

Country town mourns the local copper

Senior Constable Neil Cuddy expected to spend a long and happy retirement when he called it a day in July this year. With 34 years in the job Neil, known as ‘Cuddles’ to his friends, decided it was time for a change.

But that wasn't to be. Aged just 53, Neil Cuddy died suddenly in late September in Kerang, the town he had called home for the past 18 years.

Neil Cuddy was described as the “perfect country cop”. Senior Sergeant Michael Carroll told *The Northern Times* that “he knew everyone and everyone knew him.

“He treated people fairly and he

always acted with commonsense. He was able to sum up the seriousness of the situation and act with judgement accordingly.

“Apart from that, he would do anything for you and he was a damned good bloke. We are all shocked here,” said Michael Carroll.

In his younger days Neil Cuddy played with the Richmond Under 19s and was still actively involved in the local football competition at the time of his death. He was a goal umpire, committee member and, according to *The Northern Times*, a vocal supporter.

President of the Kerang Football Club, Rob Fisher was reported as saying how quickly that life had gone from going to the pub for a beer with “Cuddles” to him no longer being there.

Neil Cuddy was described as a loyal Aussie larrikin at his funeral in St Patrick's Catholic Church in Kerang. His former police friends



Neil Cuddy

and colleagues were joined by friends from the Kerang Football Club in the guard of honour to farewell a good copper, a good friend and a loyal supporter. He will be sadly missed.

Vale Neil Cuddy.



Vale Neil Cuddy – (Photos courtesy of The Northern Times, Kerang)