



PEELERS GAZETTE

WEST AUSTRALIAN POLICE HISTORICAL SOCIETY (INC)

PATRON CHRIS DAWSON APM COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

June 2022

PRESIDENTS REPORT

At the March 2022 AGM I pointed out to our Patron and Commissioner of Police Chris Dawson APM that I preferred corresponding officially with the WA Police Force in letter format enabling a file number follow up process to occur. Immediately after the AGM the incoming committee held its first Committee Meeting enabling a pathway to be created for the rest of the year. It was resolved that letters should be sent to the Commissioner regarding the following issues;

- 1/. The Intentions of the WA Police Force (WAPF) with regard to WA Police History and the partnership with the WA Police Historical Society (WAPHS)
- 2/. Renewal of the Service Level Agreement between the WAPF and WAPHS
- 3/. Consideration for the appointment of a suitable sworn officer on a return to work rehabilitation program to assist the WAPHS with capturing back dated service records
- 4/. Request to be donated a suitable decommissioned WAPF large van. Enabling the WAPHS to take exhibits and presentations to metro and country events and shows
- 5/. Providing a copy of the WAPHS Business Plan and original Strategic Plan

Items 3 and 4 were acknowledge and follow up emails were dispatched regarding items 1 and 2. This led to a meeting with Frank Pasquale WAPF Executive Director and Commander Mike Bell. This turned out to be a very frank (*pun*) and cordial meeting following a tour of the FESA Museum in Murray Street Perth. Frank had been involved in the project to modernise that facility. Unlike the WAPHS, FESA actually benefitted from the sale of real estate. Clearing the air on these two vital issues was important and although not having exact alignment on the way forward progress was certainly made.

I think it is now clear that the future of the WAPHS Police Museum remains on site at Highgate. Although not perfect in layout it does provide an opportunity to expand and be creative with future projects for a Large Objects Gallery, feature walls off Smith Street and time line murals on the often graffiti walls of the Water Corporation Ventilation Stack and meeting room.

The WAPF has previously approved the shed extensions and I will be requesting their approval to build a suitable five berth carport and garage to house the Anglia on the south side of the premises adjacent to the soon to be completed unit's project.

Agreement was reached to renew the Service Level Agreement (SLA) and this is being worked on presently. The air was cleared re what the WAPHS needs and what the WAPF require from us. The WAPHS has been treading water on this issue for three years. Who pays for what utilities and maintenance will need to be made clear in the document? This could see the appointment of a WAPF paid curator or premises manager, freeing up WAPHS volunteers to concentrate on the objects contained in the Constitution.

Appointment of suitable rehab officers to gather and download service history going back to the mid-1960s is progressing and will enable our newly installed computers to be updated properly. Yet another project that is progressing well.

The acquisition of a large decommissioned van is with WAPF Assets, the van in mind will need to be stripped back bare and I will arrange to have it suitable lined to enable a road show to be displayed. So there will be costs to both parties. This is where funds from the SLA come into play and wisely used. It is just unfair to have members using their own modes of transport to convey and draw vehicles and exhibits to events and country shows.

PITMAN WALSH MEMORIAL KALGOORLIE BOULDER

The current location of the memorial is in jeopardy due to expansion of the gold mine. Nothing stands in the way of 'Gold'. Dave Mac Donald will continue to have carriage of this issue on behalf of the WAPHS the other concerned and involve parties are the MRD, sourcing a suitable alternative location on the highway leading into 'Kal' from the west, The Kalgoorlie-Boulder Shire, The Norton Mining Company and their consultants and the Goldfields Esperance District Office. There will be no need to allocate any WAPHS funds for this project that should eventuate in an attractive information bay that will also add to the tourist attraction of the area. (See also details of the Boulders 125th Anniversary August 2022)

MEMBER EVENTS

Members who were able to attend the April Members event would have been treated to an amazing display from the WAPF Drone Squad. The video and still footage also came in handy as I have written to the Water Corporation outlining the WAPHS concerns regarding the loose render on areas of the 80 plus year old ventilation stack that needs fixing.

In early May the Royal Western Australia Historical (RWAHS) hosted the WAPHS for a tour cup of tea, cakes and biscuits and a lovely presentation on the history and current activities of WA Police Legacy by Jill Willoughby. Thanks Jill.

Due to the visit of the Minister of Police Paul Papalia on Tuesday June 28, 2022, there will be no member event for this month. But we will be back in July for the traditional Christmas in

July Dinner. You should have received a flyer by now about the event which is also included in this edition of the Peelers.

STORIES FROM PREVIOUS OFFICERS

During the previous three years I embarked on a project to reorganise the administration office so that all pertinent files could be easily located and traced. This was vital and has significantly reduced the time spent searching for paper record accounts of members, stations, special squads and particular events.

The majority of the information about the service history of previous officers was mainly unremarkable however in amongst the service history were member accounts of particular events. These made for fascinating reading and over time will be subject to stories in future editions of the Peelers Gazette. The accounts and memoirs are written from the heart and portrait a true account of the times rather than a clinical post event assessment by a newspaper, or court reporting. Along with these personal accounts are stories from the wives of officers stationed in remote parts of the bush. Basically raising the children single handed. Dealing with policing issues when hubby was on patrol and tolerating the dismal and often atrocious living conditions provided.

One such story is from Vincent Wallace (Mick) Liddelow 1512. 1925 to 1963. His accounts are recorded in particular detail in the 2011 book Police and Other People and covers places where I also served or worked for a period; Toodyay, Nullagine, Fremantle and Kalgoorlie.

I have gifted the book to the WAPHS Library and it is well worth a read on these chilly winter evenings. It's a boomerang though and must always be returned directly back to the library. Peter Browne has placed some brief accounts in this edition of the Peelers.

Dave Lampard



Ladies of the Night

Prostitution prosecutions can be a very delicate subject. Prostitution itself is not illegal in Western Australia, but certain practices and behaviours connected with it are, such as the “Keeping of premises for the purpose of prostitution” and “Living off the earnings of prostitution”. Because successive State Governments have failed to properly legislate Prostitution there is a Police “Containment Policy”, in place, managed by the Vice Squad, which investigates prostitution and Brothels. The main idea being to limit the number of establishments and to ensure that those permitted under the containment policy, do not employ minors, conform with sexual health and cleanliness requirements, and local government orders and regulations. The “Sakura” massage parlour was one of many places around the city and suburbs NOT working or permitted within the “Containment Policy”.

These were usually set up in a house or apartment and to collect the necessary evidence to close them down was quite difficult to obtain. The men who frequent these places were unlikely to agree to become a Police Witness as to what went on behind the closed doors, especially if the person concerned was married. While the women conducting the business were committing offences and liable to prosecution, the men who paid these women for their “services” committed no offence whatsoever. The only real way to obtain direct evidence was

for a man who had used the service to give evidence as to what had occurred within. On a couple of occasions, a young police recruit would volunteer to use a service like this and gather evidence in the process, however this was at best considered”, distasteful” or at worse, “Entrapment”.

Dr. Dadour the Member for Subiaco of the day, reported in Hansard the following: *The complaints I have received from the residents of that locality include one to the effect that the clientele of the massage parlour often sat on the front fence of the residence alongside, waiting their turn to enter the massage parlour. One day one randy client became too eager and decided to jump the fence and grab an 80-year-old lady. I shall not mention what part of the anatomy he grabbed, but members can use their imagination! other complaints I have received are to the effect that this type of establishment detracts from the value of the area.*

It was time to try something new; I was tasked to videotape the comings and goings of men visiting the premises. I approached the occupants of a home on the opposite side of the street that had an unused sleep out on the front veranda, perfect for my purpose.

I got the “OK” and in due course set up my equipment, on a tripod and nicely focussed, ready to go at a moment’s notice. (*a “Sleep out” in early Perth was a veranda which had been enclosed to make a room. One doesn’t hear much about “sleep outs” these days*)

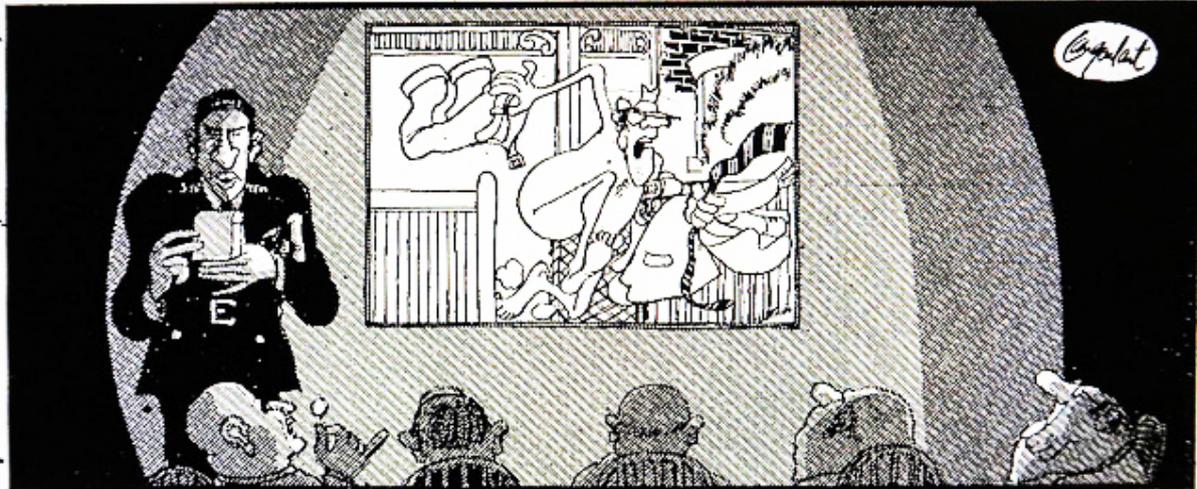
One day in early November 1975 I set up in the sleep out and had a perfect view of the house, the front door and surrounds. Over the course of just 3 & 1/2 hours I recorded 20 men visit the ladies, who met each man at the front door and allowed them in. A few other men were turned away for reasons unknown to me probably the ladies didn’t like the look of them! While at the door the ladies always looked around for any suspicious activity, however they failed to see me recording them from just across the road.

On the day of the operation the detectives also arranged for a senior Government. Pathologist to crouch down in a nearby stinking sewer main with a kitchen sieve, to collect semen-stained tissues as they arrived from the toilets from the house in question. Talk about a “Crappy” job!

The Vice Squad Detectives involved made records of car numbers including a gold Rolls Royce carrying two young guys intent of visiting the ladies. Others invited into the premises included a “Milk Man” and a “Security Officer”. One other notable person who received entertainment at the premises was a Member of Parliament who was then forever known as (Nick name removed) Later the Vice Squad chased up the vehicle owners and surprisingly found a few men who were prepared to give evidence. The women were subsequently charged with keeping premises for the purpose of prostitution. They pleaded “Guilty” to all charges and were fined, thus avoiding an embarrassing longer trial.

The Press covering the trial took a humorous slant on the issue and cartoonists drew amusing cartoons about my videotaping.

LANGOULANT AND THE POLICE FILM



"This gentleman denied any knowledge of a brothel, saying he was a streaking social worker collecting clothes for charity."

Caption reads "This gentleman denied any knowledge of a brothel, saying that he was a streaking social worker collecting clothes for charity."



"Your motivation is in the underlying conflict whereby the lady is fined and her customers get their money back in witness fees."

Caption reads "Your motivation is in the underlying conflict whereby the lady is fined and her customers get their money back in witness fees."

Thanks to Retired Chief Superintendent John Horton for this article.

Working at the Highgate Hill Police Station converted OIC Quarters

The WAPHS Vice President (1969 to 1971) and new WAPHS Member Neal Ivey both worked as cadets at Highgate Hill when the building was used for radio communications and known as the Wireless Section then VKI. Helping out often went well beyond the job description of a cadet and manning of the radio booths was required together with sending off and receiving telex messages. (WAPHS has those machines somewhere in a sea container at Maylands) To help deaden the sound a fibrous substance was sprayed on the ceiling. Let's hope it wasn't asbestos as those fellas used to go home with their head and shoulders covered in white dust. Too late to sue the Police for baldness I imagine. The Police Station was used for the radio techies hence the false windows in the two converted cells to allow for better day time lighting. Mick Kelly's dad Tom Kelly (RIP) also worked there.

Winter Celebration

Christmas in July hosted by WA Police Historical Society

Tuesday July 5th, 2022 at

1100am (Update Meeting) 12 Noon (Lunch)

BRISBANE HOTEL – 292 BEAUFORT (CNR BRISBANE STREET, PERTH

RSVP TO WAPS@GLOBALDIAL.COM BY 1ST JULY 2022

**CAR PARKING ADJOINING THE HOTEL FREE FOR THE FIRST HOUR OR PARK AT
WAPHS.ROUTE BUS 950 FROM THE CITY.**

MENU \$45.00 PER PERSON.

INCLUDES. 2 ROASTS MEALS, CHICKEN AND CRACKLING PORK BELLY

WITH APPLE SAUCE.

VEGETABLES, BRAISED CABBAGE, FIRED CHAT POTATOES, ROAST

CARROTS.

CHOCALATE BROWNIE AND ICE CREAM. TEA/COFFEE.

**PAYMENT BY CARD ON THE DAY DIRECT TO HOTEL OR PAYMENT IN
ADVANCE TOP&N BANK BSB #806015 ACCOUNT#1502352 OR BY CARD OR CASH
TO WAPHS LINCOLN ST HIGHGATE**

**TUESDAY OR FRIDAYS BEFORE THE EVENT. REF: NAME AND EVENT
DRINKS TO BE PAID FOR WHEN ORDERED DIRECT TO HOTEL.**



The funeral procession in Kalgoorlie for murdered police officers Alexander Pitman and John Walsh.

Brutal mining murder



The shotgun used in the murder of the officers.



The bicycles belonging to the two officers.

A DIABOLICAL CRIME
TWO DETECTIVES FOULLY MURDERED
FATE OF INSPECTOR WALSH AND DETECTIVE PITMAN
BODIES DISMEMBERED AND BURNED
REMAINS DISCOVERED IN OLD SHAFT

The headline in the Kalgoorlie Miner.



Sgt Alexander Pitman and Inspector John Walsh.

TIM MOORE

The following article about the murders of Gold Squad police officers Inspector John Walsh and Sergeant Alexander Pitman will be part of the Goldfields War Museum's exhibition in August celebrating Boulder's 125th anniversary.

Thankfully, there have only been a handful of brutal murders on the Goldfields, but nothing compared to the deaths of Inspector John Walsh and Sergeant Alexander Pitman.

In April 1926 both men were the only police officers of the Gold Squad on WA's Goldfields.

Their murder took place 27km south-west of Boulder, and after being dismembered their remains were burnt and thrown down a disused shaft and hot ash thrown on top.

The two men convicted of the murders were William Coulter of Davis Street, Boulder, and Phillip Treffene of Moran Street, Boulder.

A third man Evan Clarke was charged with being an accessory after the fact. He also turned King's evidence against Coulter and Treffene.

Clarke was the owner of the Cornwall Hotel in Boulder.

Pitman and Walsh were on the trail of gold thieves.

To the south-west of Boulder they came across a site of an illegal smelting plant.

Hiding in the scrub the two policemen waited for the gold thieves to show up.

It was stated during the trial Treffene shot Pitman with a shotgun and Walsh was shot by Coulter with an automatic pistol.

Coulter and Treffene then returned to the Cornwall Hotel where Treffene worked.

To provide Treffene with an alibi, Coulter strong-armed Clarke into going back to the scene of the deaths in Clarke's car.

Clarke said in his evidence that he waited in the car used by Coulter and Treffene, while Coulter dismembered and burnt the remains.

Then they drove to the dumping site to the south of

Boulder and threw the bodies down the shaft.

It was some days after the deaths the police realised Inspector Walsh and Sergeant Pitman were missing. It was nothing unusual for both men to go off for days at a time.

It was more than two weeks later the bodies were found after a prospector saw a swarm of flies over an old shaft.

After an extensive investigation by WA Police, Coulter, Treffene and Clarke were arrested in June 1926.

Clarke was arrested first and quickly "turned King's evidence", meaning he flipped and told the police everything.

Shortly after Treffene was arrested, Coulter was arrested, questioned and released, only to be re-arrested days later at his home.

The inquest in the deaths of Pitman and Walsh was held in July at Kalgoorlie Courthouse.

After evidence and the testimony of 27 witnesses, Treffene and Coulter were to stand trial for the death of John Walsh and Alexander Pitman.

Clarke was to be tried for accessory after the fact.

The trial began in August and ended in early September and took place in Perth. At the time it was one of the biggest and longest trials in WA history.

Clarke was always kept separate from the other two. He was even shifted to a police lock-up in another part of the city to keep him away from other people and in protection.

The jury found Phillip Treffene and William Coulter both guilty of murder. They were sentenced to death.

Clarke, the jury pointed out, should have been tried for the murders, too. But he was released days after the trial ended.

The appeals were dismissed on September 30 and Treffene and Coulter were hanged on October 25, 1926. Their funerals were held on the same day as their deaths.

Tim Moore is the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder local archives and history officer.



Exhibits which were shown during the murder trial.



The dedication of a memorial to the men in 2015.



Remembering Pitman & Walsh. Pictures: M. Meagher

Boulder will celebrate 125 years in August 2022 the article above sent in by Julie Rae describes one of the most heinous crimes committed in Western Australia.

Museum of Australian Policing

The genesis to a 'national police museum' Discussions about a 'national police museum' first began with Police Commissioners in 2003, ahead of the development and implementation of the National Police Memorial in Canberra.

In September 2020, AFP Commissioner Reece Kershaw re-commenced discussions, with Commonwealth Proceeds of Crime funding (an initial \$4.43 million) secured by the AFP to establish the museum in December 2021. 'H Block' was identified by the National Capital Authority as the most suitable location, and agreed to by Police Commissioners at the February 2022 Police Commissioners Forum.

The Museum of Australian Policing (MoAP) was announced by (then) Minister for Home Affairs Karen Andrews in March 2022. About the Museum. The essence of the MoAP is the capture and share the story of policing across Australia through a nationally-integrated approach. Policing (versus police) is all-encompassing; a collective term that will showcase all facets of policing including the service and sacrifices made by officers, people who have worked behind the scenes (forensics, intelligence officers) and policing's broader role in society.

It further considers policing efforts before the establishment of police forces, which links to the historical aspects of H Block (Acton Police Station and Court House). The MoAP will be open to the public and will incorporate permanent and temporary exhibitions, public programs, multi-purpose facilities and a gift shop.

The design of MoAP will take place in 2022. The building—'H Block' The proposed building for MoAP (known as H Block), is a large 1,269sqm space situated next to the National Museum of Australia on Acton Peninsular, Canberra. The National Capital Authority (NCA) has responsibility for H Block in accordance with the 2016 Acton Complex Heritage Management Plan and the AFP has entered into negotiations with the NCA to lease the property for an initial 10 year period. H Block has historical links to policing, being the former site of the Acton Police Station and Court House in the ~1930s. (Refer Attachment A.) Museum Master Plan

The AFP has engaged Kantar Public, a social research and consultancy agency, to facilitate a series of workshops with key stakeholders to explore the foundational principles for MoAP.

Along with public consultation, outcomes from these workshops will inform the Museum Master Plan. This plan will be initially presented to Police Commissioners at their inaugural Board of Management meeting in June.

A planning workshop has been organised for Thursday June 9, 2022 and the President has been invited by the AFP to represent Western Australia through the Western Australia Police Historical Society and Police Museum.

I am able to report that the workshop held at the National Archives Building in Canberra was a success and covered a broad picture of policing history from the six States, two territory police forces and the Australian Federal Police. I will keep members posted on progress.

Good Read found on the WAPHS Bookshelf (Library) By Peter Browne:

This book *Police and Other People* is one of those books that when you pick it up, you can't put it down. Written by Mick Liddelow and published by Hesperian Press it captures the life of the Policeman in the middle of the 20th century and contains an impeccable index of all those mentioned throughout the book. I have repeated some of those stories here to whet your appetite. If you want more you will have to visit the Battye Library, hunt around the bookshops, visit the RWHS in Nedlands or grab a cup of coffee and drop into the Society at 57 Lincoln Street, Highgate on a Tuesday or Friday and settle in for a read in historical surroundings.

Mick was born in Highgate in 1903. He married in 1928 and had two children. He joined the WA Police in 1925 and served as No. 1512. One of his children Alex joined later and served as No. 2357. He retired at the rank of Inspector in 1963.

The new graduate - When a young policeman reaches the street, it seems that his knowledge is far less than when he first left his home range but somehow as the years go by everything seems to drift into its right place. There is nothing more obvious than when a new school of policemen go on duty in the city streets for the first time. In my own case I felt very self-conscious in my new uniform but after several days the novelty wore off. My ego was shattered however by my sister who saw me in uniform for the first time when she exclaimed "Good heavens you look just like a Young Australia League Boy"

Several nights later, while on duty in city street, I received a report that a "Cheap Jack" stall in a laneway on my beat had been broken into. I was then about 150 yards from the spot and the time was about 9.30p.m. I decided that this needed instant attention, so 'though', even though I was in uniform I started to run along the footpath and in those days I could run. By the time that I arrived at the scene I had a following of about thirty people puffing along behind me and when I arrived, I felt more like the Pied Piper than a policeman. My public did not know what was wrong and in this respect, they were not alone because I did not know what to either.

A while later in Toodyay - Travelling on escort in the train with a prisoner wherever possible a carriage is always reserved but my mate George Hume told me that once he was escorting a mental patient to Perth and had forgotten to reserve a carriage. When the train pulled into the station, he was unable to get a carriage to himself and the patient. He jumped into the first compartment that he could see. There were several other people in this compartment. One man was reading a newspaper and when the patient saw this man reading the paper, he grabbed it away from him then glared over the top of the paper at the man. My mate whispered quietly to the others in the carriage "He is mad". At the next station all the others beat a hasty retreat and the escort proceeded with the compartment to themselves.

Kalgoorlie during the riots - There was a rumor that an Italian living with an Australian woman near Coolgardie, about 25 miles from Kalgoorlie on the mainline toward Perth, was to be killed or bashed up. A sergeant and six constables including myself were sent on a flat top truck to Coolgardie to find out just what the position was there. At Coolgardie the hotels were open, and the sergeant permitted two drinks each to the men. This was a wonderful gesture after the trying weather of the past few days. *(to be continued)*

MEMBERS EVENTS HELD AT

57 Lincoln Street, Highgate WA, 6003,

First (1st) Tuesday of the month at 10am unless otherwise notified

MEMBERSHIP

Annual Fee & Yearly Renewal

\$ 20.00 (No Nomination fee)

Direct Bank Transfer P&N Bank BSB#806 015 AC#015602352 Ref: Name (Reg#) Fees.

Yearly subscriptions fall due 1st of January

OPENING HOURS Tuesday and Friday 9am to 3pm Other times by appointment

WEBSITE: www.policewahistory.org.au

EMAIL: waphs@globaldial.com (Preferred method of contact unless urgent)

TELEPHONE: (08) 9328 3691 **POSTAL ADDRESS:** PO Box 471 Mount Lawley W.A 6939

The Society Acknowledges the Support (in kind and financial) it receives from the WA Police Force and the WA Police Union.

COMMITTEE

President *Dave Lampard* Retired 1/C Sgt 4717. Mobile#0438080916

Home Email: davidjohnlampard@hotmail.com



Vice President *Russell Armstrong* Retired Inspector 4539



Treasurer *Carol Vernon* Retired Sergeant 6428



Secretary Vacant

General Committee. *Mike Dean APM* Retired Senior Sergeant 4873.



Peter Browne Retired 1/C Sgt 4395.



Note: Since the AGM Mike Dean stood aside from the Vice Presidents position due to work commitments that often take him the Northwest and Goldfields on a regular basis. Russell Armstrong agreed to fill that vacancy. Peter Browne also stood aside from the Secretaries role due to a long standing and hard to heal hand injury and other pressing personal reasons but agreed to remain on the general committee.