

Saying thanks for committed service

The Police Association held its annual Retired & Life Members' Dinner last month, farewelling more than 90 members who have served their communities for a combined total of 3,304 years!

Association Secretary Paul Mullett welcomed the retirees and their partners who were joined at the dinner by several life members of the Association including former Presidents Lionel Allemand, Nigel Dempster, John Gibson, Fred Johanson, Maurie Ryan, Shane Butler and Adrian Lalor.

One Life Member who was unable to attend was former Chief Commissioner Mick Miller. He wrote to the Association thanking the



Secretary Paul Mullett



President Brian Rix

organisation for its invitation to attend the dinner.

My wife and I have reached the stage where we no longer go out at night in case we turn into pumpkins. Regretfully we must decline your invitation on account of physical infirmity. Wishing you every success in your event...

Mick Miller – Life Member of The Police Association.

President of the Association Brian Rix made special note of the absence of one retiree who should have been celebrating with everyone – Senior Constable Neil Cuddy who retired in July this year and passed away in September. The Association also recently lost Life Member Bill Snell.

Praising the Life Members, Brian Rix said that it is through their efforts that the Association is such a strong voice in representing the rights and entitlements of its members.

The statistics of this year's retirees were overwhelming. The 95 retirees served a total of 3,304 years.

Average years of service was 36

years with nine members serving between 25 and 30 years, 44 members serving between 30 and 35 years, 25 serving between 35 and 40 years and a staggering 14 members had served more than 40 years. The longest serving member was Superintendent Warren Murdoch who served 47 years, one month and nine days.

Assistant Commissioners Noel Ashby and Leigh Gassner represented the Force at the dinner. Noel Ashby began his address to the retirees by mentioning the recent industrial trauma between the senior executive of the Force and the Association, saying that it is the membership and public who suffer most.

“At the end of the day both of our organisations are about the members and serving the public. From an organisational perspective it's an abrogation of leadership if we ever forget, and not respect the true position of The Police Association as the industrial representatives of the membership.



Retiree Peter Driver

It is an abrogation of leadership if we ever forget that and not recognise it openly."

Assistant Commissioner Ashby congratulated the retirees on their service, dedication and commitment. "We should never forget what it is like to be at the coalface. If we ever forget that we become irrelevant. I am humbled by the people here, when I reflect on their careers and their experience. There are always things



Assistant Commissioner Noel Ashby

we can learn from those people.

"At the end of the day we are all coppers. At the end of the day we all saw things and do things that are so enduring. That is what unites us more than ever."

Responding on behalf of the retirees former Chief Superintendent Peter Driver thanked the Association for the dinner and watch".

Without fear of contradiction he said the retirees don't miss the

weekly crime stats, com stats, the budget and The Way Ahead. "But we do miss the companionship."

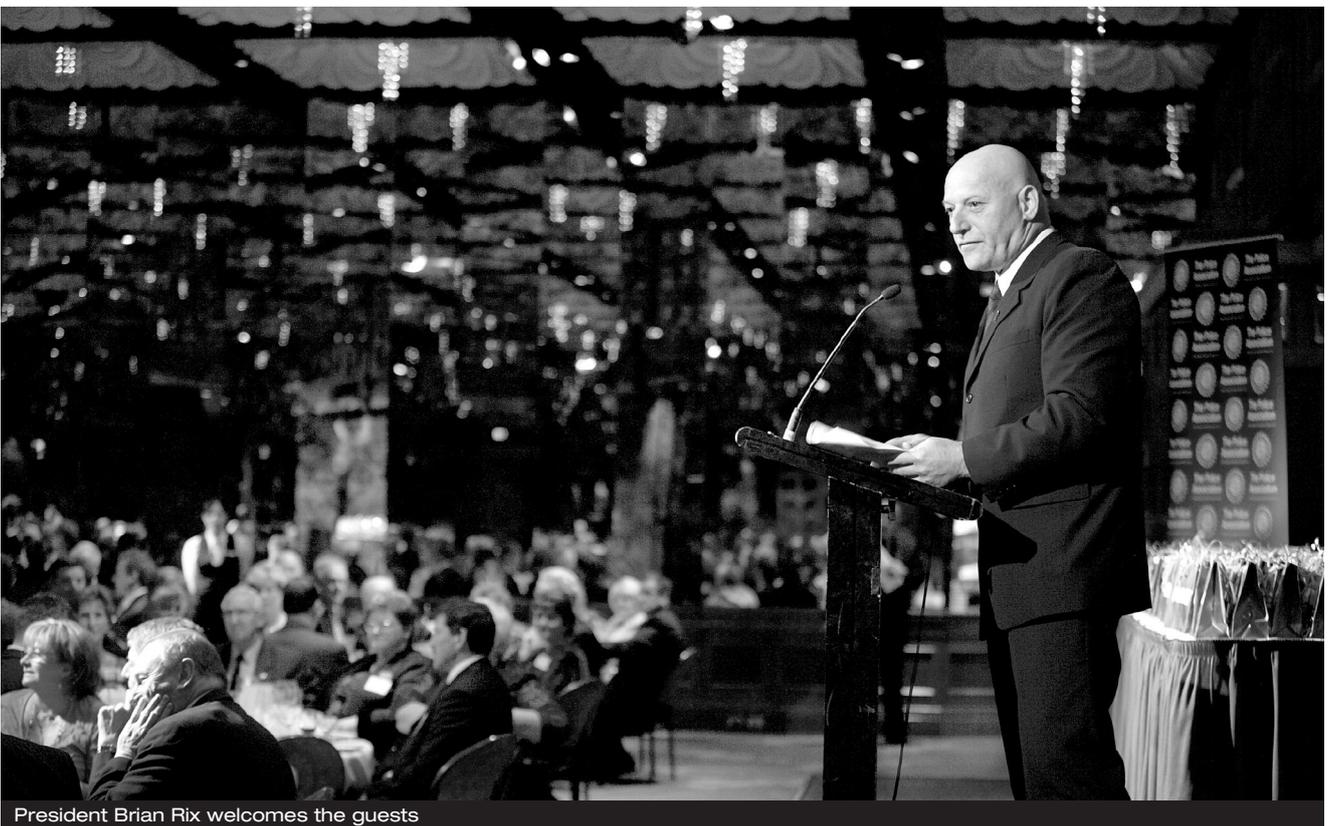
"In our service there have been few constants, but one has been The Police Association. Every individual member of the Force has a lot to thank for the strength of The Police Association over the length of our service for the security it has provided for us in addition to the support for us in both working conditions and salary and superannuation entitlements.

"Although 95 of us are no longer members of the police force we will be coppers until the day we die. We will always support Vic Pol and the Association until our dying moments.

"Thanks for putting on tonight and making ourselves and our partners feel so special."

With the formalities over it was time to kick back and relive the highlights of some very special careers.

The Police Association wishes all the retirees a long, healthy and happy retirement and thanks them for their service.



President Brian Rix welcomes the guests