costs. However, by August 1925, Kinkade was listed as an ex-Sergeant when his son Richard, aged thirteen of Parramatta Road, was admitted to Prince Alfred Hospital with a fractured leg. He was playing at school when he slipped and fell down, and another boy fell across his leg, causing the Injury. (329)

Richard Kinkade passed away on the 3 December 1935 in North Sydney, at the age of sixty eight.

*“EX - SERGEANT KINKADE. Ex-sergeant Richard Kinkade, who passed away on Tuesday morning, was for many years in charge of Ryde police district. On his retirement he lived privately at Ryde and in his earlier association with the force was stationed at Cobar, Bathurst and*

*Wellington. For some weeks he had been in a poor state of health. He leaves a widow, two daughters and a son.” (330)*

#### Constable Stephenson

There were two Constable Stephenson's at Rockdale ....the first was Constable Rushton George Stephenson who was born in 1886. Constable 1st Class Stephenson joined New South Wales Police Force on 9 July 1912. In 1925 there was an R. G. Stephenson living at the Crawford Road Brighton Police Station, as the Officer in Charge. (331) Rushton George Stephenson had married Clara G Johnson in 1921, but sadly five years later, thirty three year old Clara G Stephenson died at her Crawford Road premises at Brighton le Sands.(332)

Ruston George Stephenson was stationed at Newtown Police Station when he was involved in a motor vehicle accident in Newtown and died on the 9 April 1933. The incident was covered in the press and a eulogy printed for the public:

*“On 8 April, 1933 Constable George Stephenson of the Newtown Police Station travelled with a group of other police to the Newtown Stadium. They parked the police vehicle in Erskineville Road and as the constable stepped out from behind the car he was hit by a passing motor cycle outfit. Constable Stephenson sustained severe injuries and died in hospital the following morning. An 18 month old child passenger of the motor cycle outfit, Fay Joyce Moon, was also killed in the accident.*

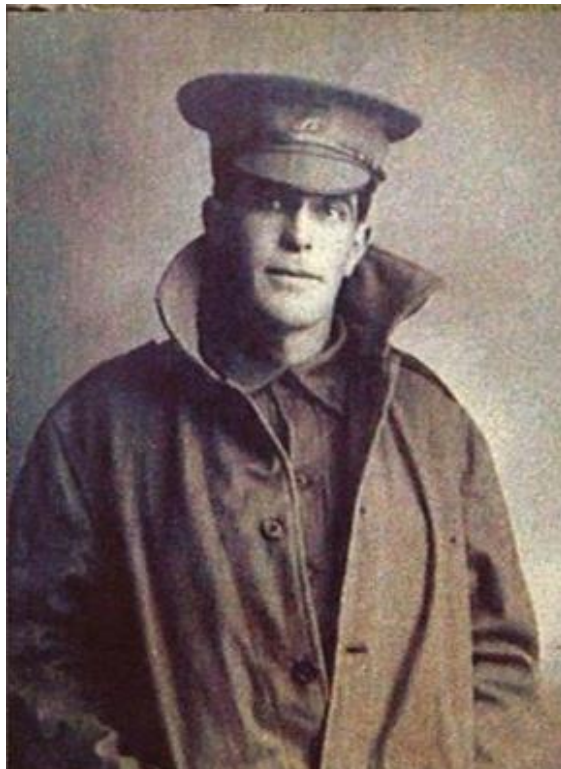
*The Northern Standard newspaper dated 13 April, 1933 reported that “Constable Stephenson who was killed by a motorist while on duty, was a famous athlete, and had a distinguished war record, winning the D.S.O and Military Medal. Five hundred uninformed men spontaneously attended his funeral [in Sydney] today.”*

*The constable was born in 1886 and joined the New South Wales Police Force on 9 July, 1912. At the time of his death he was stationed at*

*Newtown. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal during World War 1.*

*Ruston joined the NSW Police Force in 1912 and in 1916 enlisted in the army, later joining the fight in France during the First World War. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous gallantry in rescuing injured soldiers while under fire. Remarkably, when he returned home, he re-joined the Police Force and continued to serve until his death at the then Newtown Stadium while performing general duties policing.” (333)*

Policing is always a dangerous job, every day that a member of the force steps out onto the street could be their last, you never know...for Constable Stephenson he died on duty doing his job.



*Above: Rushton George Stephenson*

*Australian Police. (2012). Ruston George STEPHENSON. [online] Available at: <http://www.australianpolice.com.au/ruston-george-stephenson/> [Accessed 9 Jun. 2016].*

The other Constable Stephenson was Constable G F Stephenson who worked in the district around 1926. He had been born on the 20 September 1889 and joined the Police Force on the 10 November 1914. By 9 June 1920, he was a Constable First Class, Badge Number 9953 stationed at Yalgogrin. (334) In 1934 G F Stephenson was again promoted to Sergeant Third Class (335) He was also a bit of a horticulturalist and was very proud of his garden at Brighton le Sands with a story about his bore watering system that he set up in the newspaper in September 1940. He had a private pumping plant which could deliver five hundred gallons per hour to his garden.



*Above: Sergeant G F Stephenson and his Garden*

*Trove. (2016). WAR PRISONERS IN CANADA—AUSTRIAN PRINCE WITH ALLIES-- BRIGHTON RESIDENT'S PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY. - The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954) - 30 Sep 1940. [online] Available at: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17699206> [Accessed 9 Jun. 2016].*

On the 27 May 1945 Desk Sergeant Stephenson from Redfern was involved in a siege with a lone gunman which resulted in the deaths of two other police officers. A desperate gun battle in which 'wanted' criminal, twenty one year old Stephen Henry Cunningham, fought it out with police until he

died by his own hand, more than an hour later. Before he took his own life, Cunningham had killed two police officers. Stephenson had tried to get the young man to give himself up, to no avail. (336)



*Left: Sergeant Stephenson  
Trove. (2016). GUNMAN WHO  
DEFIED LAW TO THE DEATH! -  
POLICE DARE HAIL OF BULLETS -  
Truth (Sydney, NSW : 1894 -  
1954) - 27 May 1945. [online]  
Available at:  
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/169360294> [Accessed 9  
Jun. 2016].*

Sergeant Stephenson thought he had seen everything in his career until the 11 January 1948, when police made the grim discovery of a woman's body in her home at Redfern. Mrs. Agnes Bridget Marshall, aged fifty nine, of Eveleigh Street, Redfern, was found battered to death, then she had been decapitated. (337) Police found her head in the fuel stove oven of her kitchen; this was a case described by police as one of the most horrifying in their long experience. Mrs. Marshall's son, twenty one year old William James Marshall, was charged with her murder; he stated that God told him to do it.

Sergeant Stephenson, and other police went to a small dwelling in Eveleigh Street, Redfern where the body of Mrs. Marshall was found in the kitchen on the floor; her head was missing. There was evidence that Mrs. Marshall had been attacked in the front bedroom with a claw hammer as she lay on her bed; the police took possession of a hammer and two table knives.

### Sergeant William John Gorman 1928

In 1917, William John Gorman was stationed at Lane Cove Police Station. On October 3 of that year he visited the spot at Longueville where Anne Birkett's body was found. There, he picked up a whisky bottle which contained about a tablespoonful of kerosene which he handed over to Inspector Andrew Campbell and Sergeant Maize. Anne Birkett's body had been burnt to prevent it being identified by authorities. (338) By August 1920 Sergeant William Gorman was stationed at Kogarah.

On the 22 October 1928, Ex Sergeant William John Gorman passed away at his home at 83 Harrow Road, Bexley. He had been attached to Rockdale police station for nine years until he retired early in 1928. He entered the force twenty seven years before and served on several metropolitan stations, including Rockdale and Kogarah. He left a widow, four daughters, and he was buried at Woronora cemetery. (339)



*Left: 83 Harrow Rd. (2016). 83 Harrow Rd. [online] Available at: <https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/83+Harrow+Rd,+Bexley+NSW+2207/@-33.9537889,151.1326702,3a,60y,233.79h,78.17t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sxbXwfuERP9AxmrVJRS-9WQ!2e0!7i13312!8i6656!4m5!3m4!1s0x6b12b9f8e291b951:0xeb5776051b34cb6!8m2!3d-33.953952!4d151.132439!6m1!1e1> [Accessed 12 Jun. 2016].*

### Constable Michael Joseph Hanley 1928

So much more is known about Michael Joseph Hanley; he was born about 1886, in Longford, Ireland, to father, John and mother, Bridget Hanley. His daughter Mary Madeleine was born in 1910 and he

married his wife, Helen Margaret Ffrenchin 1912 in New South Wales. Sixteen years later he and his wife were farewelled from Tumut, where they had lived for nearly sixteen years, as they set out for their new lives with their family at Rockdale Police station.

*“PRESENTATION TO CONSTABLE MICHAEL AND MRS HANLEY.*

*A large and representative gathering assembled at the Town Hall, Tumut, on Monday night last to take leave of Constable M. Hanley and his wife and family prior to their departure for Rockdale, Sydney.*

*First-class Constable Hanley has been stationed at Tumut between 15 and 16 years, and has given satisfaction to the Department and the citizens of Tumut and district.*

*Prior to that he was stationed for a time in Gundagai and was highly esteemed here. No officer in the police force serving in Tumut has been so universally liked by all classes of the community. He has acted with tact in the discharge of his official duties, and had been one of the best citizens, entering into many public functions and helping in various ways. Mrs. Hanley has also done her part handsomely in social circles. The Chairman presented Mr. Hanley with a leather bound album of Tumut and district views and Mrs. Hanley with a gold wristlet watch. A suite of furniture has also been ordered and this will be delivered to them at their new home at Rockdale. Constable Hanley returned thanks for his wife and self. He said 'Rather than make criminals of the young men he had reproved them, and given them kindly warning as to the upshot of waywardness and sent them home to their parents to reflect. He could now see some of those girls and boys growing up as respectable citizens.'(340)*

The 1932 Census showed Michael and Helen Margaret Hanley living at 7 Heathcote Road, Rockdale.



*Right: The Hanley  
Heathcote Road  
Home*

*Onthefhouse.com.au.  
(2016). 7 Heathcote  
Road, Rockdale.  
[online] Available at:  
[http://www.onthefhouse.com.au/2521717/7\\_heathcote\\_st\\_rockdale\\_nsw\\_2216](http://www.onthefhouse.com.au/2521717/7_heathcote_st_rockdale_nsw_2216)  
[Accessed 12 Jun.*



Helen sadly died in 1943, with her death notice appearing in many newspapers; the family had moved to a new home by this stage.



*Left: Hanley Family Home in 1943  
Realestate.com.au. (2016). 50  
Knoll Avenue, Turrella NSW 2205 -  
View Sold History & Research  
Property Values -  
realestate.com.au. [online]  
Available at:  
<https://www.realestate.com.au/property/50-knoll-ave-turrella-nsw-2205> [Accessed 12 Jun.  
2016].*

*“HANLEY -June 4 1943 (suddenly) at her residence 50 The Knoll Arncliffe  
Helen Margaret beloved wife of Michael Hanley (police sergeant) and  
loving mother of Joan Mollis (Mrs Edmunds of Leeton) and Anthony  
(RAAF) and fond sister of Edie (Mrs Clowrey Canberra) and Larry Ffrench  
of Braidwood Requiescat in pace” (341)*

Michael Hanley died on November 27, 1956, in Rockdale, New South Wales, at the age of seventy.

Constable Thomas Earl Mathew Carney 1929

Thomas Earl Matthew Carney was born in 1902 in Adaminaby, New South Wales to Terence and Johanna Carney. He married his first wife, Mary Magdalene McCrone in 1921 in Temora, New South Wales; sadly, she died the next year aged only twenty five. In 1930 Thomas married his second wife, Alice Brenda Bradley in Kyogle, New South Wales. (342)

In February 1931 Constable Carney found his own car stolen from outside his Police Station. Luckily, he found the whole situation amusing:

*"CONSTABLE'S MOTOR CAR.*

*"That chap seems to know very little about driving a car, but as it is his I don't suppose anyone minds," said Constable Thomas Carney, of Regent-street Police station, as he saw a man driving a motor car rather erratically in Surry Hills on Saturday.*

*His companion in the police patrol car turned round and studied the disappearing vehicle. "It is the same make as the one you drive to town every day," he said.*

*Constable Carney laughed at the thought.*

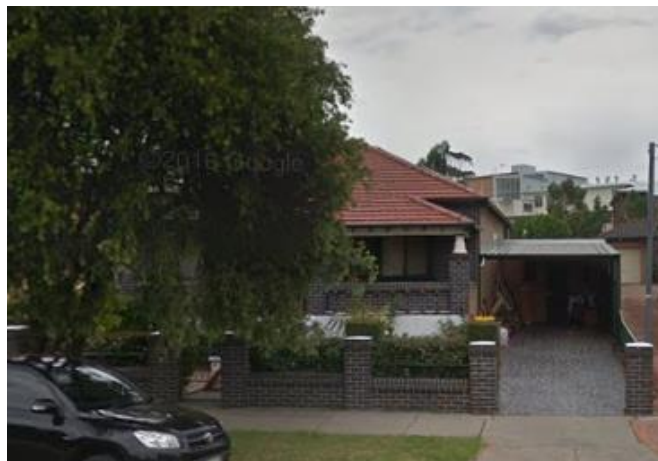
*"Oh, the old bus is standing quite safely outside the station, where I left it," he said. However, the idea persisted, and the two constables turned back and found the motor car within a hundred yards of the spot where they had first passed it. The driver had stopped against the pavement. It was Carney's car.*

*The driver was subsequently charged with taking the car without the consent of the owner." (343)*

By 1934, Thomas Earl Matthew Carney was listed as a police constable living at 120 Cottenham Avenue, Coogee, with his wife Alice Brenda. (344). Carney died on September 15, 1955, in Kensington, New South Wales, at the age of fifty three; another police officer to die at a relatively young age. Alice lived for another twenty seven years on her own; the couple had no children.

#### Sergeant Charles Frederick North 1929

Charles Frederick North was born in 1881 in Campbelltown, New South Wales to Charles and Ann North. He was married in 1905 in Sydney, to Annie Hanlon and moved into their home at Newtown. The 1931 electoral roll has Sergeant North living at 5 Waratah Street, Kingsgrove (now Bexley) with his wife Annie. (345)



*Above: The North Family Home*

*Onthefhouse.com.au. (2016). 5 Waratah Street, Bexley. [online] Available at:  
[http://www.onthefhouse.com.au/13405494/5\\_waratah\\_st\\_bexley\\_nsw\\_2207](http://www.onthefhouse.com.au/13405494/5_waratah_st_bexley_nsw_2207) [Accessed 12 Jun.  
2016].*

The Norths had eight children including Charles R (1906-1907) in Newtown, Hazel (1909-1910) in Newtown and Stanley, Charles F, Arthur, George, Emily May and Ada Florence. Charles Frederick North died in 1958 in Hurstville, at the age of seventy seven.

#### Constable Alexander Cowden, 1929

Alexander Cowden was born in 1892 in New South Wales after he parents arrived from Scotland. He married his wife Gertrude Laura Marx in 1922 in Redfern, New South Wales. (346) He had become a Probationary Constable, Badge Number 1281, by the 29 December 1921. (347) In 1934 he and wife Gertrude were living at 21 Carroll Street, Kogarah according to the Electoral Roll with their three sons. Constable Alexander Cowden passed away on the 19 May 1970 at the age of seventy eight.

#### Sergeant John Bridge 1929

The 1932 Electoral Roll had John, a police sergeant, living with his wife Mary Millar Walker whom he had married in 1892, and three daughters Ivy Priscilla, saleswoman, Linda Florence Amelia, costumer and Marion Mary Elizabeth, pastry cook. There was another daughter Nancy Mille born 1903 (348) They lived at 104 Livingstone Road, Marrickville at this time; prior to this the family lived in Tumbarumba. His wife Mary died in 1951 at Randwick, but no date of death could be found for John Bridge.

#### Constable Archie Boyd in 1931 Inspector Boyd 1959

When Archie Boyd was born on November 21, 1895, in Wyong, New South Wales, he was one of eventual thirteen children, five of whom died in infancy, to father, George Boyd and mother, Sophia Bradley. He married his wife, Rose Spratt in 1921 in Camden, New South Wales and the 1936 Electoral Roll had Archie living with her at 14 Austral Street Kogarah. (349) Not much else is known about Inspector Archie Boyd, who died on September 25, 1968, in Kogarah, New South Wales, at the age of seventy two.

## Sergeant W. J. Hibbard 1925-31

In 1926 W J Hibbard was living at 517 Princes Hwy Rockdale as per the Sands Directory of the day. (350). In April of the same year he arrested Albert Charles Johnson for uttering a forged five pound note, listed as being a Third Class Sergeant with Sydney Police in the news report. (351). By October 1931, he was based at Kogarah in the report of ex- Inspector Stutchbury's funeral.

### *"EX-INSPECTOR STUTCHBURY.*

*The remains of the late ex-Inspector Stutchbury of Fivedock, were interred In the Church of England portion of Field of Mars Cemetery yesterday.*

*The chief mourners were the widow, Messrs. G. and W Stutchbury (sons), Misses D. M. and E. Stutchbury (daughters), Messrs Edward and Ephraim Stutchbury (brothers), Mrs. J. Clarke (sister), Mrs R. McGregor (sister-in-law), Miss M. Stutchbury (niece), and Messrs George Stutchbury and S. and A. Atkins (nephews).*

*Among those present were Sergeants Hibbard (Kogarah) and Burgess (Lidcombe,) ex Superintendent of Police Thom, ex-Inspectors Barnes, Bolton, Briggs, Caldwell, Clarke, Doig, Anderson, Ewing, Greneger, Gibson, Bond and Fraser, ex Sergeants Murray, J. Loomes, Stinson, McDonnell and Danks ex-Constable Connolly.*

*Miss K. Sullivan (Gundagai), Misses Wilson (Delegate), Messrs. H. McGrade and A. Cooper (late of Delegate), also a large number of Drummoyne and Fivedock residents."* (352)

## Constable Hall 1925

The only personal information that could be found about Constable Hall was that in July 1939, he was selling a car whilst living at 6 Rockwell Crescent, Potts Point. (353)

#### Constable C. J. Harrison 1925

The first case that Constable Harrison, Badge Number 7679, was reported as dealing with in the press was that of a tragedy at Waterloo in January 1904, where James Mineham killed his wife Florence Mary Mineham. (354) Mineham had a history of drunken cruelty to his wife, however, when sober he was a kind and gentle man. After being arrested for yet another drunken binge, he had been bailed and returned home, where neighbours woke to screams early the next morning. Poor Florence had been beaten around the head by an axe and Constables Harrison and Fraser of Redfern Police conveyed her body to the Prince Alfred Hospital, where she was pronounced dead. Mineham was captured suffering minor cuts to his own throat and charged with the murder of his wife. They had been married for three years and had a toddler, who was taken into her maternal grandparents care.

Three years later he was on the scene of a tram accident at Circular Quay where he was first on the scene. An elderly pedestrian was killed and a few people hospitalized, who had been transferred by Constable Harrison to the hospital after the accident. As the result of an inquiry into the matter, the driver and the conductor of the tram were both taken into custody at the Water Police Station at Circular Quay. (355)

#### Constable Donald William Gee 1925 – 1946

Donald William Gee was born in Jerrys Plains, New South Wales, Australia in 1896 to Clement William Gee and Harriet Tudor. Donald William married Constance Vivien Shearman in 1920 and the couple had two children. Constance died in 1945 and Donald William married Dora Shearman, his first wife's little sister in 1945, who also passed away four years later. He then married for a third time to Roma Elizabeth McDonald in 1953 in Sydney, New South Wales.

He was made a Probationary Constable 12 January 1922, Badge Number 1291 (356) and in July 1925, he was involved with a rape case at Kogarah.

### Attempted Rape.

Kogarah.—GEORGE WILSON, alias MARK PRESTON, alias GEORGE BABBINGTON CHARLES PRESTON, alias GEORGE BADDINGTON, alias GEORGE PRESTON (28), charged with assaulting Lily Gore Johnson (10 years), with intent to commit rape, at Kogarah, has been arrested by Sergeant 2nd Class Harrowsmith, and Constables Hale, Hardy and Gee, Sydney Police. Committed for trial at Quarter Sessions. Identical with discharged prisoner same name (vide Police Gazette, 1923, page 323).

Above: Details of the 1925 Rape Case

Interactive.ancestry.com.au. (2016). New South Wales Police Gazette 1925 for Donald William Gee. [online] Available at:

[http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1942/31842\\_216757-](http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1942/31842_216757-00279?pid=1264619&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangsc%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsln%3dgee%26gsln_x%3d1%26msrpn__ftp%3drockdale%26msydy%3d1925%26gskw%3dpolice%2bconstable%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26MSAV%3d1%26uidh%3dh2%26msydy_x%3d1%26msydp%3d_x%26pcat%3d36%26h%3d1264619%26recoff%3d13%26db%3dNSWGazettes%26indiv%3d1%26ml_rpos%3d6&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true)

[00279?pid=1264619&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangsc%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsln%3dgee%26gsln\\_x%3d1%26msrpn\\_\\_ftp%3drockdale%26msydy%3d1925%26gskw%3dpolice%2bconstable%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26MSAV%3d1%26uidh%3dh2%26msydy\\_x%3d1%26msydp%3d\\_x%26pcat%3d36%26h%3d1264619%26recoff%3d13%26db%3dNSWGazettes%26indiv%3d1%26ml\\_rpos%3d6&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true](http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1942/31842_216757-00279?pid=1264619&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangsc%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsln%3dgee%26gsln_x%3d1%26msrpn__ftp%3drockdale%26msydy%3d1925%26gskw%3dpolice%2bconstable%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26MSAV%3d1%26uidh%3dh2%26msydy_x%3d1%26msydp%3d_x%26pcat%3d36%26h%3d1264619%26recoff%3d13%26db%3dNSWGazettes%26indiv%3d1%26ml_rpos%3d6&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true) [Accessed 13 Jun. 2016].

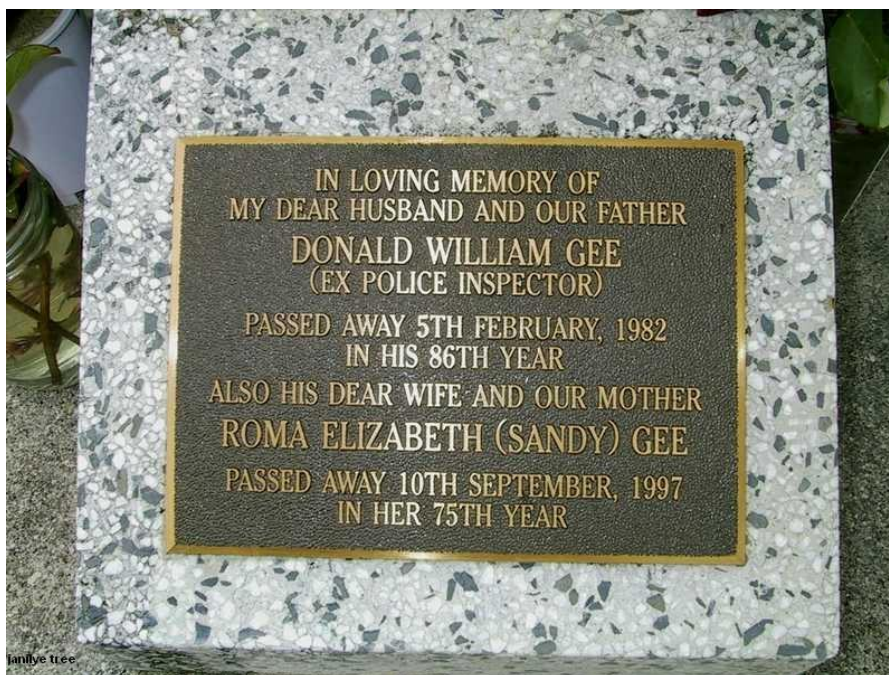
He was promoted to the rank of Detective Sergeant in September 1939, being mentioned in the list of police promotions and well known in the Singleton district, being the son of Mr Clem Gee, of Jerry's Plains. (357) Six years later, in August 1945 Detective Gee and his brother Robert Athol Gee were named as executors in his late father Clement William Gee's will.

Detective Sergeant Gee's biggest local case was the gun battle in Bexley in 1946 :

*"SYDNEY, Wednesday.-A 16-yearold boy faced 16 charges in the Bexley Children's Court to-day. The boy, who was arrested at Bexley on September 24, in alleged to have engaged police in a gun battle in a heavily bushed gully near Bexley. He is charged with having shot at Detective-Sergeant Donald William Gee, Detective Cecil Ferguson Wightley, and Detective Thomas Mitchell. with intent to murder. He also faces 10 charges of breaking, entering and stealing from homes in*



*Bexley North, Bardwell Park and Banksia, and, further, with carrying an unlicensed pistol and escaping from Emu Plains prison camp. The boy was under a heavy police guard in the Court.” (358)*



*Grave Stone of Donald William Gee and Roma Elizabeth Gee*  
*Person.ancestry.com.au. (2016). Donald William Gee. [online] Available at:*  
*<http://person.ancestry.com.au/tree/8760863/person/633897700/gallery> [Accessed*  
*13 Jun. 2016].*

#### Detective G. W. Arnold 1932

In July 1938 Detective Arnold was involved in the case of thirty three year old Joe Camilleri, a poultry farmer, who was charged with feloniously attempting to administer the poison arsenic to his wife, Mary Camilleri, with intent to murder her. Mrs. Camilleri had lost the use of her limbs through the attempt. Arnold gave evidence in court that the defendant admitted having visited his wife in the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and had left some pastry with his wife, and that the pastry had been found to contain arsenic. (359) Arnold was promoted in August 1942 from Sergeant First Class to acting Inspector and by September 1949 he was Superintendent G. W. Arnold (360)



*Royal Victorian Order.*

Superintendent G. W. Arnold was invested on 8/1/47 with the Royal Victorian Order (5th Class) for special services to Their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and family whilst in Australia.

*Above: Royal Victorian Order*

*State Records Authority of New South Wales. (2016). Report of the Police Department of New South Wales for the Year 1947. [online] Available at:*

*<https://www.opengov.nsw.gov.au/viewer/a51a3df0aac6ebe7820d04e22d48d369.pdf> [Accessed 13 Jun. 2016].*

#### Constable Edward Harold (Harry) Allard

Edward Harold Allard was born on October 2, 1888, in New South Wales, to Henry and Annie Allard. He married Reubena Pearl Smith in 1912 in Taree, New South Wales (361) and joined the Police Force in 1916. In May 1924 Constable Harry Allard and Mrs. Allard were reported in the paper as having returned to Sydney by the "Wollongbar" on Saturday last, after spending a holiday with Constable Allard's parents at Upper Burringbar. (362)

In February 1925 there was a magisterial inquiry into the drowning of nineteen year old farm labourer Joseph Allan Hughes in the Hunter River, at Raymond Terrace Court House. (363) Constable Allard, with other police, had dragged the river as soon as they had been alerted of the tragedy, well into the night and they had continued the next morning at first light. A verdict of accidental drowning was returned and the drowned lad's father thanked all involved for their efforts in locating his son's body.

However, by early April 1929, Constable Allard, of the West Maitland police was very ill. Blood tests had been taken and the results were not good, he had typhoid fever...he died on ANZAC Day 1929 in Maitland Hospital at the age of forty one; the loss of a good man. He was survived by his wife, two daughters, Florrie and Mona, and one son, Reginald. (364)

His widow was granted a Police Legacy at the time of his death:

Allard, Mrs. Reubena Pearl (widow of the late Constable 1st Class Edward Harold Allard). Gratuity of £388 10s. 0d. to be paid into a trust account in the West Maitland Branch of the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales, in the names of the Inspector of Police for the time being at West Maitland, and Mrs. Allard, and payments of £14 for the support of the widow and support and schooling of the children to be made therefrom each calendar month to Mrs. Allard.

(365)

Constable George A Collard 1933

George Abbott Collard was born on February 19, 1913, in Singleton, New South Wales, to Ernest and Elsie Collard; he had one brother and two sisters. Constable Collard was injured during inquiries into a Darlinghurst shooting in May 1931. Frank Dwyer had been shot in a flat in William Street, Darlinghurst during a card game. Local hostility and considerable resistance was encountered by the police during their works; at one flat they were bombarded with beer bottles. One bottle struck the wall of the flat, and the shattered glass struck Constable Collard, of the wireless patrol, in the face. He was attended by a doctor, and was able to resume work with the inquiries. (366). By 1937, he was listed at Bourke Street Redfern as a constable.

In September 1938 Constable Collard visited the Singleton Show whilst he was carrying on relieving duty at Gloucester (367) and in March 1941 Constable George Collard commenced annual holidays at Bulahdelah and hoped to spend a great deal of his time at the seaside. (368) George Abbott Collard then married Phyllis Maud Maher in 1944 at West Wyalong.

His next big case was in February 1948 when Constable Collard of The Rock Police found local man Finley Matthews, who had been missing from his home in Norman Street, The Rock, at a railway siding six miles out of town. (369) Eighty five year old Matthews suffered from memory lapses and was recognised by railway employees on the side of the railway. Luckily the elderly man suffered no ill effects from his adventure and was returned home safe and sound.

In November 1954, Senior Constable George Abbott Collard of The Rock Police Station, was transferred to the Albury District. He had been a respected officer for over a decade, and had been heavily involved in community activities during his time in the locality. (370) George Abbott Collard died on June 7, 1970, in Port Kembla, New South Wales, at the age of fifty seven. (371)

#### Constable Alfred Alan Peters 1932

Alfred Alan Peters was born in 1902 at Glebe to Charles and Alice Peters (372) and by the 18 September 1929, he was appointed as a Probationary Constable, Badge Number 3342. (373) In the 1931 Electoral Roll Alfred Alan Peters was living at 18 Colvin Avenue Carlton with wife Alice Margaret Catherine Peters (374) and by 1943 they had moved to 29 Fricourt Avenue, Earlwood. Alfred passed away at the early age of forty eight in 1950.



*Left : 18 Colvin Avenue, Carlton*

*Google.com.au. (2016). 18 Colvin Avenue Carlton. [online]*

*Available at:*

*[https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/18+Colvin+Ave,+Carlton+NSW+2218/@-](https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/18+Colvin+Ave,+Carlton+NSW+2218/@-33.9725561,151.1259616,3a,75y,143h,90t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1sk7I-EVZR-YPPath7Ezz8DYw!2e0!6s%2F%2Fgeo2.ggpht.com%2Fcbk%3Fpanoid%3Dk7I-EVZR-YPPath7Ezz8DYw%26output%3Dthumbnail%26cb_client%3Dsearch.TACTILE.gps%26thumb%3D2%26w%3D86%26h%3D86%26yaw%3D143.70354%26pitch%3D0!7i13312!8i6656!4m5!3m4!1s0x6b12b9c2fde69385:0x6c8b63f31f6a99c0!8m2!3d-33.9727693!4d151.1261505!6m1!1e1)*

*[33.9725561,151.1259616,3a,75y,143h,90t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1sk7I-EVZR-](https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/18+Colvin+Ave,+Carlton+NSW+2218/@-33.9725561,151.1259616,3a,75y,143h,90t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1sk7I-EVZR-YPPath7Ezz8DYw!2e0!6s%2F%2Fgeo2.ggpht.com%2Fcbk%3Fpanoid%3Dk7I-EVZR-YPPath7Ezz8DYw%26output%3Dthumbnail%26cb_client%3Dsearch.TACTILE.gps%26thumb%3D2%26w%3D86%26h%3D86%26yaw%3D143.70354%26pitch%3D0!7i13312!8i6656!4m5!3m4!1s0x6b12b9c2fde69385:0x6c8b63f31f6a99c0!8m2!3d-33.9727693!4d151.1261505!6m1!1e1)*

*[YPPath7Ezz8DYw!2e0!6s%2F%2Fgeo2.ggpht.com%2Fcbk%3Fpanoid%3Dk7I-EVZR-](https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/18+Colvin+Ave,+Carlton+NSW+2218/@-33.9725561,151.1259616,3a,75y,143h,90t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1sk7I-EVZR-YPPath7Ezz8DYw!2e0!6s%2F%2Fgeo2.ggpht.com%2Fcbk%3Fpanoid%3Dk7I-EVZR-YPPath7Ezz8DYw%26output%3Dthumbnail%26cb_client%3Dsearch.TACTILE.gps%26thumb%3D2%26w%3D86%26h%3D86%26yaw%3D143.70354%26pitch%3D0!7i13312!8i6656!4m5!3m4!1s0x6b12b9c2fde69385:0x6c8b63f31f6a99c0!8m2!3d-33.9727693!4d151.1261505!6m1!1e1)*

*[YPPath7Ezz8DYw%26output%3Dthumbnail%26cb\\_client%3Dsearch.TACTILE.gps%26thumb%3D2%26w%3D86%26h%3D86%26yaw%3D143.70354%26pitch%3D0!7i13312!8i6656!4m5!3m4!1s0x6b12b9c2fde69385:0x6c8b63f31f6a99c0!8m2!3d-](https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/18+Colvin+Ave,+Carlton+NSW+2218/@-33.9725561,151.1259616,3a,75y,143h,90t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1sk7I-EVZR-YPPath7Ezz8DYw!2e0!6s%2F%2Fgeo2.ggpht.com%2Fcbk%3Fpanoid%3Dk7I-EVZR-YPPath7Ezz8DYw%26output%3Dthumbnail%26cb_client%3Dsearch.TACTILE.gps%26thumb%3D2%26w%3D86%26h%3D86%26yaw%3D143.70354%26pitch%3D0!7i13312!8i6656!4m5!3m4!1s0x6b12b9c2fde69385:0x6c8b63f31f6a99c0!8m2!3d-33.9727693!4d151.1261505!6m1!1e1)*

*[33.9727693!4d151.1261505!6m1!1e1](https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/18+Colvin+Ave,+Carlton+NSW+2218/@-33.9725561,151.1259616,3a,75y,143h,90t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1sk7I-EVZR-YPPath7Ezz8DYw!2e0!6s%2F%2Fgeo2.ggpht.com%2Fcbk%3Fpanoid%3Dk7I-EVZR-YPPath7Ezz8DYw%26output%3Dthumbnail%26cb_client%3Dsearch.TACTILE.gps%26thumb%3D2%26w%3D86%26h%3D86%26yaw%3D143.70354%26pitch%3D0!7i13312!8i6656!4m5!3m4!1s0x6b12b9c2fde69385:0x6c8b63f31f6a99c0!8m2!3d-33.9727693!4d151.1261505!6m1!1e1) [Accessed 15 Jun. 2016].*

#### Constable Albert John Wilson 1932

Constable Albert John Wilson was born on the 6 March 1898 and joined the Police Force on the 1 September 1925, being listed as a Constable, Badge Number 2129 on the 1 Jan 1930. (375) He was married in 1922 in Glen Innes, New South Wales. (376) In April 1932, it was reported in the press that Constable Albert Wilson, who was attached by this time to the police station at Rockdale,

Sydney, was spending a holiday with his family in Dorrigo. He was a tennis player of some note, with a photo in the press of him playing tennis in a tournament in October 1933. The 1934 Electoral Roll showed Albert John Wilson living at 9 Market Street Rockdale, as a police constable with his wife, Gladys Minnie Wilson (nee Murray) (377) They had one son, Kenneth Colin Wilson Albert John Wilson passed away on May 8, 1974 aged seventy six.



*Left : Constable A. J. Wilson  
Trove. (2016). Police Tennis - The  
Newcastle Sun (NSW : 1918 -  
1954) - 11 Oct 1933. [online]  
Available at:  
[http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-  
article165071481](http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article165071481) [Accessed 12  
Jun. 2016].*

Constable Cecil Stuart Lyle Vogan 1933

Cecil Stuart Lyle Vogan was born in 1902 in Marrickville and married Elfrida Fraser in 1924 in the same suburb. (378) When Constable Cecil Vogan opened the door of the general bathroom at Parliament House at 6.20 am on ANZAC Day 1942, he found Mr. George Wilson, the Country Party Member for Dubbo, dead in the bath. Mr Wilson had been reported missing by his family the previous day. Mr. Wilson had lost a leg on the Somme in World War One and had been in poor health for some time. Cause of death was deemed due to heart failure and the effects of diabetes.

Curiously, on ANZAC Day eve 1945, Constable Cecil Vogan aged forty, of Phillip-street Police Station, Sydney, was shot through the head while fishing at Patonga with his wife. (379). He was immediately rushed by boat and truck to meet an ambulance at Woy Woy to transport him to Gosford Hospital. The bullet had entered Constable Vogan's temple and had emerged on the other side and it appeared that he had been shot from the bank by accident. Pensioner James Henry Sinclair was freed after being charged with having caused grievous bodily harm to Constable Vogan when he negligently discharged his rifle at magpies. Constable Vogan had lost his right eye from the injury. When he discharged Sinclair, the magistrate said

*"There was not one chance in a million that such thing would happen again".*

(380)

By July 1951, Constable Vogan was working on the death of a woman in her flat at Orange. The police found more than £700 in notes and coin, a bankbook and over four hundred handkerchiefs and pieces of linen. Robbery was obviously not a motive and an inquest was not held into the death of Mrs Jane Ann Goode. (381) However, by 1963, the Vogan family were living at 32 Lennox Street Banksia. Elfrida died in 1967 at St George Hospital and Cecil passed away on January 3, 1973, in Kogarah, aged seventy one.

#### Constable John Thomas Lambert 1930-1954

John Thomas Lambert was born in 1893 in Penrith, New South Wales; his father Edwin John Lambert had married Ada Mary Walsh the previous year and they eventually had seven children. John Thomas Lambert married Christina Margaret McPherson in 1915 in Sydney; Lambert then served in the military. In July 1919, he was in the Service as a Corporal, 3rd Australian Field Artillery in Saskatchewan; they were living at 339 Bullwarra Road, Ultimo at the time of his enlistment in 1915. However, he was listed on his military papers on discharge as living at "Waroonga", Waterview Street, Kogarah. (382)

Police work often can be called boisterous on occasion, as Constable Lambert found out in one of his earliest cases in November 1924, where both men charged were fined for assault when they did not recognise the men as police officers.

*“ROUGH AND TUMBLE WITH POLICE PATROL*

*Mistaken Identity in Enmore Road - Yates and Brown Convicted*

*After a rousing and witling 'rough-house' with a police night patrol in Enmore-road, Newtown, on November 13, two men were overcome and taken to the Newtown Police Station.*

*In the 'mix-up' Constable Beveridge received a 'woodener' on the jaw, had a back tooth knocked out, and the plate of his false teeth in front broken, whilst Constable Lambert (the chauffeur) was bashed about the mouth, bumped on the ground, and his pair of Government pants burst at the knee. Yet after the mild tornado in which the arrested men had whirled them one (Tates) had the audacity, when charged, to express contrition and add: "let's shake hands upon it." The other (George Brown) was just as cool and impudent. He said: "I will give you a tanner if you make the charge one of riotous behaviour. I am very sorry." The 'go' was such a willing one that Constable Beveridge drew his revolver, jumped at his assailant, and told him if he didn't desist he "would fill him full of lead." That 'turned the trick.' The man held out his hands and said: "Take me." (383)*

In 1935 the Census showed Constable John Thomas Lambert and his wife Christina Margaret (nee Macpherson) living at Lorraine Street Peakhurst. They had married twenty years earlier and lived there from 1930-1954. (384) John Thomas Lambert died on July 10, 1973, in Concord Repatriation Hospital, New South Wales, at the age of eighty.

## Constable Thomas Henry King 1933

Thomas Henry King was born in 1904 to his father, Thomas who was thirty seven and his mother, Lydia, was only twenty three; she was Thomas senior's second wife and his father was also a policeman.

**Redfern.—Warrants have been issued by the Redfern Bench for the arrest of John Athorn and Frank Kelso, charged with assaulting Constable Thomas Edmund King whilst in the execution of his duty, at Sydney, on the 20th ultimo. Athorn is 25 years of age, 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, medium build, clean shaved, full face; dressed in dark-grey clothes, and dark-grey hat. Kelso is about 23 years of age, 5 feet 3 or 4 inches high, thin build, fair complexion, very fair hair, thin face, appears to have a slight cast in eyes; dressed in a blue serge suit and grey soft hat. Can be identified.**

ln (385)

Thomas Henry King married Mabel Eileen Gilbert on February 15, 1930 and they had one child during their marriage; Maureen King born in 1930. (386) The 1932 Electoral Roll shows Thomas Henry King and mother Lydia Maude King living at 10 Kays Ave Marrickville West, but no mention of Maureen at that address, rather at another house in the same street, 29 Kays Avenue.

King's first big case was in July 1941 at the Coroner's Court dealing with the suicide by poisoning of Mrs. Delia Young, aged thirty three, of Premier Street, Marrickville. She had borrowed £3600 from various people unknown to her husband before her death; the police could find no trace of the money. This amount would be equivalent to over \$173, 000 dollars today...what caused her to need so much money? Her husband James was a bricklayer.

*"Detective Constable Thomas Henry King said the different people to whom she owed money were told different stories. The main story was that she was getting the money for a moneylender, who was charging a high rate of interest. As an inducement, Mrs. Young would pay as much*

*as 1/6 in the £1 per week in interest. In the early stages she borrowed only small sums, but later she borrowed large sums, ranging from £100 to £500. “ (387)*

Some crimes were particular to the period, as in January 1942 when Joseph Gordon Wylie, a fitter, stole two hand grenades and about 61b of base alloy, of a total value of 13/, from a munitions factory at Marrickville, over the months of June 30 and November 30, 1941. (388) Wylie did not believe he had committed a crime, when he discussed it with Constable King after his arrest, rather he had only “souvenired” it. A crime such as this was deemed to be against the Commonwealth Government, and would have been greatly frowned upon by the people of the time, despite the low monetary value of the materials.

By September 1946, King was a Detective Constable police witness, defending a twenty three year old married woman in court after she had murdered her eighteen month toddler, Barry John Sullivan as well as trying to kill herself. Mrs. Billie Lois Patricia Sullivan had suffered the utmost brutality at the hands of her husband for months and had tried to do her duty to her husband under the most difficult circumstances. (389) His defence in court allowed Sullivan to be judged as guilty of the lesser charge of manslaughter and be placed on a three year good behaviour bond. He was further congratulated on his lengthy evidence given in a case in September 1947, where seven men were charged with stealing building material at Penrith Court. (390) It was actually the barristers appearing for the accused men who complimented King on the straightforward manner in which he had given his evidence!

In July 1949 King and his wife and fourteen month old daughter were requiring board and lodging in Randwick. Thomas Henry King died on the 26 October 1965 at the age of sixty one, having reached the rank of Inspector of Police in New South Wales.



## Constable Colin Burns Williams

Colin Burns Williams was born in 1914 in Singleton, New South Wales, the youngest son of Charles James and Florence Annie Williams. He married Ina Mons Billingham in 1941 in North Sydney; they had two children during their marriage.

In November 1935, Constable Williams was based in Clarence Street Police Station Sydney on point duty:

*"A familiar face to Singleton people while in Sydney is Constable Colin Williams. Constable Williams is on pedestrian traffic duty in the city and this week he was posted at Farmer & Company's Pitt Street corner. As soon as Colin sees a Singletonian he gives a broad grin in acknowledgment and then gets back on the job again."* (391)

The next year the popular Constable enjoyed considerable success at the Police Athletics Carnival:

*"He secured first in the 120' yards handicap, first in the hop, step and jump, first with his team in the half-mile relay, and second in the shot put with a 40ft. 9in. throw. He also won the point score for the greatest number of points won on the day. Colin facetiously adds, "After all this I consider I was the luckiest copper that walked on to the ground." His hardest job of the day was the 120 yards race. To win it he had to race three times, as there were 47 starters and seven heats. He won his heat, semi-final, and final, "each by a whisker", to quote his own words. He was complimented by Superintendent Lynch, Metropolitan Superintendent, on his runs in the 120 yards event. As a result of his successes, Colin lifted a canteen of cutlery and £6 worth of trophies."* (392)

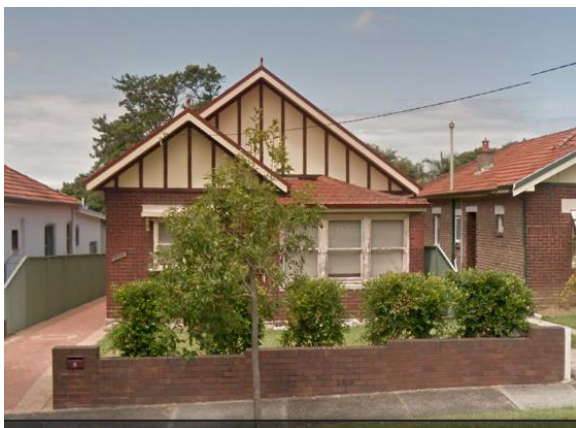
Constable Colin Williams was reported back on duty at Pyrmont in Sydney after spending a week end with his mother in Singleton, in May 1936. By the 3 March 1949 he was in Newcastle, again in court, after being assaulted in the execution of his duty, by thirty year old labourer John Lennon. (393) Constable Collin Burns Williams died on the 3 January, 1997 in Port Macquarie, at the age of eighty three.

#### Constable Cole

All that we know of Constable Cole is of his duties whilst stationed at Rockdale during the 1930s.

#### Constable Jefferson Davies Browne

Jefferson Davies Browne was born in 1894 in Germanton, later known as Holbrook, in New South Wales, one of ten children to Jefferson Davies Browne Senior and Elizabeth Lydia Browne. His brother, Alfred Benjamin born in 1896, died in action in the First World War at Gallipoli, on the 27 August 1915. (394) Jefferson Browne was appointed as a Probationary Constable Badge Number 1237 on the 20th October 1921. He and wife Emilia initially lived at 17 Queen street Marrickville in 1930 and he was still a Constable living at 444 Homer Street Earlwood with his wife Emilia Mary in 1968 when he died in 1968. (395)



*Left: 444 Homer Street, Earlwood*

*Google Maps. (2016). 444 Homer Street Earlwood.*

*[online] Available at:*

*[https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/444+homer+street/@-](https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/444+homer+street/@-33.9284474,151.1192723,3a,47.6y,154.22h,89.64t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sSWilaFHcclt6RAJBMA3dVw!2e0!7i13312!8i6656!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0x853bd3d12f7f52bb!6m1!1e1)*

*33.9284474,151.1192723,3a,47.6y,154.22h,89.64t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sSWilaFHcclt6RAJBMA3dVw!2e0!7i13312!8i6656!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0x853bd3d12f7f52bb!6m1!1e1 [Accessed 18 Jun. 2016].*

## Constable Alexander McClung 1937

When Alexander McClung was born in 1889 in Bungendore, New South Wales, his father, Alexander, was forty three and his mother, Grace, was forty two; he had four brothers and six sisters. McClung became a Probationary Constable, Badge Number 9486 on the 23 July 1912 and he married Rose Adelaide Fife in 1919 in Goulburn, New South Wales. His maternal Grandfather was also a police officer as seen in the news article about his grandparent's Golden Wedding anniversary in February 1922.

*"Golden Wedding. Mr and Mrs Alexander McClung celebrated their golden wedding on the 14th January, at the residence of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. T. Love, of Leichhardt. The dining-room and table were tastefully decorated with old gold drapings and miniature sunflowers, the whole presenting a very charming appearance. Mrs. McClung (nee Grace Merchard Hunt) was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Hunt. Mr. Hunt many years ago was a prominent member of the police force in the Parramatta and Goulburn districts, in the old bushranging days. Mr. McClung was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs McClung, of Bungendore. The late Mr. McClung for many years carried on a milling business in that district. The golden wedding celebrants were in receipt of many beautiful presents, including a handsome cameo brooch, gold match box and mounted pips from their family, suitable engraved, a photo in gold frame from Messrs. A. E. Black, M. Jones, and Mrs. G. Speer, of Young, and a handsome cheque from Mr. Wm. McClung, of Murrumbateman. There are eleven children--six girls and five boys. The second eldest son saw active service in the South African War, and the youngest in the late war. There are thirty grandchildren. Twenty-one guests sat at the table. The usual toasts were honoured, and after drinking the health of "the bride and bridegroom" a very pleasant musical evening was spent." (396)*

Constable Alexander McClung was based at Newtown from August 1930 and was involved in investigating a nasty motor vehicle accident where the driver of the car was committed for trial.

John Walter Ross, a thirty seven year old caretaker, was charged at Newtown Police Court with having inflicted bodily harm on Bernice Hill, while he was driving erratically down Enmore Road. (397) Constable McClung was a witness to this dangerous driving on the wrong side of the road and Ross admitted running over a woman as she was boarding a tram. Poor Bernice Hill did not remember anything of the event until she woke up in Prince Alfred Hospital.

In the February of 1931 thirty three year old fruiterer Vicenzi Maloponte was arrested on the Newtown Bridge by Constable McClung, and charged with the murder of Guiseppe La Spina. (398) Detectives had been combing the haunts of Italians since La Spina was shot through the open window of his shop in King Street, Newtown. Constable McClung questioned the man and took him to the police station, where the charge of murder was laid; he was remanded and had bail refused. Constable McClung, in May 1931, put an end to a series of lead robberies from the roofs of factories and warehouses in Newtown. (399) He caught a boy on the roof of a factory, who obviously gave up his four comrades in crime. About four hundredweight of lead was recovered and it could have been easily reduced into an ingot form and would have found a ready market among dealers.

The 1935 electoral roll showed Alexander and Rose Adelaide McClung living at Staple Street, Kingsgrove, he passed away on August 4, 1976, in New South Wales, at the age of eighty seven.

#### Constable Court 1937

All we know about Constable Court is from the newspapers of the time and in October 1941 he was based in Taree and on holidays in the Manning River area.

#### Constable Thomas Leslie Howell 1938-1954

The private life of Constable Howell has the 1954 Electoral Roll showing him as a policeman, Thomas Leslie Howell, living at 27 Wycombe Avenue Rockdale. (400) He was stationed at Sutherland in charge of inquiries of the death of a man who was thrown from a bicycle into a fence in the National Park. He was also involved in the investigation of a serious car crash the same year at Sylvania where

five young men were seriously injured when their car skidded on a patch of wet road, overturned and rolled down an embankment in Prince's Highway, Sylvania. Some Rockdale residents were in the car. 1954 was a busy year as Constable Howell of Sutherland station was patrolling Princes Highway in a police van when he saw a sedan travelling fast towards Sutherland. After a sixty miles an hour chase along Princes Highway and the streets of Sutherland. Constable Howell had recognised the car as one which had been reported stolen from Kogarah the night before and arrested two youths in the car.

Constable Edward McMahon 1939

Constable McMahon was appointed a Probationary Constable on the 18 August 1914, Badge Number 9916. In 1937 he was based at Inverell and dealing with the theft of numerous items.

*"Geoffrey Wordsworth Wright, 21, labourer, was charged that on or about March 28, at Ross Vale, near Inverell. he did steal goods to the value of £3, the; property , of William Willis, namely, girth, leggings, bridle rein, pocket wallet, fountain pen, cigarette case, tin pint, tin plate, fork, knife, spoon, shirts, pull-over, trousers, boots, and blankets. Constable Edward McMahon, of Ashford, deposed that he arrested defendant, who was brought up at Ashford and remanded to Inverell. He produced his evidence taken there and a statement from defendant. He produced the property mentioned; accused admitted stealing it. The goods were found in defendant's possession and he made a statement that he had taken them. William Willis, farmer, Auburn Vale, deposed that accused was employed by him. Witness was in Sydney on March 17 and left defendant in charge. On April 3 witness returned and defendant was gone. The property produced was missing. Defendant elected to be dealt with summarily and pleaded guilty. The police said in addition to the previous offences enumerated in the statement, there was another conviction of false pretences, when defendant was fined £14. Defendant was fined £15, or three days hard labour." (401)*

## Sergeant James Bede Taper 1940

James Bede Taper was born on September 6, 1889, in Nerriga, New South Wales, the child of James George and Bridget Taper. He married Edith Lillian Stuckey 1916 in New South Wales and they had three daughters by the time he was twenty nine. Sergeant Taper was involved in the dramatic case of the attempted murder at Kogarah Court in February 1934.



(402)

He was also involved in the case of another shooting death in April 1940 at Jannali of forty nine year old Arthur Charles Lampshire. (403) Sergeant James Bede Taper stated in court that Robert Menday had told him he had seen a man with a sawn-off gun chase another man down a track at Jannali. When he caught up with them, the pursued man was lying on his back asking the other man not to shoot him. The man with the gun fired a shot and the man on the ground fell back and appeared to die straight away. Edward Robert Hepburn was charged with his murder; it appeared that Lampshire and Hepburn's wife had been having an affair.

James Bede Taper lost his father in September 1940 and was described as the Sergeant at Rockdale and formally the Constable in Charge at Albion Park.

*"DEATH OF JAMES GEORGE TAPER.*

*One of the oldest residents in the district, Mr. James George Taper, died recently at Kangaroo Valley. He was 86 years of age, and succumbed after a very long illness. He was born at Braidwood, and had resided in the district for the greater portion of his life. Mr. Taper belonged to a fine old pioneering family; his father was born at Campbelltown in 1818. The late Mr. Taper is survived by an aged widow, to whom the sympathy of her friends is extended. One son, Sgt. J. B. Taper, of Rockdale, and three daughters, Ann (Mrs. J. O'Sullivan, Bowral), Nell (Mrs. T. Spain, Burrawang), and May (Mrs. H. Wright, Kangaroo Valley), are also left to mourn the loss of a devoted father."* (404)

In March 1941, Sergeant Taper took charge of Hurstville Police after twenty eight years of police service and some time being in charge of Rockdale and Sutherland Police Stations, as well as being stationed at Helensburgh and other south coast towns. (405) He had an excellent work record, being strictly fair and impartial in his work dealings. It was around this time that his daughter, Miss Grace Taper was married to Mr. Edgar Lawrence "Dunc" Gray, the winner of Olympic and British cycling titles.

On the 12 August 1954 he lost his wife Edith, with James Bede Taper dying the next year on May 14 at the age of sixty five.

*"TAPER Edith Lillian. -August 12 1954 at her residence 4 Sunset Avenue South Cronulla dearly loved wife of James Bede Taper loved mother of Grace (Mrs Gray), Bede, Ada (Mrs Jurd), Patricia (Mrs Cook), John and Malcolm (Tony), dear mother-in-law of Duncan, John, Dudley, Edna and Betty and fond grandmother or Mark, Leyon, Suzan, Gregory, Terence, Ronald, Kimbal, Jacqueline, Roslyn and John. Requiescat in pace."* (406)

## Constable Neville William Grigg 1943

Constable Neville William Grigg married Lorna Elsie Snow in 1941 at Chatswood. (407) During 1943 Constable Grigg and Constable Carney were being defamed in court over accusations of bail money being split up with colleagues over cases of indecent exposure. (408) Luckily, both men had the charges dismissed and their dismissal from the Police Force overturned.

*“SYDNEY, Friday. Upholding the appeals of Constables Carney and Grigg against their dismissal from the New South Wales police force on the ground that they had falsely accused, and arrested and charged seven men with indecency, the Manpower Police Appeals Board ordered that Constable Grigg should be restored to his former rank and pay. The Board also ruled that Grigg should be paid during the period of his suspension. Pending the completion of evidence relating to a charge against Constable Carney of disobedience in that allegedly he had recommended Mr. Munro. solicitor, to two persons, the Board did not make an order in respect of Carney.” (409)*

Constable Grigg claimed heavy damages against the Police Commissioner, Mr. Mackay, Consolidated Press and Editor Cyril Pearl, for alleged libel. The hearing lasted twenty one days and the costs were estimated to exceed £8,000. However, in March 1945, thirty two year old Constable Grigg lost his appeal in 1945 and by September 1946 he was determined to be bankrupt. Grigg attributed his bankruptcy to his inability to pay £1689 taxed costs incurred by him in the case. His gross annual salary as a police officer was £395, out of which he paid 35s a week rent and also supported a wife and two young children; he saw no hope of ever paying his creditors on his present income. This drew an end to his police career and nothing further could be found regarding Neville William Grigg, not even a death notice.





*Left: Constable Neville William Grigg*

*Trove. (2016). POLICEMAN*

*BANKRUPT - Truth (Sydney, NSW :  
1894 - 1954) - 22 Sep 1946. [online]*

*Available at:*

*[http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-  
article168776090](http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article168776090) [Accessed 18 Jun.  
2016].*

#### Detective Cecil Ferguson Wightley 1946

Cecil was born in 1908 in Merriwa, in the upper Hunter region, to Albert Norman and Edith May Wightley. He was listed as a Probationary Constable, Badge Number 3238 on July 3, 1929. (410) The Electoral Rolls from 1931-1935 showed Wightley living at 80 Bayview Avenue Earlwood.

Sometimes, being undercover brought its own problems to the job for the police officer. In April 1934; Detective Wightley of the C.I.B. was wearing some old clothes to mask his identity when he was mistaken for a thief in York Street, Sydney. He was attacked by the owner of a bicycle which had allegedly been stolen and he was knocked to the ground. Detectives Wightley with another detective, Larkin, had been watching a man as he stole the bike, with Larkin arresting him after the event. Wightley was in the process of riding the bike back to Police Headquarters when accosted by the owner of the bike. (411) It took some time for the Detective to convince the man of his true identity; the owner apologised profusely and then praised the vigilance of the Sydney police to the surrounding spectators.

In March 1936 Wightley was involved in a case where his integrity was brought into dispute with a case that was eventually dismissed.

*“Allegations were made at the Central Police Court to-day that Bernard Ormord Baker (41), a storekeeper, had incited Cecil Ferguson Wighteley a police constable, to break and enter a dwelling house of Ivy Carr, at Paddington, and steal. Detective Delaney said that a man named Albert Roseman had visited the detective office to lay information that Baker had asked him to break into a flat occupied by Mrs. Carr, in Hoddle - street, Paddington, Witness said he had interviewed Baker in his flat, and informed him of this, also that Roseman had told him he had agreed to bring along a man who would do the job. Witness said that Wighteley, who was present during the interview, had stated that 'Baker has also wanted him to break into Mrs Carr's flat and steal! any papers or documents belonging to an insurance company and to a firm of solicitors, and also any depositions he might find. Wighteley said Baker had told him that Mrs. Carr was taking a civil action in connection with her husband's death, in a Cessnock explosion. Following on that Wighteley :told him he was to receive £20, and £50 from Baker when he brought him the documents. The hearing was adjourned.” (412)*

Mrs Carr had some documents concerning her husband's death and the insurance court case was the next week. The police were told they could also take money that had been collected for the widow by the miners to pay for the wrongful death case. Baker was a truly desperate and despicable man. However, Baker was acquitted and discharged when the jury stopped the case without hearing evidence for the defence and returned a verdict of not guilty due to supposed entrapment.

*“The Crown Prosecutor (Mr. T. S. Crawford), in outlining the case, said that it was alleged that a man named Roseman was asked by Baker to offer Mrs. Carr a sum of money to settle a law suit then pending. Roseman refused to do anything wrong and later went to the Criminal Investigation Department. Constable Wightley was later introduced to Baker by Roseman, as a man willing to do the work. A conversation was alleged to have taken place and been overheard by Detective Sergeant Leary, who was outside the window.*

*Wightley, in evidence, said he had not tried to conceal from Baker that he was a policeman. He did not pretend that he was a criminal. He went there to trap Baker.” (413)*

In July 1939 Wightley was involved in a dramatic car chase through the suburbs of Sydney at speed. Detectives Wiggins and Wightley were patrolling in a police car in Victoria Street, Marrickville, when they saw a stolen car being driven at a fast rate. The pursuit continued through St Peter's. Stanmore, Enmore, Roselle, and Balmain at speeds up to eighty five miles per hour. Detective Wightley fired three shots at the tyres of the car, but the chase continued until Cove Street, Balmain, a dead end street and two men were arrested at the point of a revolver on a wharf. (414)

Wightley was also involved in legal history in 1948, when the first prosecution in the history of New South Wales over the alleged picketing of a hotel where beer was declared 'black' was heard in Court.

*“Nicholas Vender Lubbe, 40, storeman, was charged with picketing with a view to compelling Joseph Murphy, of the Lakes Hotel, Gardeners Road, Mascot, to do an act which he had legal right to abstain from doing, that is, to keep open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Monday to Saturday, inclusive. Lubbe, according to the charge, was alleged also 'wrongfully and without legal authority to have watched and beset the Lakes Hotel where Murphy carried on business.' Lubbe pleaded not guilty. Constable Cecil Wightley said that he saw Lubbe speak to a man who approached the hotel and say: 'The beer is black here, mate. You can get a drink down at Thornton's if you want one.' The man walked away, Wightley said.*

*Wightley said that Lubbe told him: 'We want this hotel to open from 10 a.m. to- 6 p.m. and the hotelkeeper to sell beer to the locals in pints, half pints and schooners. 'This hotelkeeper has been selling beer on the black-market. We also want him to keep open on Saturdays so that working men can get a drink. 'If they don't we'll keep on picketing them;*

*we have plenty of men to do it.' Mr. B. Halcombe (for Lubbe) said that the case was a test. English, and other cases did not meet the charge. Mr. Meagher, S.M., said that he would not give a decision at this stage and adjourned the hearing until May 19. Similar charges against Ronald Charles Gibb, 29, labourer, and Robert Arnold Handfield, 34, seaman, relating to the Tennyson Hotel, Botany Road, Mascot, on Feb. 17 were adjourned until Sept. 1."* (415)

Detective Cecil Ferguson Wightley died on the 11 February 1968 aged sixty, in Camden Hospital.



*Right Cecil Ferguson Wightley*  
*Person.ancestry.com.au. (2016). Cecil*  
*Ferguson Wightley. [online] Available at:*  
*[http://person.ancestry.com.au/tree/64715](http://person.ancestry.com.au/tree/64715134/person/38147252013/gallery)*  
*134/person/38147252013/gallery*  
*[Accessed 19 Jun. 2016].*

Detective Thomas Mitchell 1946

There is not much to be found regarding Detective Thomas Mitchell in the press except articles dealing with the cases he worked on in his career. In August 1946 he was listed with CIB with a tobacco theft case when a nineteen year old youth was charged with having stolen a large quantity of tobacco and cigarette papers, the property of Hoffnung's, Ltd. (416) The youth's father was also

charged, in his case with having received the goods. The arrests were made at Annandale by Detective-Sergeant Parmeter and Detective Thomas Mitchell of the C.I.B.

Mitchell had another big criminal case in September 1948, when twenty six year old William Lindsay Pearson, of Campbell Parade, Bondi, pleaded guilty, to charges of having unlawfully received petrol tickets for nearly three thousand gallons through untrue representations to the Liquid Fuel Board. (417) Detective-Constable Thomas Mitchell said that between October, 1945, and March, 1946, Pearson had signed applications for coupons on licences forged by Cecil Henry Macpherson, who had already been sentenced to twelve months hard labour. The men were part of a criminal organisation, whose members were all serving prison sentences.

A drunken family brawl led to the death of one man and the jailing of his son on a manslaughter charge in June 1949. Thirty three year old Joseph George Eaton, a factory fireman, was sentenced to two years' gaol for the manslaughter of his father. (418) Sixty eight year old Joseph Thomas Eaton had been drinking and was abusing Eaton Junior's wife. Joseph hit his father, who fell and struck his head on a stone step, dying the next day. Detective Thomas Mitchell stated in court that the son was also under the influence of liquor at the time.

One of Mitchell's last cases was that of child abduction in March 1954 when a three-year-old girl, Gabriella Barbath, was found by Newtown police. (419) The child's mother, who lived in Queen Street, Campbell's Hill, Maitland, had reported her daughter's abduction the previous week. Detective Thomas Mitchell arrested a Hungarian man at Newtown and charged him with the girl's abduction. Despite his exploits in the press, there was not much else to be found about the elusive Detective Mitchell.

Detective Arthur Lindsay Glenworth Ramsay 1947

Arthur Lindsay Glenworth Ramsay was born in 1903 in Kempsey one of three sons. Ramsay's Police Badge Number was 2989 when in January 1946 when he was one of five New South Wales Detectives to resign over dissatisfaction with the rates of pay and the introduction of a system basing promotion on seniority. Detectives Ramsay and Williams, who had the longest service, would

have forfeited about £800 in superannuation and had to give three months' notice. (420) Detective Ramsay had a record of outstanding work at Broken Hill and in Sydney he had been associated with many prominent cases. The matter must have been resolved or Ramsay changed his mind as he was still a policeman in 1947.

In 1949 Ramsay was living at Moruya Police Station with his wife Louisa Margaret Ramsay. Arthur Lindsay Glenworth Ramsay died in 1974 at the age of seventy one.



*Above: Moruya Police Station*

*Bonzle.com. (2016). Moruya Police Station. [online] Available at:*

*<http://www.bonzle.com/c/a?a=showcase&pl=10&pg=0&yr=0&u=GPeckham&or=1&sz=3> [Accessed 19 Jun. 2016].*

#### Sergeant Ernest James Hillier 1947

Sergeant Ernest James Hillier was born in 1892 in Prospect, New South Wales to William and Racheal Hillier. He enlisted as a Private with the 2nd Infantry Battalion in September 1916 and embarked on the HMAT Euripides. (421)





Ernest James Hillier married Alice Sophia Wenham in 1916 in Stroud, New South Wales and they had eight children during their marriage, four boys and four girls; they divorced in 1955. (422) Between 1943-1954 he was living at 34 Willison Rd Carlton with Alice Sophia and their family.



*Above: 34 Willison Road, Carlton*

*Google Maps. (2016). 34 Willison Road, Carlton. [online] Available at:*

*[https://www.google.com.au/maps/@-](https://www.google.com.au/maps/@-33.9658433,151.1233413,3a,75y,26.91h,88.23t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sAhwEseajzpqczWj016oLIQ!2e0!7i13312!8i6656)*

*[33.9658433,151.1233413,3a,75y,26.91h,88.23t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sAhwEseajzpqczWj016oLIQ!2e0!7i13312!8i6656](https://www.google.com.au/maps/@-33.9658433,151.1233413,3a,75y,26.91h,88.23t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sAhwEseajzpqczWj016oLIQ!2e0!7i13312!8i6656) [Accessed 19 Jun. 2016].*

In October 1947 Police Sergeant Ernest James Hillier was charged with assault on his daughter in law Mrs. Betty Alfreda Hillier; he had also charged her with the same crime. They had a history of assault between them; she once tried to slash his face with a knife and slapped his face, he had had grabbed her by an arm and twisted it up her back, tore her hair out, and kicked her on a leg (423) Hillier, a veteran of twenty five years' service in the force and holder of an excellent record, was convicted of the assault and was placed on a ten pound bond to be of good behaviour for twelve months; he gave



notice of his intention to appeal the sentence. In May the Judge upheld his appeal and quashed the magistrate's order.



*Above: Ernest Hillier and Betty Hillier*

*Trove. (2016). POLICEMAN'S DENIAL OF HAIR PULL - Truth (Sydney, NSW : 1894 - 1954) - 2 May 1948. [online] Available at: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article169372500> [Accessed 19 Jun. 2016].*

Ernest Hillier passed away on December 28, 1971, at the age of seventy nine on the Central Coast of New South Wales.

## Constable C. Chaseling 1948

Cyrus Grafton Talmadge Chaseling was born on June 27, 1907, in Murwillumbah, New South Wales, to Cyrus and Mabel Chaseling. By July 1927 he was a Police Constable, with the Badge Number 2472. He married Mary Louise Caldwell on February 9, 1937, in Melbourne, Victoria; they had two children during their marriage. (424)

By 18 June 1937 Constable Chaseling was based at Bomaderry and giving evidence in cases regarding the supply of methylated spirits to local Aborigines and a speeding event in Nowra District Court:

*"George Davidson, for whom Mr. Manion appeared, pleaded guilty to supplying two men of aboriginal blood. Constable Chaseling stated that he had occasion to visit the Aborigines' Home at Bomaderry, and in that vicinity found William Winfred (known as the "Golden Gate") and William Justin, who had been freely imbibing in methylated spirits. Constable Chaseling admitted to Mr. Manion that one of the defendants had a sore leg. Mr. Manion went on to point out that his client was in the store-keeping business at Bomaderry for the past 11 years, and bore an excellent character, being unaware that it was an offence to sell methylated spirits to aborigines. The Magistrate, imposing a fine of 20/- and 8/-costs, said that it . was a . great pity-that the authorities in New South Wales did adopt the same system as they did in Victoria, by putting a concoction in the spirit that would make it so ugly that they could not drink it; he went on to say that he had seen an aboriginal reserve that resembled a battle field because of indulgence of methylated spirits.*

*Norman Goodsell was charged with speeding on Bridge Road to the danger of the public on the 28th April. Constable Chaseling gave evidence to the effect that he had his cycle and side-car stationary on the road, when defendant speeded to pass another car making the third line of traffic, travelling at approximate speed of 55 miles an hour.*

*Defendant, in reply to the Magistrate, said he had nothing to say. Fined £5, and 8/-costs.” (425)*

The family moved from the South Coast with the 1943 Electoral roll showing Cyrus Grafton Talmage Chaseling and Mary Louisa Chaseling living at 44 President Avenue, Kogarah. Cyrus died on August 9, 1988, back down the coast at Batemans Bay, New South Wales, at the age of eighty one.

Detective Sergeant Albert Henry McLachlan 1953

Albert Henry McLachlan was born in 1903 in New South Wales to Albert and Minnie McLachlan. He married Rose Elizabeth Magdelene Stanton in 1926 in Canowindra, New South Wales; they had two children during their marriage. He was first reported as a Police Constable in Bathurst in 1930. His father, also a career police officer, passed away in 1934.



*Above: Sergeant Albert B McLachlan Death Notice*

*Mv.ancestry.com.au. (2016). Albert Bertie McLachlan - Obituary. [online] Available at:  
<http://mv.ancestry.com.au/viewer/3ea521c7-656c-4512-bb78-896dfc136d83/43327109/12801349335>*

*[Accessed 19 Jun. 2016].*

Not much more is known about the personal life of Detective Sergeant McLachlan, but there is much in print about the cases he dealt with. Such as a lead thief at Miller's Point in July 1937 when Henry Charles Harrison pleaded guilty to both counts of theft. Harrison stole one day a hundredweight of lead, valued at 22/-, and that the next day he stole 441b. of lead, valued at 10/-, the property of the Council of Churches of New South Wales. (426) He was fined over £8 for the theft that occurred whilst he was repairing a church roof at Miller's Point. Sergeant McLachlan stated that a lot of damage was done to the church, with the walls being marked through the consequent leaks due to the removal of the lead flashing.

In February 1946, the case of the pepper thief had McLachlan's attention after attendant, Archibald McPherson, of Bent Street, Paddington, was almost blinded, when he was robbed of £100 at the Sports Ground. (427) McPherson was counting change in the office after a Speedway meeting when the thief came to the grille, attracted McPherson's attention, and flung a handful of pepper into his face. McPherson suffered great pain and called out loudly for help. The thief seized £100 in notes and silver and ran away across the park. Detective McLachlan led the city wide search for the thief with a large number of police.

Another case in July 1946 involved a woman, a Norwegian and a broken bottle:

*"SYDNEY. — Reider Wang Olsen, 35, Norwegian seaman, was today freed of a charge of having maliciously wounded Eileen Lillian Teresa O'Connell at East Sydney on July 7. When Olsen came before Mr. Grugeon. S.M., in Central Court, police said they had been informed that Olsen wounded the woman with a broken bottle when she rejected his advances. Olsen, according to Detective Mc Lachlan, claimed she had fallen on a bottle. Blood-drenched blouses and a broken gin bottle were exhibited in Court. Miss O'Connell said she could not remember how she had been injured. She had known Olsen for a week and had been drinking with him. Medical evidence was that eleven stitches were inserted in two wounds in the upper, part of her chest."* (428)

An alleged rape in April 1949 saw Detectives McLachlan and Williams, of the Western Wireless Patrol, take charge of inquiries after Darlinghurst police had been contacted.

*"A woman told police early this morning that she had been raped by a young man in Rushcutters Bay Park. The woman, who is 36, lives in Victoria Street, Darlinghurst. She said she went to the park with a seaman; he threw her over a 4ft fence into the, oval and then attacked her. People in flats nearby heard her screams and Constables Pugh and Mervyn Campbell took a young man and the woman to Darlinghurst police station. The woman was then taken to St. Vincent's Hospital."*  
(429)

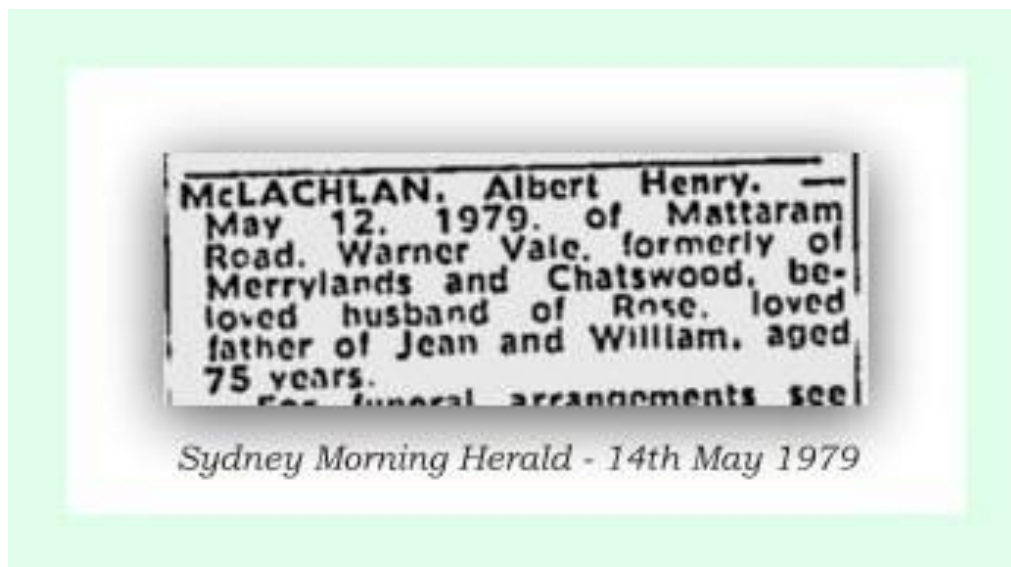
Another case in 1951 saw Detective McLachlan dealing with famous gangsters when an Ultimo gunman shot and killed Dennis (Danny) Simmons in a hail of bullets, at 93 Thomas Street, Ultimo, only two hundred yards from Regent Street police station. (430) Detectives believed it was a case of mistaken identity, with Simmons being alone in the house. The house was owned by John Frederick ("Chow") Hayes and Simmons who was much the same height and build as Hayes. Hayes had gone to the pictures with his wife and ten year old daughter and when he returned Simmons was lying dead on the couch. John Frederick 'Chow' Hayes (1911–1993) was a violent Australian criminal who became known as Australia's first gangster. (431)

On the 22 April 1952 Sergeant McLachlan went to the David Jones' store at the corner of Castlereagh and Market Streets and saw a woman sitting on the parapet at the top of the building about one hundred and fifty feet above street level. The woman was later coaxed from the parapet by shop detective, Mrs. Stewart. Sergeant McLachlan said that when asked what she had been doing on the parapet the woman said, 'I don't know, I had a buzzing in my head.' (432) The woman admitted she had taken about a dozen aspirin tablets and was later admitted to a psychiatric asylum.

The last case Sergeant McLachlan was reported on was in May 1952 where a man died after a car overturned in Woollooware Road, Cronulla. Donald William Finding, a young radio technician, of Burraneer Bay Road, Cronulla, was fatally injured when the car in which he was a passenger, skidded

and overturned, flipping several times and ending up on its roof. Finding died of his head injuries enroute to hospital, whilst the driver was uninjured; Kenneth Horsefield, actually lived in the street in which the accident occurred. Detective-Sergeant McLachlan and Senior Constable Pearce were in charge of the post-accident investigation. (433)

Detective Sergeant Albert Henry McLachlan died on May 12, 1979, in New South Wales, at the age of seventy six.



*Above: Albert Henry McLachlan Death Notice*

*Mv.ancestry.com.au. (2016). Albert Henry McLachlan Death Notice. [online] Available at:*

*[http://mv.ancestry.com.au/viewer/0440af48-e227-4b79-9c91-](http://mv.ancestry.com.au/viewer/0440af48-e227-4b79-9c91-0212c4145175/43327109/12802431386?_phsrc=rxN498&usePUBJs=true)*

*0212c4145175/43327109/12802431386?\_phsrc=rxN498&usePUBJs=true [Accessed 20 Jun. 2016].*

### Detective Gus Bluett 1953

Detective Gus Bluett was another sportsman of note in his prime, playing cricket at Bermagui and being involved in the Police Wrestling competition later in life. In September 1946, there was a wrestling bout with "Gus" Bluett being all out to show points to Darkie Bradtke. Constable Bluett was a pointsman on the traffic lights and Constable Bradtke was stationed at Brighton. (434)

## BERMAGUI v DIGNAMS.

The following are the scores of the match between Dignams and Bermagui played at Bermagui on Saturday.

### BERMAGUI—1st innings.

Brooks b Payne	7
Jas McMillan lbw b Sutherland	18
G Jagers c and b Jas Constable	7
Jno McMillan b A Constable	2
W Moorhead c and b W Sutherland	9
Bluett run out	4
W Mead c Constable b W Sutherland	0
Collie b W Sutherland	0
Spooner b W Sutherland	0
Etherington b W Sutherland	0
T Mead not out	0
Sundries	4
	51

### BERMAGUI—2nd innings.

Brooks b Jas Constable	1
Jagers b Jas Constable	0
Jas McMillan c O'Neill b Jas Constable	1
Bluett c Jas b G Constable	4
Jno McMillan b Jas Constable	7
Moorhead c O'Neill b Bown	6
W Mead b Bown	1
Spooner b Bown	0
T Mead b A Sutherland	1
Collie not out	2
Etherington b A Sutherland	0
Sundries	5
	27

### DIGNAMS—1st innings.

G Constable c McMillan b Brooks	20
Jas Constable b Brooks	9
A Sutherland b McMillan	1
Ferguson c Jagers b McMillan	0
Payne c Jagers b Brooks	0
A Constable b Jagers	4
Riley not out	7
Bown c Bluett b McMillan	12
O'Neill c Collie b Brook	13
Perkins c and b McMillan	0
W Sutherland c and b McMillan	0
Sundries	6

Above: Cricket Results for Constable Bluett

Trove. (2016). ASSOCIATION CRICKET - WALLAGA v TILBA. - The Cobargo Chronicle (NSW : 1898 - 1944) - 28 Oct 1904. [online] Available at: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article106436150> [Accessed 20 Jun. 2016].

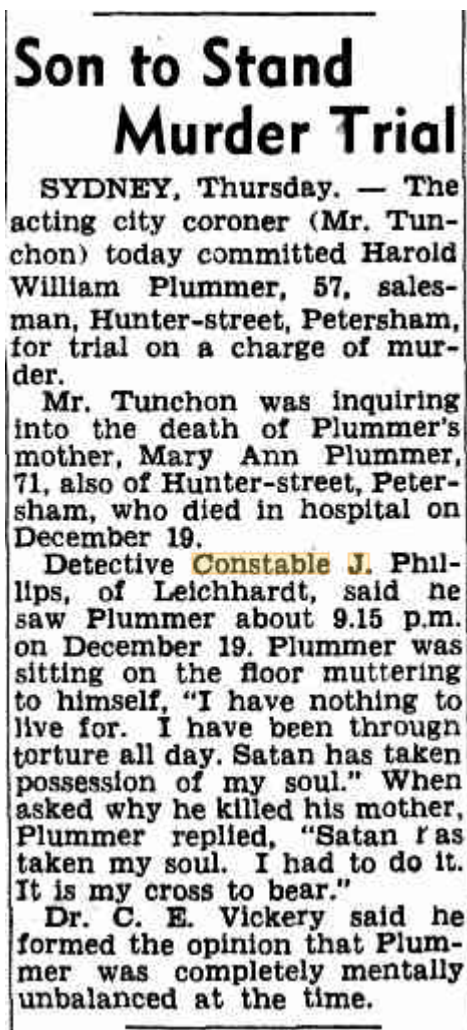


Sergeant Shearer 1953

There was nothing to be found on Sergeant Shearer in the press besides his work information.

Constable Jack Lowden Phillips 1954

Constable Jack Lowden Phillips became a Probationary Constable, Badge Number 2440 on the 22 December 1926. (435) In 1950 Phillips was involved in a murder case in Petersham as a Detective Constable.



Left: Detective Constable J. Phillips' Petersham Murder Case Trove. (2016). Son to Stand Murder Trial - The Age (Melbourne, Vic. : 1854 - 1954) - 6 Jan 1950. [online] Available at: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/187350916?searchTerm=%22constable%20J%20Phillips%22&searchLimits=> [Accessed 20 Jun. 2016].



In May 1954 First Class Constable Jack Phillips commenced duties in Armidale, after formally being stationed at Rockdale. Constable Phillips replaced Sergeant Wheelahan, who had been transferred to Sydney. (436)

Sergeant T. R. Small 1954

Sergeant Small was born on the 19 March 1890 and was appointed as a Police Constable, Badge Number 9384 in March 1912; by 1916 he was a Constable First Class, stationed at Kookabookra, north west of Coffs Harbour. (437) In 1921 Constable T. R. Small, of the Glen Innes station relieved Constable Kennedy for a month's furlough in Armidale. (438) From 1927 to 1933 Constable Small was stationed at Figtree; in October 1933 he sold his furniture and belongings due to being promoted to the Metropolitan police area.

In October 1936, Constable Small was assaulted in the course of his duty with the female assailant being convicted on four charges:

*"A woman was convicted at the Central Police Court today on charges of assault on a civilian and a police constable, using indecent language and stealing money. The woman was Vera Barty; aged 27 years, domestic duties. She was fined £1 on the charge of having used indecent language in William-street/£5 and 1 £2/10/ compensation for having stolen £2/10/ belonging to a man named Clem Hill, £5 for assault on Clem Hill, and in on a charge of having assaulted Constable T. R. Small. It was alleged that Hill pointed out the defendant who was with another woman in a motor car to Constable Small. When the constable spoke to them, the defendant who was driving, told him to get into the car; and she would drive to the police station. As soon as he was seated she drove off in another direction. When Constable Small put his head out of the window to blow his whistle for assistance, he received a smack on the face and was scratched." (439)*

A bombing inquest in April 1938 saw evidence into the deaths of Alfred Ernest Smith, the Meat Industries Employees Union organiser and his wife, who were killed in a blast at their Lidcombe home the previous January. The culprit, Sidney Baden Powell Shannon was deemed to be delusionally insane at the time of the crime when he threw the bomb onto the Smith's bed.

*"Sergeant T. R. Small said that on February 3 he went to Shannon's home in Annandale, where he saw a Doctor Ryan. Inside he saw Mr, Shannon, senior, trying to pacify his son. When Shannon saw him, he got up from the sofa, walked over and shook hands. He said, "Take me away. I want to die. I killed Smith. Hang me."*

*Small added that Shannon, senior, said he could not handle his son, and was afraid he would do something desperate if he were not taken away. Doctor Ryan gave a certificate that Shannon was insane, and a fit person to be admitted to the Reception House. Shannon was calm, but kept saying. "I killed him. I want to be hung."(440)*

Four men were arrested in February 1947, after they were in a demonstration against the police at Petersham. During the brawl police were assaulted and reinforcements had to be called in to bring the demonstration to an end; Constable Small was one of the police hurt in the brawl.

*"Four men who took part in a demonstration against the police at Petersham on Saturday appeared at Newtown Court to-day. Neville Chapman, 23, labourer, was fined £10 for having unlawfully assaulted Constable K. W. Barton. £3 for having resisted Constable T. R. Small, £3 for having used indecent language, and £2 for offensive behaviour.. Robert Mungovan, 24. John James Leonard, 18. and Arthur Francis Davies, 10, labourers. were each fined £10 for offensive behaviour, and £2 each for indecent language." (441)*

The now Sergeant Small was a major player in 30 June 1954 gas deaths recovery action at Rockdale after a Water Board overseer died in a vain attempt to rescue his colleague. (442) The man had been trapped ten feet underground in a thirty one inch water pipe. When a third employee heard no more sounds from the pipe he went to Rockdale Police station to get aid. Sergeant Small accompanied the Water Board employee back to the pipe and climbed into it where he smelt a strong gas odour and retreated immediately to the surface. Sergeant Small then made an urgent appeal over the police radio for assistance from fire brigades and for ambulances and oxygen. This was the last case that Sergeant Small was involved in at Rockdale.

#### Sergeant Albert Marshall Jones 1954

Albert Marshall Jones was born on February 14, 1912, in Armidale, New South Wales, the child of Albert (Jack) Marshall and Una Mary Josephine Jones. (443) However, the official Birth, Deaths and Marriages of NSW had his birth register entry # 13262 identified Una as his mother but father was left blank. (442). Jones joined New South Wales Mounted Police in 1936, Badge Number 3795 and remained in the police service until his retirement in 1972.

In 1939 Albert Marshall Jones married Alice Verlie Bond in Marrickville and by April 1946 he had reached the rank of Detective Sergeant when he dealt with the death of a visiting grazier in a hit and run car accident.

*“While on his way to visit his wife, who is seriously ill in the King George V Hospital, Camperdown, on Saturday evening, Frederick Davis, 64, grazier, of Beachmore Station, Goonumbla, in the Parkes district, was struck by a car and killed. Yesterday morning Detective-Sergeant Jones and Detectives Bissett and Doyle arrested a man outside his business premises at Waverley on charges of having feloniously slain Davis, and having failed to stop after an accident. A car was also seized by the detectives.” (444)*

Police Sergeant Albert M. Jones, was transferred to Broken Hill in August 1954, but during the period 1958- 1968 Albert Marshall Jones and wife Alice Verlie were living in the Gosford area at 107 Glennie street, Wyoming. (446) Albert Marshall Jones passed away on October 12, 1996, in Erina, New South Wales, at the age of eighty four.



*Left: Sergeant Albert  
Marshall Jones  
Jones, A. (1912). Albert  
Marshall Jones. [online]  
geni\_family\_tree. Available  
at:  
[https://www.geni.com/people/Albert-  
Jones/600000000912139132  
8](https://www.geni.com/people/Albert-Jones/6000000009121391328) [Accessed 22 Jun. 2016].*

Sergeant Norton 1959

Nothing could be found elsewhere in the press about Sergeant Norton.

#### Constable Joel Patrick Cooper 1940

Nothing is known of Joel Patrick Cooper's early years except that he was appointed a Police Constable as of April 1925; Badge Number 1781. (447) Unluckily, Constable Cooper found out the hard way that policing was not always a gentle occupation. In February 1930 Wallace Bruce Stewart, a twenty six year old clerk, was charged with having assaulted Constable Joel Patrick Cooper at Glebe occasioning him actual bodily harm. He was also charged with assaulting a constable in the execution of his duty. Stewart had initially struck Cooper from behind, before punching him on the jaw and knocking the policeman to the ground. Stewart was fined £10 and a condition of his release being that he paid £10 to the clerk of the peace for Constable Coope. (448) From 1931 to 1968 Joel Patrick Cooper, police constable and Norah Elizabeth Cooper house wife, were living at 2 Ecole Street Carlton, with their son Brian Patrick Cooper. Joel Patrick Cooper passed away on Christmas Eve 1976. (449)

#### Detective Constable Gregory George Brown 1947

Gregory George Brown was born in 1917 and became a very well-known policeman, due to the cases he dealt with and their coverage in the press. He married Grace Eleanor Toomey at Eden in 1939 and by 1943 the Electoral Roll showed Gregory George Brown and his wife Grace Eleanor Brown living at 6 Slade Road, Bardwell Park. (450) In the period of 1949 to 1963 they were living at 96 General Holmes Drive at Kyeemagh, with Brown listed as a Detective. However by 1972 he was living at Miranda with no wife and in 1980 he was living in retirement at Port Macquarie with his second wife, Marie. (451) Brown was a keen golfer and was involved in the establishment of the Australian Police Golf Championship in 1957.

*"In 1956 the Olympics were held in Melbourne and a member of the N.S.W. Police Consorting Squad was required to perform duty there. He was Steve Duff, a keen golfer, who returned with a glowing account of the Victorian golf courses and information concerning the newly formed Victorian Police Golf Club.*

*The Captain of the N.S.W. Police Golf Club Ray Blissett approached the Commissioner Mr. Colin Delaney, also a keen golfer and foundation member of the N.S.W. Police Golf Club with the idea of a competition between the two states. Suitable arrangements were made and in March 1957 Ray Blissett took a field of 24 golfers and a few supporters to Melbourne. In 2009 we managed to locate another member who was also a foundation member, retired Chief Superintendent, Gregory George Brown, now 92yrs of age and residing at Port Macquarie. So was born the Australian Police Golf Championships which have expanded to include all states and territories of Australia. These championships are held annually, generally in March over a week and are hosted on a rotational basis by the individual states and territories.” (452)*

In 2012 the Hansart Legislative Council had a report on the New South Wales Police Force 150th Anniversary celebrations on the mid North Coast, with mention of retired Chief Superintendent Greg Brown.

*“Current and retired police officers marched on 17 May and represented the contributions of police officers both past and present over the past 150 years of policing with a "Sea of Blue March" along Horton Street to Port Macquarie Town Green. The marching contingent included 70 officers, 30 members of the police band and 30 retired officers from the area led by the very proud 96-year-old retired Chief Superintendent Greg Brown. In the parade, the Banner Party and the Marching and Capability Contingents represented the various police groups that were brought together as one police force under the proclamation of 1862. We had police representatives from the highway patrol, operational foot police and the Marine Area Command Water Police, who demonstrated their skills in an operational display later in the day at Lady Nelson Wharf.*

*It is important to note that police officers wear their uniforms with pride and it is not often that members of the public get to experience the pride that police feel. This was an event not only for police, both retired and active, to show off their uniforms and skills but also for the public to*

*convey their thanks for a job well done. This event was a terrific way to showcase this community feeling and I look forward to the continuing celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the NSW Police Force.” (453)*

The last words on the police career of Superintendent Brown comes from the man himself in a 2012 interview, *Living Life on the Razor’s Edge* by Lisa Tisdell.

*“THE infamous pyjama girl murder case intrigued the world. A woman’s body was found in a culvert about 16km from the regional city of Albury in 1934. Her identity was unknown for a decade, despite authorities circulating her details around the world in an attempt to identify the woman dubbed “the pyjama girl”. The body was preserved in a formalin bath at the University of Sydney.*

*Then police officer Gregory Brown, who has since retired in Port Macquarie, was appointed to the squad that identified the victim 10 years after the initial investigation. They re-examined the evidence and established the woman’s identity as Linda Agostini. Mr Brown says said the case was a significant part of his career.*

*“There was this murder that happened as I came into the job, and I’m on the squad 10 years later, because the girl’s identity had never been cleared up,” the 95-year-old says.*

*The woman’s husband was charged. The man was acquitted of murder, found guilty of manslaughter and, after a jail term, was deported to Italy. The case received worldwide recognition.*

*“It kept getting a lot of publicity here, too, for those 10 years,” Mr Brown says.*

*The case later be-came the subject of a screenplay and book. Mr Brown started his career as a 17-year-old cadet in April 1934 as the rule of the day meant recruits could not be sworn in as constables until they turned 21. His early days in the force in the inner-city suburb of Darling-hurst coincided with end of the so-called razor gang era. The notorious Kate Leigh and Tilly Devine headed two of the powerful gangs at the heart of the Sydney criminal scene. The two were fierce rivals. Mr Brown knew both women. He speaks of an occasion when a mob of people was assaulting a young constable and crime figure Kate Leigh scared them off.*

*"Kate came out with a double barrelled shotgun and just after that, I and a couple of others, came to the officer's assistance," Gregory says. "I always had a bit of respect for what she did after that day."*

*Meanwhile, Mr Brown remembers Tilly Devine as a tough woman. The retiree watched the recent television series, Underbelly Razor, based on the exploits of the gangs.*

*"It was a terrible lot of exaggeration and rubbish," he says about the series.*

*Mr Brown devoted 41 years to the police force. Twelve months after being sworn in as a constable, he went into plain clothes as a budding detective. Mr Brown believes the police in his era had more respect from the criminal class than today's batch of law enforcers.*

*"We had a lot going on our side in those days," he said. That included the consorting act, which gave police the power to book convicted criminals if they were spotted with a fellow known offender. Enough bookings could result in a consorting charge, which carried an automatic jail term.*

*"It was also used as a means to get intelligence," Gregory says. "They spilled their guts to try to avoid anything like that [jail time]." "They hated going to jail for doing nothing, and that's what it amounted to."*

*Mr Brown also worked in the consorting squad at the Criminal Investigation Branch in Sydney.*

*"It was the kind of job that, once you got stuck into it, you couldn't give it away," he says.*

*Mr Brown retired to Port Macquarie in 1975. He is president of the 110-member Port Macquarie Branch of the Retired Police Association and spent three years as a local government councillor here in the late 1970s. Mr Brown keeps a keen interest in civic events – but just from a distance these days." (454)*

Gregory George (Greg) Brown passed away peacefully on July 31st, 2015, late of Newport Island Road, Port Macquarie, aged ninety eight years. He was predeceased by his two wives Grace and Marie and he was the loving father and father-in-law of Marilyn and Shelton, Michael and Silva, Greg and Gail, Dianne and Bill, Christine and Peter and Anthony (dec).





Above: Gregory George (Greg) Brown  
*Port Macquarie News*. (2012). *Living life on the razor's edge*. [online]  
Available at: <http://www.portnews.com.au/story/161067/living-life-on-the-razors-edge/> [Accessed 25 Jun. 2016].

#### Constable John A Martin 1949

John A Martin was born on the 2 February 1907 in Wingham, New South Wales, to father, John Joseph Martin, who was twenty three and mother, Christine Macdonald Campbell, aged thirty two; he had one brother and one sister. (455) He became a Probationary Constable, Badge Number 2427, in June 1927 and Constable J. A. Martin, of Darlinghurst, Sydney, spent his annual holidays at Wherrol Flat with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Martin. Constable Martin had been recently married to Miss Thelma Byrne, of Rockdale.

In December 1935, Constable John Martin was attacked with a wool hook in the course of his police duties:

*'When I spoke to defendant outside a hotel in Sir John' Young Crescent last night, he used language, and when I arrested him he pulled a wool hook from his belt and attacked me with It,' said Constable John Martin at Central Police Court to-day, when Thomas Duffy. 60, a labourer, was charged with indecent language, unlawful assault and doing malicious damage to a uniform 'If you had any record I would send you to gaol,' remarked the Magistrate. In imposing a fine of £10 for the assault, £3 for the Indecent language. £2 6d for malicious damage to a uniform, and £2 expenses for the constable."* (456)

John A Martin died in 1976 in New South Wales, at the age of sixty nine.

#### Constable Louis Neville Reynolds 1949

Louis Neville Reynolds was born about 1899, in Tamworth, New South Wales, the child of Thomas Louis and Marion (nee Mutton). He enlisted in World War One at Barraba Service No 93678, listing his mother Marion Reynolds as his next of kin. He was made a Probationary Constable, Badge No 22 65 and was listed in the Police Gazette as such from 25 August, 1926. (457)

He was married in 1927 in Emmaville, New South Wales to Linda Jane Curnow and reached Constable First Class in 1930 in the Western region of New South Wales. His cases included a trial at the Parkes Court in 1930, where Patrick Rodgers was charged with setting fire to a house, which subsequently burnt to the ground with the loss of all contents. (458) In 1934 Constable Reynolds was living at Clarinda Street Parkes with his family and wife

3769 Reynolds, Alfred Percy, Currajong street, Parkes, railway employee, M  
 3770 Reynolds, Arthur Francis, Clarinda street, Parkes, motor mechanic, M  
 3771 Reynolds, Charles, May street, clerk, M  
 3772 Reynolds, Fanny Ellen Elizabeth, Clarinda street, confectioner, F  
 3773 Reynolds, Florence Eveline, Welcome street, Parkes, home duties, F  
 3774 Reynolds, Ivy Victoria Olga Amie, Clarinda street, Parkes, shop asst, F  
 3775 Reynolds, Lila Irene, Welcome street, Parkes, home duties, F  
 3776 Reynolds, Linda Jane, Clarinda street, Parkes, home duties, F  
 3777 Reynolds, Louis Neville, Clarinda street, Parkes, police constable, M  
 3778 Reynolds, Marion, Talbot street, Parkes, music teacher, F  
 3779 Reynolds, Sarah Ann, Clarinda street, Parkes, home duties, F  
 3780 Reynolds, Thomas Arthur Charles, Clarinda street, Parkes, motor mech., M (459)

In 1935 he and his wife Linda Jane were based at the Police Station at O'Connell near Bathurst and in December 1939 he was appointed as the slaughter house inspector for the district of Bigga Council, Crookwell. (460) Reynolds came into money in July 1946 when he was the sole beneficiary of his late aunt's will, despite there being twenty three cousins in his immediate family. (461) By 5 October 1951 he was no longer a policeman but rather a baker selling underweight bread and was having problems with the bakery business; maybe it was not the business for him, as by 1963 he was a labourer living at Ballina with Linda.

*"Louis Neville Reynolds, of Wingham, was charged with baking underweight bread. Henry Fitzroy Coles, Inspector of Weights and Measures, Newcastle, stated that in 5th August, 1951, he entered defendant's premises, and weighed, a 2lb loaf of bread that had been baked for four hours. The usual baking time was 35 minutes. Defendant had said that because of the cold oven he had left the bread in the oven longer. Defendant was fined £20, Court costs 10/-, in default 21 days' hard labour; 14 days allowed in which to pay."* (462)

*"In the Small Debts Court at Wingham on Tuesday Mr. A. D. Tyler, S.M., awarded Louis Neville Reynolds, master baker, of Wingham, £16/14/9 in his claim for bread sold and delivered to D. Coleman, of Ward's River. The plaintiff said he had delivered bread to Coleman from April 1953, to April this year. Coleman during the past few days had paid £5 off the debt. The balance of the debt is to be paid off at weekly instalments of £1, the first payment to be made on September 20. Costs of £2/7/- were allowed."* (463)

Louis Neville Reynolds was last heard of living, with Linda with no employment details at 3 Gloucester Avenue, Padstow from 1968 to 1977; he died in 1978 at the age of seventy nine.

## Constable Ken Gilmour 1949

Constable Ken Gilmour was an all-round athlete, representing the Rockdale District in April 1923 as their Wicket Keeper/Batsman in an annual match against Picton. (464) He was based at Tea Lake in the Riverina as a mounted policeman in November 1936 when he was tendered a valedictory smoke social and presented with a travelling rug. The next year he came second in a race held by the Blue Mountains District Cycle Club. The race was also conducted to decide the final of the second series of the Freelanders Cup, which was won by K. Gilmour with twenty points. (465)

On the 7 February 1939, Mr and Mrs Ken Gilmour of Carlton welcomed into the world a daughter, Janice Kathlyn. (466) However, in 1950 Constable Gilmour was based in Bondi when he interviewed a man who had tried to drown himself in the breakers at Bondi Beach.

*"A man who swam 700 yards out to sea at Bondi and intended to drown himself, told police he wanted to cause a sensation and end it all because a married woman with whom he had had an affair had returned to her husband. Evidence to this effect was given in the Lunacy Court in Sydney yesterday when a 25-year-old labourer was remanded for medical observation. Constable Gilmour said he interviewed the man in the first-aid room at Bondi shortly after he had been brought ashore. The man had struggled violently with Lifesavers who had rescued him. The man told him he had seen a psychiatrist a couple of days before the swim. When asked the name of the psychiatrist, the patient said: 'I have not seen' him -yet.'" (467)*

May 1957 brought real and present danger to Detective Constable Gilmour's work life, when he shot dead a crazed gunman in a raid on a house in Burton Street, Darlinghurst. Charlie Spiteri, aged fifty two, had already shot dead his landlord Charles Brookes and shattered the arm of his wife, Mrs. Ruby Constance Brookes, with a twelve gauge shotgun. (468) The police had been armed with machine guns, carbines and tear gas when they stormed the house. Gilmour was wounded in the arm and was rushed to St. Vincent's Hospital; he was later reported to have been in a satisfactory condition. He had shot dead Spiteri, before collapsing to the ground. Following the incident

Detective. Constable Gilmour was promoted to Sergeant for his bravery at the siege, in a special bedside ceremony. However, the next year a group of colleagues appealed the promotion at the Crown Employees Appeals Board. Gilmour had been permanently injured and had to be pensioned out of the force in 1958; it was a financial advantage to be on the higher Sergeant pay scale.

#### Constable Bernard Lloyd Brotherson 1950

Bernard Lloyd Brotherson was born on October 1, 1920, in Quakers Hill and he eventually married nurse Frances Monica McAuliffe in 1951 in Randwick, New South Wales. (469) They had three children during their marriage; two boys and a girl. However, the 1943 Electoral roll show him listed as a policeman living at 4 Willis Street, Arncliffe with Gladys Dorothy Brotherson, his mother and he was based at the Police Department in Bourke Street Redfern.

In February 1946, Constable Brotherson was in court over cases of the sale of illegal alcohol in the King's Cross area, where young men down on their luck were being approached and asked to become sly grog sellers. Then, when they were arrested, they were cut loose by the suppliers and left to deal with the consequences in court. (470) The month of May of the same year saw Bernard Lloyd Brotherson working in Newcastle dealing with the thefts of margarine and bricks.

*"FINED FOR THEFT.-Ralph Simpson, 48, labourer, was fined £5 and ordered to pay £2/1/6 compensation on a charge of having stolen, at Newcastle, on May 12, a box of margarine, valued at £2/1/8/, the property of Kitchen and Sons, Ply. Ltd. On a charge concerning the theft of margarine, David Connolly, 19, labourer, was fined £3 and ordered to pay 15/ compensations. Constable Brotherson said Simpson told him at George-street. Mayfield, that he had taken the margarine home and distributed some of it to neighbours. Connolly admitted having taken margarine from the storeroom to Shopson's place, and taking about 6lb. home". (471)*

*“When a man refused to sell them 800 bricks, two bricklayers just took them, it was stated at Newcastle Police Court today. The court was told that James Phillips, 28. bricklayer, had declared he was in urgent need of some bricks, and directed his partner. Robert Papworth. 28. also a bricklayer. to nick up 800 bricks stacked at Broadmeadow and take them to Bull Street. Cook's Hill. The bricks belonged to Alfred Moate and were valued at five pounds and four shillings.*

*At Newcastle Police Court. Phillips and Papworth were charged with stealing the bricks. Constable Brotherson said he questioned Phillips about the matter at his home in Bruce Street. Cook's Hill.' On May 23. Phillips said he offered to buy the bricks from Moate, who refused to sell. He got Papworth to remove them to a job at Bull Street. Cook's Hill. Moate said the bricks taken were left over from a job he had been doing. and they had been replaced. For having stolen the bricks. Phillips and Papworth were each fined £7. or 14 days' imprisonment.” (472)*

Thefts of clothes from a Newcastle beach, stolen cars, stolen rope from the wharves kept Brotherson busy at Newcastle and by October 1947 he was working again in Sydney as a Detective.

*“Jewellery and other articles valued at £500 were stolen from a room at the Australia Hotel on Friday night. The room was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Norman Edward Sheppard, of South Yarra. It is believed that thieves entered the room by using a duplicate key while Mr. and Mrs. Sheppard were out. Description of the stolen property is: A platinum brooch set with about 30 diamonds, string of pearls with platinum and diamond fastener, lady's stainless steel wrist watch, gent's round silver fob watch, travelling clock in a pigskin case, lady's, platinum and diamond wedding ring, portable radio, and a fountain pen. Detectives McLachlan and Brotherson are making inquiries.” (473)*

From 1949 to 1954 Bernard was living with wife Frances Monica at Annandale South, in 1963 at Parramatta and from 1972-1980 they were at Castle Hill. Their engagement had been noted in the press in 1951 and they married the same year.

*ENGAGEMENTS BROTHERTON - McAULIFFE. — The engagement is announced of Frances Monica, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. McAuliffe of Fitzroy Street, Kiama, to Bernard Lloyd, second son of Mr. S. Brotherson and the late Mrs. Brotherson of Cardigan Street, Stanmore.*  
(474)

Sometimes the minutia of everyday crime rated a mention in the press and was dealt with by Constable Brotherson, with cases of shop lifting where a mother watched whilst her preteen daughter stole goods or a man charged with stealing from retail stores who had taken to shoplifting for a living because he was too fat to get a job. However, it was an attempted safe cracking at Wentworthville Post Office in October 1955 that led to a bravery commendation for this particular police officer whilst based at Parramatta.

Detective Senior Constable B. L. Brotherson and Constable W. G. Martin went to a post office at Wentworthville on 9th September, 1955, and there surprised two men who had attempted to blow the post office safe. Detective Senior Constable Brotherson arrested one man, who was armed with a screw-driver with which he threatened the Detective Senior Constable. In the meantime Constable Martin found a second man, masked and armed with a .45-calibre revolver with which he threatened to shoot. Constable Martin grappled with this man, but the offender continually attempted to point the revolver at the Constable, who then called for assistance. Detective Brotherson ran to his assistance (leaving his own prisoner) and was able to place his own thumb between the firing pin and hammer of the revolver to prevent it being fired. Other Police then arrived on the scene and both prisoners were secured. Constable Martin displayed outstanding courage grappling with the armed offender, and Detective Senior Constable Brotherson subsequently showed bravery in going to his assistance and seizing the weapon. The question of awards is under consideration.

(475)

In July 1956 he was awarded the Queen's Commendation Medal for brave conduct.

*The Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct*  
Sergeant Third Class James Kolanji.  
Detective Senior Constable Bernard Lloyd Brotherson.  
Detective Constable First Class Murray Stewart Riley.  
Constable Rodney Bath.  
Constable Robert Reeves Hodgekiss.  
Constable Maxwell Stuart Angus Lamond.  
Constable Leslie James McCoy.  
Constable Kenneth James Matthews.  
Constable Adam Thommeny.

(476)

Bernard Lloyd Brotherson passed away in 2004 in New South Wales, at the age of eighty four. His wife Monica Frances Brotherson (nee McAuliffe) died on February 2, 2004, in Castle Hill, New South Wales, at the age of seventy nine.

Constable R. W. Green 1950

Constable Green's first foray into the press was a story regarding a holiday motor tour in the Grafton press in the winter of 1939. His mother, Mrs M Green holidayed as well with her son, returning to her home at Culcairn in May 1943.

*"Constable R. Green, of Rugby accompanied by his wife and sister, Mrs, Campbell, and her two daughters, who were guests of Mr and Mrs. S. Hoosen of Tallawudjah Creek, have resumed their holiday motor tour."*  
(477)

The gruesome side to a police career was made clear to Constable Green in September 1945 when a horrifying sight met his eyes and those of his colleague, Sergeant Auckett when they forced in the door of a local cottage in Young in response to a request from a neighbour. Seventy year old Domenico Chiappini had been dead for several weeks. (478) By 1950 Constable green was listed living in Stanmore, when his sister passed away after a long illness.



*"MRS. J. N. LUCAS The death occurred on Thursday at the District Hospital of Mrs. Alma May Lucas, of 51 Citizen Street, Goulburn. She was 38 years of age. Mrs. Lucas, who had been ill for a number of years prior to her death, was a resident of Goulburn for three and a half years. She is survived by her husband, Mr. J. N. Lucas and four-year-old son, Roger. Besides her mother, Mrs. M. Green, there are two brothers, Detective Constable R. Green and E. R. Myers, and a sister, Mrs. C. Smedley. all of Stanmore. The body was taken to Sydney for burial in the Roman Catholic portion of the Rookwood Cemetery." (479)*

On the evening of 27 March 1950 three persons were injured in a remarkable double accident on the rainy Bulli Pass; two of the injured were police constables on their way to investigate the first accident. All three people were taken to Bulli Hospital, two in a very serious condition. Senior Constable Holland was the rider of the police motor cycle, with Constable Green in the sidecar. (480) By the next month Constable Green had been transferred to Prince Henry Hospital; Constable Holland had been discharged from Bulli Hospital the same week. Constable Green was back in Court giving evidence by late June.

November 1951 brought about a controversial case of the rape of an eighteen year old girl and attempted rape of a twenty six year old woman at Balmain. Robert Quealey, a thirty five year old labourer, of Rowntree Street, Balmain, pleaded not guilty to the charges and alleged in court that police had bashed him, threatened him with a revolver and dictated a statement which he wrote and signed.

*"Detective S. North tore his shirt off and punched him twice on the body and again on the nose, doubling him up in pain. Quealey said that Sergeant N. W. Sabine had later punched him three times in the stomach. He became sick and exhausted. Sabine then handed him pen and paper and dictated a statement to him. Constable R. W. Green stood behind, pointing a gun at him. He wrote and signed the statement because he feared further punishment, Quealey said. Quealey denied that he had molested either of the women and said he had told police*

*this. Earlier, Sergeant Sabine and other police gave evidence that Quealey had made a statement voluntarily, and denied suggestions that he had been intimidated or assaulted.” (481)*

However, Constable Green was in the press in a more positive story at Goondiwindi in February 1956.

*“At Goondiwindi, a police constable and a garage proprietor took 10 hours to travel 11 miles to rescue a flood-marooned truck driver. Constable R. Green and Mr. J. Chandler left Goondiwindi by motor-boat at 8 a.m. today to rescue a fencer, William Tindall, 44, who had been seen from the air on Monday afternoon on the tray of his truck, surrounded by flood waters. In the 54-mile trip out to the truck, the rescuers boated for two and a half miles, and waded for three miles in water up to their armpits. The engine and the bonnet of the truck were covered when the rescuers reached Tindall.” (482)*

Constable Keith Lloyd Towers 1951

Keith Lloyd Towers was born on 18 January 1920 at Coopernook, near Taree in New South Wales. He joined the army on 26 June 1941 as a Lance Corporal (483) and by 1949 he was living at 14 Mabel Street, Hurstville, listed as a police officer with his wife, Verna Alice Towers. Towers’ mother passed away the next year in Coopernook:

*“OBITUARY Mrs A. E. Towers*

*Alter a period of ill-health extending over three years, Mrs Mary Jane Towers of Coopernook, died in the M.R.D. Hospital on Monday afternoon. She was a daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Edward Salter, of-Lansdowne, and was born at Coopernook 56 years ago, and resided there until her marriage. The first years of her married life were spent at*

*Port Macquarie, Wauchope and Telegraph Point, where her husband was engaged in the timber industry. :The last 20 years of her life were spent at Coopernook; where she was highly respected. Earlier in life she evinced a keen interest in local flower shows and social functions.- In addition to her husband, Mrs Towers is survived by the following children: Mr Harry Towers (Lithgow), Constable Keith Towers (Sydney), Jack and' Cecil Towers (Sydney), Lorna (Mrs Johnson Coopernook), and 'Doris (Mrs Jobson Coopernook). Brothers and sisters are Messrs Edward Salter (Cundle), George (Drummoyne), Percy (Harden), Jack (Taree), Mesdames H. Foster (Taree), M. Mooney (Sydney) and S. Inskip (Thirroul). Another sister died in infancy. The funeral will 'move from St. Luke's Church Coopernook, at 11.30 to-day (Wednesday) following a service at the church. The interment will be made in the Coopernook cemetery. Rev B. C. Dickson will conduct the services, and Mr W. T. Howard is the undertaker."* (484)

Constable Keith Towers was hurt on duty in March 1951, injured whilst he was trying to release people from two vehicles, which had collided in Bay Street, Brighton Le Sands. He was then struck by a third car in the process of the rescue. From 1954-to 1980 the electoral roll showed Keith living at 52 Scott Street, Mortdale, working as a police constable with wife Verna Alice and son Wayne Lindsay, a student. (485) Towers passed away on the 29 July 2005 and was interred at Woniora Cemetery. In 2014 he was mentioned in another late Water Policeman's eulogy, that of Ropers Lars Scott (Buster) Brown

*"There are men that typified Busters approach and ethics in Water Police duties, Sans Souci had Keith Towers, Sydney had Hilary Hansen and Broken Bay had Buster. I have worked with all three and would rate Buster slightly in front because of his Surf Life Saving skills. Some ex Wateries here today may dispute this but that is the way I feel. They were all great men in their chosen profession and we admire them all."* (486)

#### Constable E. Wood 1951-2

Constable E Wood was awarded a blue ribbon when he was involved in a parade of Police horses in August 1934; he was riding Fretsaw, a horse of very fine bred. Fifteen years later he was based in the Macleay River region dealing with flood victims at Kempsey, an event for which he received a bravery award.

#### *"15 FOUND IN SHED*

*The pilot of a plane dropping food to flood victims stranded near Kempsey today found 15 people whom police had feared might be drowned. The party — eight adults, six children, and a six months-old baby had been marooned by the Macleay River since Friday. The pilot dropped them food parcels. He said that the dairy shed where they were sheltering was still surrounded by miles of water. Late to-day Constable E. Wood and a civilian set out from Kempsey to try to reach them by boat."* (487)

#### Constable Arthur Charles Horder 1955

Arthur Charles Horder was born in 1928 and during the period between 1954 to 1963 he was living at 2 Raglan Street Malabar as a police constable ,with Ida and Victor Stafford, a prison officer. In 1958 he was married and living at 32 Alice Street Sans Souci, with his wife Madge, who was working as a comptometer operator. (488) For the rest of his life from 1968 to 1992, Arthur Charles Horder, police constable, lived in a modest brick bungalow at 155 Napoleon Street, Sans Souci with wife Madge.

On Australia Day 1987, Chief Superintendent Arthur Charles Horder received an Australian Police Medal before retiring in March of the next year. (489) Arthur Charles Horder passed away on the 15 August 1992, at his home at Sans Souci.



*Above: The Horder Family Home*

*Google Maps. (2016). 155 Napoleon Street, Sans Souci. [online] Available at:*

*[https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/155+napoleon+street++sans+souci/@-](https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/155+napoleon+street++sans+souci/@-33.9918213,151.1370175,3a,26.1y,79.28h,86.91t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sCFnK_q1Lo481DY7EofrRw!2e0!7i13312!8i6656!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0xa2a5f8ffb397457c!6m1!1e1)*

*[33.9918213,151.1370175,3a,26.1y,79.28h,86.91t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sCFnK\\_q1Lo481DY7EofrRw!2e0!7i13312!8i6656!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0xa2a5f8ffb397457c!6m1!1e1](https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/155+napoleon+street++sans+souci/@-33.9918213,151.1370175,3a,26.1y,79.28h,86.91t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sCFnK_q1Lo481DY7EofrRw!2e0!7i13312!8i6656!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0xa2a5f8ffb397457c!6m1!1e1) [Accessed 4 Jul. 2016].*

#### Constable Chris Taylor 1967

The young cadet officer was given his first uniform job at the Rockdale Police Station where for the next fourteen months he was placed in charge of controlling the school crossing outside the Catholic School at Arncliffe. He attended once a week training sessions at Redfern during this period. Chris Taylor was officially sworn in as a Probationary Constable in 1969 and stationed at Cronulla for five years. In 1974 he was transferred to the Water Police based at Sans Souci where he remained for the next twenty four years; rising to the rank of Incremental Sergeant. In 2013 he was appointed Lachlan Local Area Command Superintendent and was in the press pictured with the area command's bus, a virtual mobile police station. He had moved to Parkes from Walgett where he had served as Duty Officer for the previous four years.

In 1998 Sergeant Taylor had decided on a new career path, resigned from the Force and along with wife Roslyn took on a business career in the Southern Highlands. Four years later the couple sold the business and Taylor re-joined the Police Force in 2003; his passion for policing had never left him. He was stationed at Liverpool as a Probationary Constable once again. He was soon promoted to the rank of Sergeant, based at Sutherland.



*Parkes Champion-Post. (2013). Our new top cop. [online] Available at:  
<http://www.parkeschampionpost.com.au/story/1468021/our-new-top-cop/> [Accessed 4 Jul. 2016].*

Superintendent Taylor and his wife Roslyn eventually had six children and fourteen grandchildren.



## Conclusion

Therefore, this is the story of the men of Rockdale Police Station and the cases they dealt with over a seventy year period of time. It's nowhere near complete in its telling, merely just some of the men and the crimes they dealt with as they were reported in the press of the time. As research sources such as Trove are being threatened by funding cuts, I hope by this piece of research to at least partially validate the use of such a resource as a means of historical research.





*Above: The Thin Blue Line*

*Resources.news.com.au. (2016). Australian policemen. [online] Available at:*

*<http://resources0.news.com.au/images/2012/03/08/1226293/677316-120308-police-funeral.jpg> [Accessed 4 Jul. 2016].*



## Appendix

Alphabetical list of serving officers at Rockdale Police Station documented in this research

Constable Edward Harold Allard	Constable/Sergeant Albert Henry Harrowsmith
Detective G. W. Arnold	Detective John James Hawe
Detective Gus Bluett	Constable Richard Augustine Herbert
Constable Archie Boyd	Constable William Henry Hewitt
Sergeant John Bridge	Sergeant W. J. Hibbard
Constable Ernest Crawford Brodie	Sergeant Ernest James Hillier
Constable Bernard Lloyd Brotherson	Constable Edward Michael Hogan
Constable Alexander Brown	Constable Arthur Charles Horder
Detective Constable Gregory George Brown	Constable Thomas Leslie Howell
Constable Jefferson Davis Browne	Senior Constable John Irvine
Sergeant Edgar Beattie Caban	Constable William Norman Jackson
Constable Thomas Earl Matthew Carney	Detective Jones
Constable C. Chaseling	Sergeant Albert Marshall Jones
Constable Cole	Constable James Joyce
Constable George A Collard	Constable Thomas Henry King
Constable Adner Allen Colless	Constable Richard Netta Kinkade
Constable Joel Patrick Cooper	Constable John Thomas Lambert
Constable Court	Constable Thomas Langworthy
Constable Alexander Cowden	Constable Thomas Wood Leonard
Constable Robert Dunworth	Constable John A. Martin
Constable Gilherd	Constable Alexander McClung
Constable David Robert Garden	Detective Sergeant Albert Henry McLachlan
Constable Donald William Gee	Constable Edward McMahon
Constable Ken Gilmour	Constable T. McTaggart
Sergeant William John Gorman	Detective Thomas Mitchell
Constable R. W. Green	Constable James Newell
Constable Neville William Grigg	Sergeant Nolan
Constable Percy George Hale	Sergeant Charles Frederick North
Constable Hall	Constable Alfred Alan Peters
Constable Michael Joseph Hanley	Constable Jack Lowden Phillips

Detective Arthur Lindsay Glenworth Ramsay Constable Louis Neville Reynolds Constable James Allen Cairns Robertson Detective Stuart Robson Sergeant Robert J. Rogers Constable Mark Scott Sergeant Shearer Sergeant T. R. Small Constable Frederick Spencer Constable Oswald James Stear Constable Stephenson Sergeant James Bede Tapor Constable Chris Taylor Constable Keith Lloyd Towers Constable Cecil Stuart Lyle Vogan Constable William Frederick Walker Constable Sidney Wearin Constable Frank Whitney Detective Cecil Ferguson Wightley Constable Herbert Wilkinson Constable Colin Burns Williams Constable Albert John Wilson Constable Daniel Wirth Constable E. Wood	
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[00593?pid=1115783&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-](http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1942/31842_216754-00593?pid=1115783&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-g%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsfn%3dg%2bf%26gsfn_x%3dXO%26gsln%3dstephenson%26gsln_x%3d1%26MSAV%3d1%26gskw%3dpolice%2bconstable%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26catbucket%3drstp%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3dROOT_CATEGORY%26h%3d1115783%26recoff%3d13%2b14%2b15%26db%3dNSWGazettes%26indiv%3d1%26ml_rpos%3d13&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true)

[g%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsfn%3dg%2bf%26gsfn\\_x%3dXO%26gsln%3dstephenson%26gsln\\_x%3d1%26MSAV%3d1%26gskw%3dpolice%2bconstable%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26catbucket%3drstp%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3dROOT\\_CATEGORY%26h%3d1115783%26recoff%3d13%2b14%2b15%26db%3dNSWGazettes%26indiv%3d1%26ml\\_rpos%3d13&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true](http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1942/31842_216754-00593?pid=1115783&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-g%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsfn%3dg%2bf%26gsfn_x%3dXO%26gsln%3dstephenson%26gsln_x%3d1%26MSAV%3d1%26gskw%3dpolice%2bconstable%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26catbucket%3drstp%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3dROOT_CATEGORY%26h%3d1115783%26recoff%3d13%2b14%2b15%26db%3dNSWGazettes%26indiv%3d1%26ml_rpos%3d13&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true) [Accessed 9 Jun. 2016].

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[http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1942/31842\\_216760-](http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1942/31842_216760-00104?pid=1411589&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-c%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsfn%3da%2bj%26gsfn_x%3d1%26gsln%3dwilson%26gsln_x%3d1%26MSAV%3d1%26gskw%3dpolice%2bofficer%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26catbucket%3drstp%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3d38%26h%3d1411589%26recoff%3d13%2b14%2b15%26db%3dNSWGazettes%26indiv%3d1%26ml_rpos%3d17&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true#?imageld=31842_216760-00103)

[00104?pid=1411589&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-](http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1942/31842_216760-00104?pid=1411589&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-c%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsfn%3da%2bj%26gsfn_x%3d1%26gsln%3dwilson%26gsln_x%3d1%26MSAV%3d1%26gskw%3dpolice%2bofficer%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26catbucket%3drstp%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3d38%26h%3d1411589%26recoff%3d13%2b14%2b15%26db%3dNSWGazettes%26indiv%3d1%26ml_rpos%3d17&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true#?imageld=31842_216760-00103)

[c%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsfn%3da%2bj%26gsfn\\_x%3d1%26gsln%3dwilson%26gsln\\_x%3d1%26MSAV%3d1%26gskw%3dpolice%2bofficer%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26catbucket%3drstp%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3d38%26h%3d1411589%26recoff%3d13%2b14%2b15%26db%3dNSWGazettes%26indiv%3d1%26ml\\_rpos%3d17&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true#?imageld=31842\\_216760-00103](http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1942/31842_216760-00104?pid=1411589&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-c%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsfn%3da%2bj%26gsfn_x%3d1%26gsln%3dwilson%26gsln_x%3d1%26MSAV%3d1%26gskw%3dpolice%2bofficer%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26catbucket%3drstp%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3d38%26h%3d1411589%26recoff%3d13%2b14%2b15%26db%3dNSWGazettes%26indiv%3d1%26ml_rpos%3d17&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true#?imageld=31842_216760-00103) [Accessed 12 Jun. 2016].

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[00501?pid=1162145&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-](http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1942/31842_216755-00501?pid=1162145&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-c%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsfn%3dalexander%26gsfn_x%3dXO%26gsln%3dcowden%26gsln_x%3d1%26mswpn__ftp%3drockdale%26MSAV%3d1%26gskw%3dpolice%2bconstable%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26catbucket%3drstp%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3dNP_PERIODICALS%26h%3d1162145%26recoff%3d13%2b14%26db%3dNSWGazettes%26indiv%3d1%26ml_rpos%3d1&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&us)

[c%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsfn%3dalexander%26gsfn\\_x%3dXO%26gsln%3dcowden%26gsln\\_x%3d1%26mswpn\\_\\_ftp%3drockdale%26MSAV%3d1%26gskw%3dpolice%2bconstable%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26catbucket%3drstp%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3dNP\\_PERIODICALS%26h%3d1162145%26recoff%3d13%2b14%26db%3dNSWGazettes%26indiv%3d1%26ml\\_rpos%3d1&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&us](http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1942/31842_216755-00501?pid=1162145&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-c%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsfn%3dalexander%26gsfn_x%3dXO%26gsln%3dcowden%26gsln_x%3d1%26mswpn__ftp%3drockdale%26MSAV%3d1%26gskw%3dpolice%2bconstable%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26catbucket%3drstp%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3dNP_PERIODICALS%26h%3d1162145%26recoff%3d13%2b14%26db%3dNSWGazettes%26indiv%3d1%26ml_rpos%3d1&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&us) [Accessed 12 Jun. 2016].

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[http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1942/31842\\_216757-](http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1942/31842_216757-00603?pid=1284856&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-c%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsln%3dhibbard%26gsln_x%3d1%26MSAV%3d1%26msypn__ftp%3drockdale%26gskw%3dpolice%2bsergeant%26_83004003-n_xcl%3df%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26catbucket%3drstp%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3dCLP_COURT%26h%3d1284856%26recoff%3d13%26db%3dNSWGazettes%26indiv%3d1%26ml_rpos%3d2&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true)

[00603?pid=1284856&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-](http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1942/31842_216757-00603?pid=1284856&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-c%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsln%3dhibbard%26gsln_x%3d1%26MSAV%3d1%26msypn__ftp%3drockdale%26gskw%3dpolice%2bsergeant%26_83004003-n_xcl%3df%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26catbucket%3drstp%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3dCLP_COURT%26h%3d1284856%26recoff%3d13%26db%3dNSWGazettes%26indiv%3d1%26ml_rpos%3d2&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true)

[c%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsln%3dhibbard%26gsln\\_x%3d1%26MSAV%3d1%26msypn\\_\\_ftp%3drockdale%26gskw%3dpolice%2bsergeant%26\\_83004003-](http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1942/31842_216757-00603?pid=1284856&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-c%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsln%3dhibbard%26gsln_x%3d1%26MSAV%3d1%26msypn__ftp%3drockdale%26gskw%3dpolice%2bsergeant%26_83004003-n_xcl%3df%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26catbucket%3drstp%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3dCLP_COURT%26h%3d1284856%26recoff%3d13%26db%3dNSWGazettes%26indiv%3d1%26ml_rpos%3d2&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true)

[n\\_xcl%3df%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26catbucket%3drstp%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3dCLP\\_COURT%26h%3d1284856%26recoff%3d13%26db%3dNSWGazettes%26indiv%3d1%26ml\\_rpos%3d2&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true](http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1942/31842_216757-00603?pid=1284856&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-c%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsln%3dhibbard%26gsln_x%3d1%26MSAV%3d1%26msypn__ftp%3drockdale%26gskw%3dpolice%2bsergeant%26_83004003-n_xcl%3df%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26catbucket%3drstp%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3dCLP_COURT%26h%3d1284856%26recoff%3d13%26db%3dNSWGazettes%26indiv%3d1%26ml_rpos%3d2&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true) [Accessed 13 Jun. 2016].

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[http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1942/31842\\_216756-](http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1942/31842_216756-00784?pid=1244566&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-c%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsfn%3dc%2bj%26gsfn_x%3dXO%26gsln%3dharrison%26gsln_x%3d1%26msydy%3d1925%26msypn__ftp%3drockdale%26gskw%3dpolice%2bconstable%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26MSAV%3d1%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3d36%26h%3d12445)

[00784?pid=1244566&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-](http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1942/31842_216756-00784?pid=1244566&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-c%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsfn%3dc%2bj%26gsfn_x%3dXO%26gsln%3dharrison%26gsln_x%3d1%26msydy%3d1925%26msypn__ftp%3drockdale%26gskw%3dpolice%2bconstable%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26MSAV%3d1%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3d36%26h%3d12445)

[c%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsfn%3dc%2bj%26gsfn\\_x%3dXO%26gsln%3dharrison%26gsln\\_x%3d1%26msydy%3d1925%26msypn\\_\\_ftp%3drockdale%26gskw%3dpolice%2bconstable%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26MSAV%3d1%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3d36%26h%3d12445](http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1942/31842_216756-00784?pid=1244566&backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com.au%2f%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgss%3dangs-c%26new%3d1%26rank%3d1%26gsfn%3dc%2bj%26gsfn_x%3dXO%26gsln%3dharrison%26gsln_x%3d1%26msydy%3d1925%26msypn__ftp%3drockdale%26gskw%3dpolice%2bconstable%26cpxt%3d1%26cp%3d2%26MSAV%3d1%26uidh%3dhh2%26pcat%3d36%26h%3d12445)

66%26recoff%3d13%2b14%2b15%26db%3dNSWGazettes%26indiv%3d1%26ml\_rpos%3d1&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true [Accessed 13 Jun. 2016].

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