

# Father's honour permanently etched in time

By Simon Kelly, Media and Public Affairs Branch

It took a personal tribute etched on the ground for the reality of the National Police Memorial to hit home for Chris Shean.

Chris, whose father Senior Constable Dave Shean was killed in a collision with a truck while responding to an urgent job in 2001, said the memorial had seemed surreal until he saw the words beneath his feet.

A feature of the memorial is a number of tributes from the family and friends of deceased officers etched into the ground.

"One sentence says something like 'I'll never see him in his uniform or on his bike again'," Chris said. "That really pulled it close to home for me."

On April 5, 2001, Senior Constable Shean had been performing traffic patrols as a member of the South Brisbane District Traffic Branch when he heard a call for assistance over the police radio.

He had been on his way to the job when his police motorcycle collided with a truck at Eight Mile Plains in Brisbane's south. He later died in hospital from his injuries.

A dedicated husband and father, Senior Constable Shean was also well loved and respected by his colleagues, friends and the community, with about 1,000 mourners attending his funeral.

Chris, who travelled to Canberra with his mother Paula and three siblings, said he was impressed that a permanent national memorial had been established.

"As long as there's a Parliament House, as long as there's a Canberra to go to, then it (the



Photo by Sergeant Jeremy Dunn, QPS Photographic Section

ABOVE: Chris Shean at the Police Memorial in George Street, Brisbane. INSET: His late father Senior Constable Dave Shean.

memorial) will always be there," he said.

"One day I can take my own kids or they can take their kids."

Chris, who works in the Information Systems Branch for

the Queensland Police Service, said his respect for the duties carried out by police motivated much of his work.

"It was fantastic to see how many people were there (at the memorial dedication)," he said.

"It's sad but I'm not upset by it. I'm chuffed to see my dad's name honoured."