

Origin of National Police Remembrance Day.



The Memorial was completed and dedicated on 29 September 2006 (National Police Remembrance Day) and gazetted that all future National Police Remembrance Day services will be commemorated on this date. Fallen New Zealand Police are also remembered on this date along with their counterparts from New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland and Northern Territory.

As at 1 May 2020, there were 51 police officer fatalities in Australia between 2000 and 2019, an average of two to three a year.

This year we remember the following Australian and New Zealand Police killed on duty between 29 September 2019 to 29 September 2020;

NSW Police

- Constable Aaron Vidal - Aged 28 – 18 June 2020

Victorian Police

- Leading Senior Constable Lynette Taylor - Aged 60 – 22 April 2020
- Senior Constable Kevin King - Aged 50 – 22 April 2020
- Probationary Constable Glen Humphris - Aged 34 – 22 April 2020
- Probationary Constable Joshua Prestney - Aged 28 – 22 April 2020

New Zealand Police - (Auckland – North Island)

- Constable Matthew Dennis Hunt - Aged 28 – 19 June 2020

South Australian Police - Special Mention

- Detective Chief Superintendent Joanne Shanahan - Aged 55 - 26 April 2020

Ron Alexander, a retired NSW police officer and Chairman of the Police Memorial Organising Committee and Service Coordinator for the (local) National Police Remembrance Day Service was quoted,

“It is said that we died three times.

First, is the date of our death;

Second, is the date of our funeral service;

And the third, is in the future, when our name is spoken for the last time.

Services such as the National Police Remembrance Day, Police Memorial Walls (Woronora and Eastern Suburbs cemeteries - NSW) and the National Wall 2 Wall Ride will ensure that the names of our fallen colleagues are never forgotten.”

At retired police branch meetings the members stand to attention whilst the following Police Ode is recited and a minute’s silence is observed.

Ode to a Police Officer

As the sun surely sets
Dawn will see it arise,
For Service above self
Demands its own prize,
You have fought the good fight,
Life’s race has been run,
And peace your reward,
For eternity begun,
And we that are left,
Shall never forget,
Rest in Peace, friend and colleague,
For the sun has now set.
We will remember them.

Each year in the Sutherland Shire, a (local) National Police Remembrance Day Service is held (alternately) in the following churches, St Catherine Labouré Catholic Church, Gynea and St Luke’s Anglican Church, Miranda. These services are well attended by both serving and retired police, police families and members of the public wishing to honour the fallen police.

“Unfortunately, this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Police Remembrance Day Service was cancelled. We can still in our own way remember the fallen police officers at 11.00am on Tuesday 29 September, 2020 by observing a minute’s silence” said Ron Alexander – Service Coordinator, National Police Remembrance Day.