



Blacktown remembers

Friday, 30 September 2011 marked the 40th anniversary of the murders of Sgt 1st Class Bill Riley and Sgt 3rd Class Maurice McDiarmid, who were shot dead while investigating a fatal shooting in a house in Toongabbie in 1971.

Earlier that morning a woman staggered into Blacktown Police Station claiming to have been raped and then kidnapped by a man who had killed her lover and his own brother, Warren Clark. She said he had driven her around for about two hours before releasing her in Blacktown. When police attended the scene of the shooting, Ronald Clark, 23, was at the house with a loaded .22 calibre rifle and a 12 gauge sawn off shotgun.

Sgt Riley was shot in the heart as he entered through the back door, and Sgt McDiarmid was then shot in the face.

Clark fled in a 1950 Holden sedan with both officers' service revolvers. He was shot

40 years on

dead later that day by Cst Alf Gregory when he rammed his police car into the offender's vehicle, pushing it into a service station at Liverpool. It's thought Clark was en route to kill his mother before he was shot three times by Cst Gregory.

Both officers were posthumously promoted for their outstanding courage and devotion to duty. They were jointly awarded the Peter Mitchell Trophy and the George Lewis Memorial Trophy for the most courageous act by a member of the Police Force in 1971.

A commemorative plaque is mounted at Blacktown Police Station and a plinth has been erected at the entrance to the Memorial Rose Garden of the NSW Police Academy in Goulburn. The plinth features two police caps, one right side up and one upside down, indicative of the way the officer's caps fell on the ground following their murder. The inscription on the plinth reads *For the People*.

Both officers were laid to rest in a gardened plot at Pinegrove Cemetery, each with a NSW Police Force plaque and an inscription *Doing his Duty*.



LEFT: The plinth at the entrance to the Memorial Rose Garden of the NSW Police Academy in Goulburn.