



Names never to be forgotten as police find time to remember

By Simon Kelly, Media and Public Affairs Branch

The dedication of a national police memorial was a fitting finale to a retired Queensland police officer's quest to establish National Police Remembrance Day.

Retired Inspector John "Bluey" O'Gorman, who helped introduce the national day of remembrance in 1989, marched with other retired police before the dedication ceremony in Canberra.

"To be there for the dedication of the wall was just the most beautiful moment for me," Mr O'Gorman said.

"It means the project of National Police Remembrance Day is now complete."

Mr O'Gorman counts his involvement in the establishment of National Police Remembrance Day and the greater effort in police funerals among his greatest achievements with the Queensland Police Service.

The idea for a national day of remembrance came about on the road between Wilcannia and Broken Hill in the mid-1980s.

Mr O'Gorman had been driving to an annual policing conference when he became angry that he could not remember the name of a police officer who had been killed only a few years earlier.

The more he recounted the story to



Retired Inspector John "Bluey" O'Gorman.

colleagues, the angrier he became and the more passionate he felt about setting a day aside in the policing calendar to remember those who have been killed on duty.

In 1988, delegates at the Conference of Police Commissioners of the Australasian and South Western Pacific Region supported the concept, deciding it would commence the following year.

Minutes from the meeting stated:

"All police officers, and the community at large, should be made aware and reminded of the names of officers who have paid the ultimate price to keep the peace and enforce the law."

September 29 was chosen as the date for National Police Remembrance Day as it coincided with the Feast of the Archangel St Michael, the Patron Saint of Police.

Since 1989, National Police Remembrance Day services have

been held in many cities and towns throughout Queensland.

It has become tradition for uniformed and plain clothes police to march with the Queensland Police Pipes & Drums, Mounted Unit, Dog Squad and staff through the streets of Brisbane to the church where the service is held. Many regional centres also hold a similar march.

Candlelight vigils are also held on the eve of Remembrance Day in Brisbane and some other regional centres.

The vigils were introduced by the Queensland Police Union of Employees and were first held as dawn services in 2003 before moving to a night-time format the following year.

Mr O'Gorman said it was fitting that the annual event had led to the establishment of a permanent memorial in the nation's capital.

"I thought I'd die before the memorial wall came about," Mr O'Gorman said.

"The effort that went into the service and that each jurisdiction put in was tremendous.

"It made me so proud to have played a role in the commencement of Remembrance Day."

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Face from the past promotes day in the present

He looks to have a promising career ahead of him but the young police officer gazing out from this year's National Police Remembrance Day poster met a tragic end.

Senior Constable Colin Brown was one of the focal points of the poster which adopted an historical theme for 2006.

The posters were displayed in police stations and establishments throughout Queensland in the lead-up to National Police Remembrance Day.

Senior Constable Brown was murdered on April 9, 1969 after being called to investigate reports of a man acting strangely at a dairy farm in Dayboro north-west of Brisbane.

The farm owner had called police about an employee he had sacked for allowing 170 gallons of milk to run out of a vat. The employee had been a psychiatric patient before starting work at the farm about seven months earlier.

Senior Constable Brown arrived at the dairy farm about 9.30am where the owner accompanied him to an old, unpainted weather board cottage occupied by the employee.

As they were walking up the back stairs, the employee pointed a .22 calibre rifle out of the window and shot Senior Constable Brown in the chest at point blank range.

The seriously injured officer and the farm owner retreated towards the police car but the employee followed, shooting Senior Constable Brown in the left side.

The pair took cover behind the police car, and Senior Constable Brown managed to fire six shots at the employee before collapsing.

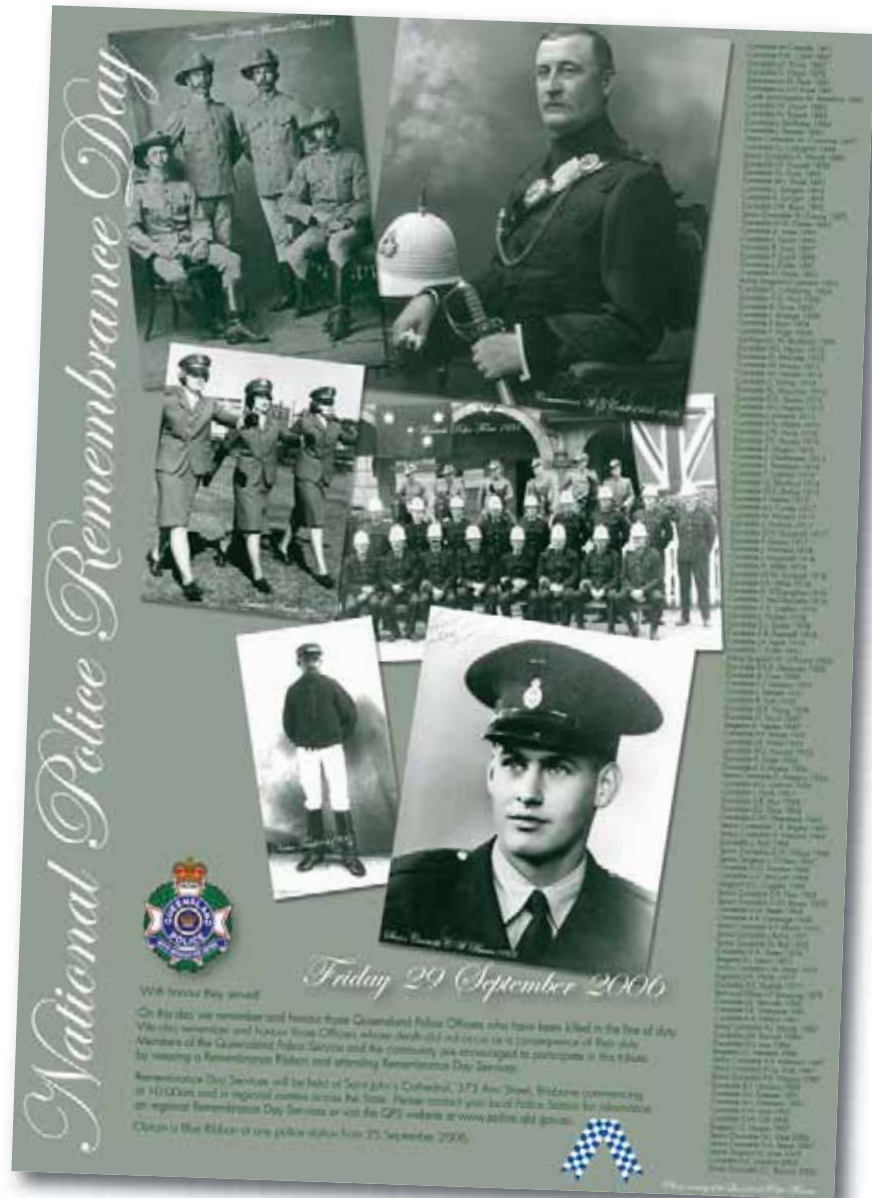
As the uninjured employee continued to fire in the direction of the police car the farm owner crept up behind him and overpowered him.

Senior Constable Brown was still alive when the ambulance arrived, but he died a mile from hospital.

The employee was later found not guilty of murder on the grounds of insanity.

Senior Constable Brown died at age 38 and left behind a wife and two children.

A promising officer, he had worked in Roma Street, Rockhampton, Thursday Island and Ravenshoe during a 19-year policing career.



This year's National Police Remembrance Day poster in Queensland.



Police march through Brisbane before this year's National Police Remembrance Day service.

State pauses to remember our fallen officers

By Xanthe Dines, Media and Public Affairs Branch

Relief was mixed with sadness as police and community members gathered throughout Queensland to observe National Police Remembrance Day on September 29.

There was a sense of relief that Queensland did not lose any officers in the line of duty in the preceding 12 months, but it was still a sombre occasion with 135 fallen officers being honoured.

Tribute was also paid to Senior Constable Malcolm Mackenzie and Detective Senior Constable Alan Taylor.

They were added to the Honourable Mention List which acknowledges officers who have died from natural causes (on or off duty), or as a result of accident or by any other cause while off duty.

Marches, services and candlelight

vigils were held throughout the state to mark this significant day on the police calendar.

Candlelight vigils on the eve of National Police Remembrance Day were a moving reminder that the darkness that sometimes descends over the Queensland Police Service (QPS) will always be illuminated by the strength of the police family.

At the Police Memorial in George Street, Brisbane, candles were lit by family members, community representatives and police officers to represent every decade from 1861 to 2006 while the name of each fallen officer was read out.

History was a recurring theme around the state with commemorations in several regions paying tribute to officers who lived and died during significant periods in Queensland's past.

Constable Matthew Connolly, who died in 1861, was officially honoured for the first time this year just weeks after a plaque was dedicated to him on the Toowoomba Police Memorial.

The ceremony was attended by about 70 of Constable Connolly's descendants, and Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson said this was a testament to the officer's actions.

"It shows his spirit and courage live on in those who have followed him," Commissioner Atkinson said.

"Whether it be 1861 or 2006, one aspect of policing is constant; that the primary role of police officers is to provide for the safety and security of the communities they serve."

In Charleville, police and community members gathered to



The candlelight vigil in Brisbane.



The National Police Remembrance Day service in Townsville.

pay tribute to the courage and resilience of the district's pioneering officers.

The historical Charleville cemetery, home to 12 police graves, shone with dozens of candles at the dusk vigil.

Tribute was paid to Senior Constable Lyle Hoey at the National Police Remembrance Day service in Charleville.

Senior Constable Hoey was deliberately run down at a road block near Mount Molloy on November 2, 1975. He was born in Charleville, and his sister was one of the many community members at the service.

Gladstone paid special tribute to the two police officers from the district who gave their lives during World War I. The bravery of these officers is now honoured by a memorial outside the Gladstone Police Station.

The new memorial was dedicated on September 5, and was the site for the candlelight vigil on the eve of National Police Remembrance Day.

The Longreach service commenced with two flag bearers being piped into the Longreach Baptist Church.

In a special National Police Remembrance Day ritual, a wreath was taken from the altar and placed on the grave of Constable

Patrick Cahill who was shot and killed while on gold escort duty on November 6, 1867.

In Townsville, the day was observed with a march to the Ryan Community Centre where a service was held.

As a symbolic gesture the service concluded with the release of white doves.

Back in Brisbane, the day started early with police recruits distributing blue ribbons in the city from 7am.

Community members were encouraged to wear the ribbons in support of fallen officers and to make donations for police charities.

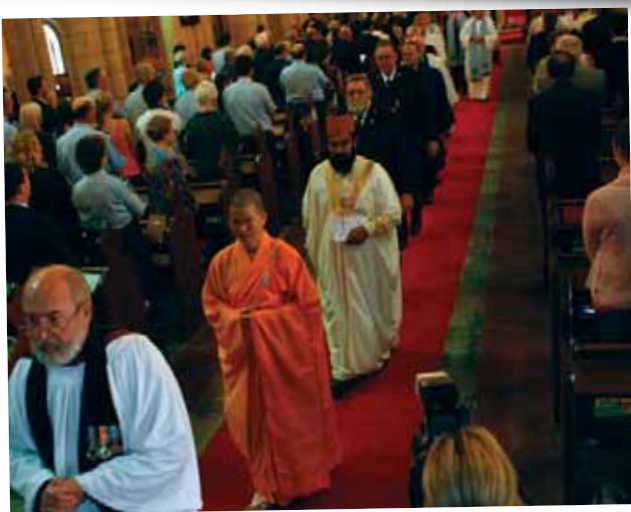
The impressive sandstone architecture of St John's Anglican Cathedral provided the backdrop for the Brisbane service. Commemorations began with a march from Police Headquarters through the city to the cathedral in Ann Street.

Led by Police Chaplain Rod Wood, family, friends and colleagues took part in the service to honour Queensland's 135 fallen officers.

Wreaths were laid on the altar and as the QPS choir, Melody in Blue, performed an emotive rendition of *Here I am Lord* the congregation reflected on the courage police officers exhibit every day.



LEFT: Police hats on the altar in Charleville. ABOVE: The Bundaberg service.



TOP: The candle lighting at the Innisfail service.
MIDDLE: The march in Longreach.
ABOVE: The service in Brisbane.
RIGHT: Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson speaks at the Brisbane service.