



# Episodes in Western Australia's Policing History



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## 1834 The Mounted Police and Pinjarra

By the year 1832 in the colony of Western Australia, an increase in tension between settlers and indigenous people made it necessary for the Colonial Government to establish a mounted troop. The aim was to establish peaceful relations, resolve conflicts, minimise tribal disputes and provide Aborigines with food and medical assistance when necessary. A retired officer of the 14th Regiment of Dragoons, Captain Theophilus Ellis, was made Superintendent.

Some violent frontier incidents resulted in the troop being converted into a permanent and structured Mounted Police Corps on 7 October 1834. Under the command of Ellis were three Deputy Superintendents and a number of constables. Within three weeks Governor James Stirling, the Surveyor General and a party of 23—including Ellis and seven others from the Corps—headed south on what was intended to be a surveying expedition. On 28 October the group collided with Aborigines of the Murray River tribe on the site of the present town of Pinjarra. Spears were thrown and a full-scale fight broke out. Ellis was struck in the head and dismounted, dying two weeks later from his injuries. One of his constables was wounded; 14 Aborigines lost their lives in the affair, which terminated hostilities on the Murray River.

The Mounted Troop had its tribulations over the next few years due to financial constraints, but in historical terms it remains the first fully constituted police establishment in WA. Remarkably, two photographs of members of the troop have survived; they were taken in the later years of the officers. One is of Deputy Superintendent Richard Meares, another of Constable John Stanton. Both were at Pinjarra.



*John Stanton*



*Richard Meares*

## 1840 John Nicol Drummond

One of colonial Western Australia's most colourful settlers was John Nicol Drummond (1816–1906)—police officer, magistrate, bushman, explorer, settler and businessman. He was the son of the colonial botanist and in his youth developed bush skills and knowledge of some Aboriginal languages because of his personal rapport with indigenous people.

In 1839 the brutal murder of the Cook family near York (WA) by Aborigines caused the Colonial Government to revamp the Mounted Police Troop. Drummond was appointed as an Inspector of Native Police (his function was to patrol the district to protect the settlers from Aborigines) whilst under the control of the Resident Magistrate. He received his appointment on the 27 August 1840, at the very early age of 24. He had already distinguished himself by helping to bring the murderers of the unfortunate family to justice. Over the next few years Drummond and his men played a fine 'peace keeping' role in the York area, until another tragedy in 1845. The hot-blooded Drummond went out to arrest the murderer of his brother, and shot dead the man after an armed confrontation. He was suspended by the Governor and took refuge among Aboriginal friends until the storm blew over.

After being restored to duty he served ably as a guide and negotiator in an exploring expedition to the Champion Bay district north of Perth. When the area was settled, Drummond was sent there as Deputy Superintendent of Police, later combining his law enforcement role with additional duties as a Justice of the Peace. By the end of 1854 Drummond's courage and leadership brought an end to armed conflict around Champion Bay (later the site of the town of Geraldton). He resigned from the Police Force in 1857 rather than accept a transfer to the south.

Drummond remained in the Geraldton area as a 'pioneer founding father' and made noteworthy studies of the potential for mining development further north.



*John Nicol Drummond and his wife.*

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## 1851 An event resulting in the formation of the Water Police

In January 1851, four convicts overpowered a warder, hijacked a whaleboat, and took off from Fremantle in Western Australia. With no supplies, and very little water, the men were able to evade capture and despite the heat of summer and the threat of cyclones, managed to row and partly sail the boat over 300 miles north to Shark Bay. Staying just ahead of the pursuing police the four staggered ashore, only to be taken into custody by the crew of the "Hashemy" which was loading guano in the bay. Ironically this was the same ship which had transported the four from England just three months previously. This incident was the catalyst for the formation of the Imperial Water Police in May of the same year when George Clifton, a former Royal Navy midshipman, was appointed as Superintendent.



*A Water Police Constable in full uniform.*

## 1853 Early turbulence in the WA Police Force

The Police Force of Western Australia began its long historical journey from 14 March 1853, when Superintendent (later Commissioner) John Augustus Conroy took up his duties as the officer in charge of a unified police establishment. All law enforcement officers except the Imperial Water Police were under his official command. Conroy was an aristocrat by descent and did his very best during a time of early 'growing pains'. Unfortunately, political intrigues and Conroy's inexperience in managing finance caught up with him—after disastrous Board of Inquiry findings, he went to England in early 1856 in a successful bid to clear his good name.

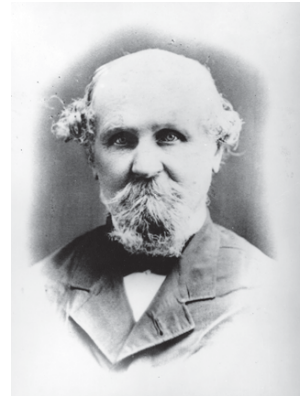
Conroy never returned to WA. The man who engineered his downfall was the local Colonial Secretary Frederick Barlee, who took over the role of Chief of Police amid fierce criticism from the press, general outrage among the settlers and public meetings to voice protest. Barlee

had to rethink the situation and on 14 February 1857 he capitulated—in a lengthy policy memo to the Colonial Government, which clearly set out major issues about the separation of powers principle.

The Colonial Secretary had come to realise the disastrous possibilities if the legislative, judicial and executive arms of Government were not kept separate. The best defence against injustice and corruption, he stated, was to maintain a well-regulated Police Force under a Chief of Police with a strong degree of operational independence.

Within a few years the WA Police Force found the right man at the right time. Superintendent William Hogan, a man with extensive military and policing experience, was in charge from 1861 until 1866. During his years in office a new Police Ordinance of 1861 spelled out the powers and duties of constables and clearly defined the administrative role of the Chief of Police.

In the process of introducing reforms, Hogan himself drafted the Police Rules and Regulations of 1863. Drawing on documents from Britain and other colonies, whilst making allowance for local conditions, Hogan's creation has remained the bedrock for successive revised editions of police regulations and procedures until modern times.



*William Hogan*



*Frederick Barlee*

## 1864 Difficulties in settling the north

Inspector Frederick Panter, (second in charge of the Force) who had experience in the North, was invited on an expedition leaving Roebuck Bay on 9 November 1864, seeking a site to establish a pastoral company. Along with Special Constable William Goldwyer and a colonist named James Harding, Panter was ambushed and killed by a group of hostile Aborigines. Although wary of danger, Panter was not one to antagonise and in fact his and Goldwyer's journals, found at their campsite, show that they were more likely to negotiate and had given gifts to the Aborigines. However it is possible that these people were hostile to the whites because of

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Chinese and Kanaka trepang fisherman who were known to raid their camps and carry off their women. When Panter and the others failed to return to camp a search was

mounted but found no trace of the men. When the rest of the expedition returned to Perth and relayed the story, the Government appointed Mr Maitland Brown to lead a search party, and they sailed on the "Clarence" with instructions to search between Roebuck Bay and the De Grey River. Accompanied by two Native Policemen the party questioned several bands of local Aborigines, and acting on their information eventually found the bodies of Panter, Goldwyer, and Harding at their campsite at Lake Indegana in La Grange Bay. From the information given by the local Aborigines and entries in Inspector Panter's diary, it was ascertained that they were probably murdered while they were sleeping on 14 November 1864. While returning to Roebuck Bay with the bodies, Maitland Brown's party was also attacked and in the ensuing battle a number of Aborigines were killed.

Inspector Panter, Constable Goldwyer and Mr Harding were buried in the East Perth Cemetery where their memorial still stands. Another memorial was erected on the Esplanade in Fremantle honouring the three men for their sacrifice in opening up the north to settlement.



"Georgette" was also called in. She was armed with a 12-pound howitzer, and commissioned by Superintendent Stone, who was aboard with a detachment of police and Pensioner Guards. Breslin and his charges managed to elude their pursuers and board the "Catalpa", which was then challenged by Supt. Stone, who was accompanied by Sergeant Hector McLarty and other police. They threatened to fire on her if the Fenians were not surrendered. Capt. Anthony of the "Catalpa" refused the demand and pointed out that his ship sailed under the protection of the American flag. As they were in open seas, the police party was afraid of creating an international incident and were forced to return to Fremantle empty-handed. The "Catalpa" escaped, and the Fenians eventually reached America. This event is one of the most colourful in the early history of Western Australia and is the subject of several books and plays, and is often re-enacted.



*A re-enactment of the Catalpa episode.*

## 1876 Escape of the Fenians

In 1876, John Stone, Superintendent of Water Police, was involved in an incident which could have had serious repercussions, possibly even leading to hostilities with America. A John Breslin (alias Collins) was sent to Fremantle to organise the escape of six Irish political prisoners known as Fenians. After almost a year of planning, Breslin arranged for the American whaler the "Catalpa", which had been sent by the sympathisers in the United States, to stand off the coast, and he and the Fenians were picked up by one of her whaleboats on 17 April 1876. However the authorities had been alerted and a police boat took off in pursuit. Later the steamer

## 1894–1897

### Kimberley uprising

Constable William Richardson was murdered at Lillimilura Police Post in the Kimberley region around 3 November 1894. Accompanied only by his police trackers, Pigeon (Jandamarra) and Captain, whom he regarded as completely loyal and trustworthy, Richardson was escorting to Derby 15 Aboriginal prisoners he had arrested. As was the practice at that time, the prisoners were joined by neck chains and when Pigeon and Captain left to track another wanted man, Ellemara, Richardson, who was very ill, was left alone. His trackers captured Ellemara, but while taking him to Richardson at Lillimilura, they were



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persuaded by their prisoner to desert their positions and join him in liberating the prisoners. While Richardson was sleeping they put this plan into action. Pigeon shot Richardson and others joined with him in the murderous deed. Pigeon then led the group on a killing spree through the Kimberley region, promising his followers he would drive all whites from the North. During his two and half years of rampage Pigeon was feared by the white settlers and by many of his own people, as he raided camps, stole women and killed indiscriminately. Hunted by police parties and by vengeful Aborigines, most of Pigeon's gang were eventually killed or captured. Pigeon was shot by a police patrol on 1 April 1897, near his long-time hideout in the caves of the King Leopold Ranges, in the Kimberley.



*Ruins of Lillimilura Police Post.*

## 1894 Reforming the WA Police command structure

The colonial era was often one of cost-cutting in terms of law enforcement work, and the administration of the Police Force was often rather basic. However, the 'tyranny of distance' became a factor during the great expansion of police jurisdiction from the 1880s onwards. By 1894 the Goldfields and the Kimberley were police regions or districts, and Commissioner George Phillips was finding it difficult to manage stations ranging from Albany in the south to Wyndham in the north.

The solution was to create an official second-in-command, an officer who could relieve the commissioner of some routine



*Patrick Troy as a sergeant*

administrative tasks and tour the districts at regular intervals to ensure all was going well at the local level. The officer chosen was Patrick Troy (1851–1916), a capable, highly literate and humane man who had served all over the colony for 21 years. He was appointed Travelling Inspector from 13 December 1894. Troy only stayed in the job for two years. The Colonial Government found other uses for him during the Gold Rush years. Troy worked as a goldfields administrator and magistrate in several places, crowning his career with the positions of Warden and Resident Magistrate at Kalgoorlie. He succeeded another former police inspector there, John Michael Finnerty.

The position of Travelling Inspector soon changed name, more than once, and extra functions were added over the years: Chief Inspector (1898), Superintendent (1900), Chief Inspector again (1913), Deputy Commissioner (1953), Senior Assistant Commissioner (1974) and Deputy Commissioner again (1986).

## 1899 Alluvial riots

Western Australia entered a boom period in the 1880s, when explorers and prospectors began making major gold discoveries in the east and north of the colony. The Gold Rush years culminated in an explosion with the opening up of the 'Golden Mile' in the 1890s—Boulder, Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie became great boom towns and the endurance and both physical and moral courage of WA police officers was often tested to the limit in a volatile era.



There were serious disputes between the great mining companies and alluvial miners in 1898, which nearly led to a mob attack on a ministerial party and drastic police action under the direction of the Goldfields Warden, future Police Commissioner Frederick Hare.

A year later, the passing of a restrictive new Mining Act that reduced alluvial miner access to many leases brought matters to head. The miners started to arm themselves and on 20 November 1899 thousands descended on Kalgoorlie Police Station to try and free a few who had been arrested under the new legislation. The police surrounded the station, loaded rifles and fixed bayonets

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at the ready, and stood their ground amid a shower of missiles, blows and insults. Future Police Commissioner Robert Connell was severely injured in the chaos.

Inspector Charles Newland, senior officer on the Goldfields, then took charge. Earlier he had refused to be brow-beaten by Warden Hare into taking violent action. With a combination of raw courage and tact, Newland and his men managed to persuade the miners to disperse and made a few arrests with minimal fuss. The miners previously gaoled were cleared by the courts and a near-revolt came to an end. Newland went on to have a distinguished career as an officer in the Boer war, and later as a district police officer in other parts of WA.



In 1888 McKenna was seconded to Victoria to do a tour of duty as a detective at the Melbourne Exhibition. McKenna was promoted to Sub-Inspector in 1893, and to Inspector in 1895, serving with distinction in charge of the Fremantle, Coolgardie Goldfields and metropolitan districts.



Selected to relieve at Kalgoorlie at the height of the Alluvial Riots, he carried out his duties with conspicuous success. On 6 December 1898 he commenced duty as Chief Inspector of Distilleries & Excise in the Customs Department, returning to his Police role on 1 December 1899. In 1913 he was promoted to Chief Inspector (Second in command to the Commissioner) remaining in this position until February 1924, by which time he was 70 years of age. The Colonial Secretary had endorsed his retention in the force beyond 60 years because of his unquestioned skills. Outstanding in courage and devotion to duty, McKenna was known as "Big John", but in fact was only 5'6" in height.

## 1874–1924

### A remarkable police career

John Stanton McKenna was born in WA on 18 July 1853. By his skill, diligence, and long service, this Officer has left an indelible mark on Policing in this State. He joined the Force on 1 January 1874 at the age of 20 years, and served as a mounted Officer at Fremantle, Toodyay, Williams, & Bannister. As a detective in 1883 McKenna was instrumental in solving a series of murders. In September 1884 the three suspects associated with the murder of Constable Hackett at Beverley fired on a pursuit party led by McKenna, who returned fire, killing two. The main offender, Carberry, escaped to be later caught, convicted and hanged. McKenna's fearless and gallant actions received loud acclaim and he was rewarded handsomely by the Governor. Later in the Kimberley, his reputation was further enhanced when he pursued the murderers of Captain Poyton, affecting their arrest after bravely facing an armed attack.

On yet another pursuit he rode on horseback over 1500 miles before locating and arresting two armed murderers near Esperance.



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## 1901 Hazards of extraditing from foreign countries

Western Australia's proximity to Asia and also the strong representation of Asians working in the pearling industry presented additional difficulties for policing when offenders escaped from this State. In October 1901 several Japanese and Malay offenders stole the pearling lugger "Maggie" from Broome. Inquiries established the vessel had put in at



Tjilitjap in the East Indies. The importance of the theft, and his experience on previous extraditions from this area caused the Chief of the Criminal Investigation Branch, Inspector Farley, to travel to the East Indies with a party of police to seek the arrest of the criminals and to return them to Western Australia to face justice. After a three-week sea journey they arrived in Batavia, only to be confronted by 64 days of endless discussions and court appearances before successfully obtaining authority to take into custody three of the offenders, who were then brought back to WA. Unfortunately for Farley, he contracted a serious illness when in Batavia and died at sea on 22 February 1902 while on the journey home. His body was put ashore at Broome, where he is buried.

## Police training in the 1900s

In 1909, Sergeant John Smith (later to become an Inspector) of the WA Police Force convened a meeting of swimming enthusiasts to form what is known today as the life-saving movement in Western Australia. Earlier, in 1907, he had obtained the Governor's consent to use the term "Royal" in the title of the Life Saving Society, and this was applied to police classes he instructed. Smith, with a few enthusiasts of similar mind, considered that by 1909 it was time to take steps to prevent further loss of life at the ocean beaches. Assisted by Major Sanders, he drew up a system of drills, which now would be regarded as crude, and a few primitive reels



*Police Life Saving Class of 1909*

appeared at the Cottesloe beach. From those small beginnings has grown the Surf Life-Saving Association in Western Australia, now an active and valuable service to the public. Smith was also the first honorary instructor to the West Australian Surf Life Saving Association and his efforts were largely responsible for the number of efficient instructors who followed in his steps. He was also an instructor in First Aid to Police. A further striking commentary on the value of his work is that, in 1930, 90% of Police had certificates for First Aid.

## 1903 First use of fingerprints identification in Australia

Positive identification of individuals has always been of major importance in Policing. Various methods, such as physical measurements of individuals, and photographs, had been used until Sir William Herschel, a Colonial Administrator in India, devised a method of identification. Sir Francis Galton established a further workable bureau in the 1880s but Australia basically relied on physical descriptions, and later on photography. Then in 1901 Sir E.R. Henry (Later Chief Commissioner of London Metropolitan Police) devised a simplified method of classification that enabled filing of the prints, and his system has been adopted worldwide and remains in force today. Western Australian Police sent officers to London in 1902 Robert Connell, (later Commissioner of Police) brought back Henry's classification system, and Western Australia was the first State to use fingerprints for identification using this method. The first set of prints taken in WA was from a criminal named Malcolm Gordon Donald. This happened in Fremantle, on 2 February 1903 and the system of identification was established that year. Other Australian states quickly followed; the system remains in force today.



*The set of prints taken.*



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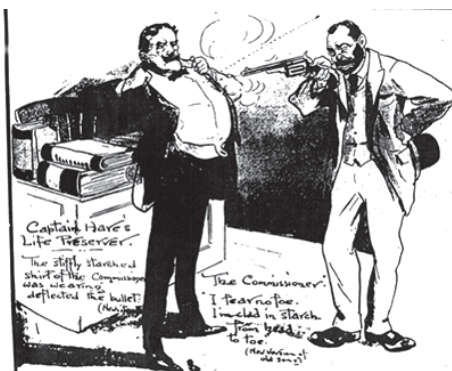
## 1907 Commissioner's brush with death



Western Australian Police Commissioner, Captain Fred Hare (1900 to 1912) was working back on the evening of 23 April 1907 when a former disgruntled police officer, Frederick Tyler, burst into his office firing a pistol. The first shot missed, but in the ensuing struggle the Commissioner was shot in the shoulder. Due to defective ammunition, and

the Commissioner's heavily starched shirt, the projectile did not penetrate and only produced severe bruising. Support staff were quickly on the scene and Tyler was taken into custody and subsequently was given a sentence of 10 years imprisonment.

The press gained great copy from the incident and it was portrayed in a cartoon in the *Western Mail*.



## 1911 Hazardous police expedition

The settlement of Australia's outback country still posed hazards during the early years of the 20th century, with a number of the indigenous population still resisting intrusions by the pastoralists. The Canning stock route had been opened up for the droving of stock from the Kimberley to the south of Western Australia, when one of the droving parties was attacked by Aboriginals on 19 April 1911, near Well 37. Two white drovers and an Aboriginal assistant were killed. This violence caused severe concern to the government. The police mounted a patrol which was led by Sergeant

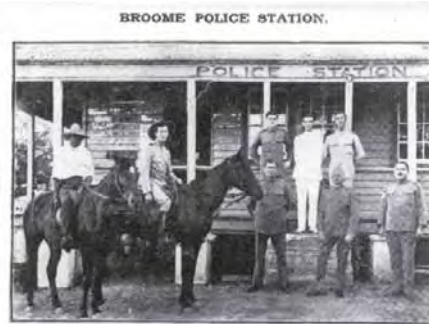
Pilmer, leaving Leonora on 14 September 1911. After facing excessive heat and endless miles of drought stricken



country they completed their patrol of 92 days after travelling 1162 miles arriving eventually at Halls Creek. At different times the party encountered Aborigines who were quite friendly. On arrival at the site of the murders, they buried the stockmen. On 29 October, the first of a series of encounters occurred between the party and hostile Aborigines, culminating in an attack at Well 46 by 25 Aborigines. In these hostile clashes a number of the attacking Aborigines were shot and killed.

## 1914 Racial problems in Broome

On the afternoon of 11 December 1914 rioting broke out in Broome between the Japanese and Koepangers. The source of the dispute was the treatment of the Koepangers by the Japanese on the pearling boats. The Japanese were considered to be of higher status, owning many of the boats and employing Koepangers to work on them. Apparently some Japanese treated their Koepangers in a very unpleasant manner, refusing to feed them or assaulting them for small misdemeanours. Tension was exacerbated by the fact that the outbreak of World War I had put a number of the pearling boat owners in a bad financial position and there were rumours that many would lose employment and be returned to their own country. The first sign of the trouble was when a band of Koepangers began to advance down the foreshore towards the town. Two constables spoke to them and persuaded them to turn back. However the Japanese apparently had a prearranged plan and rang a bell which was the signal for their compatriots to rush out and attack. About 500 to 600 Japanese, armed with sticks, clubs, axes and even revolvers, took part in the attack on about 150 Koepangers. The Malays in the town watched, but remained neutral and did not take part.



From left, from right to left: Sergeant Laps, Inspector O. E. Dwyer, Constable Lang, Constable Green, Constable Cook, District Clerk, James Tokomaha, Mounted Constable Holmes, and Native Tracker Pitt.

Police finally brought order back to the town with Inspector Drewry playing a significant role in meeting with the warring groups separately, at first eliciting individual promises from them to keep the peace, and then collectively in the presence of the Mayor and resident Magistrate.

As a result of the conflict nine Japanese, six Koepangers, and one Malay required hospital treatment, two of the Koepangers being in a serious condition.

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## 1916 Overseas tasking in World War 1

On 27 March 1916 a contingent of detectives, assembled from each of the Australian states, sailed on the "SS Malwa" from Fremantle, bound for Port Said, where they were to assist the Australian war effort against the enemy. Western Australia was represented by Detective Grenville Vaughan Purdue; South Australia by Detective W. Nation; Victoria by Detective Brennan; Tasmania by Detective Mansfield; and NSW and Queensland by Detectives Pearce and McIvor. Their task was basically to root out and identify the criminal element amongst the Australian troops, and to provide investigative skills to detect and prosecute criminal offences by persons who were disrupting the war effort in that country. Amongst their varied duties was the seeking out of spies and acts of espionage. They arrived in Port Said on 20 April, and remained there until 3 August. By then, the main front of the war had moved to France, so they were then deployed to the United Kingdom, where they were used on similar duties in various cities until they returned

to Fremantle, arriving on the 19 January 1917. Purdue compiled a diary of his duties which the WAPHS has in their possession.



## 1917 First women police

It was during the first World War that women were first introduced into the ranks of the Police Force in Western Australia. The first two Women Constables were Mrs. H. Dugdale and Miss L. Chipper. The women were appointed with the object of safekeeping the moral welfare of women and children, particularly of girls between the ages of 15 and 21 years. They worked in plain-clothes and were instructed to patrol parks, places of entertainment and other areas where women and children were to be found. A breakthrough for women of that era was that they received



the same wages as their male counterparts. Their duties widened over the years, but they remained as a single unit, and if they were to



marry were discharged from the Force. The requirement for entry as a trained nurse was lifted in 1957. The years 1975–76 saw the requirement to be unmarried lifted, and integration in all areas then took place. Women went into uniform and were trained in conjunction with male applicants. Three women were appointed as detectives in this same period. Women police officers have subsequently held positions at all the rank levels up to Assistant Commissioner in Western Australia. Ethel Scott pictured below, the first woman to reach Commissioner rank.

## 1920 Broome riots

On the 20 December 1920, the Japanese and Koepangers conflict erupted again when some 1000 Japanese, armed with clubs, attacked the Koepangers; in the melee that developed, two Japanese men were killed, and three of their opponents received serious injuries. The fighting continued for three days, with numerous injuries on both sides, and the death of a Koepanger man. Inspector Thomas, the officer in charge, swore in a large number of Special Constables to assist the small number of police located at that centre. Thomas himself remained on duty throughout the troubles and it has been stated, behaved with great common sense; he deserved the main credit for averting a bloodbath. Unfortunately, after enduring long periods without sleep, constantly out in the sun and suffering physical exhaustion, he collapsed and died on 22 December, just as most of the troubles had ceased.

*Inspector Herb Thomas received acclaim for his handling of the race riots in Broome.*



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## 1915–30 Distinguished police trainer

Sergeant Archibald Hudson Sykes was born in England on 19 September 1878. He served from 1908 until his death on 4 August 1930. Sergeant Sykes commenced his Policing career with the London Metropolitan Police in 1894 (aged 16 years) and left in August 1897 when he joined the Brigade of Guards. He later went to South Africa serving as a bodyguard to



Sergeant Archibald H. Sykes. Served in London Metropolitan Police, Boer War, South African Police, & the WA Police from 1908 until his death in 1930.

Field Marshall Lord Roberts during the Boer War. Subsequently he joined Kitchener's Horse Corps in the same campaign until December 1900 when he was discharged at his own request. He later became a "Confidential Agent" in the Intelligence Branch of the Secret Service until the end of the War in 1902. His military medals attest to him being at no less than six of the major battles. Following the conclusion of the war he



Medals awarded to Archibald Hudson Sykes

joined the South African Police and served with that Force until migrating to Western Australia in 1908 when he joined our Police Force. After service in the Metropolitan area he became a well-known and respected officer both within and without the Force and his previous experience and skills recognised. He was placed in charge of training police recruits in 1915 and was subsequently given the honorary rank of Sergeant. This rank was confirmed in 1921. Though Sergeant Sykes presents as quite a stern character he was stated to be of a very genial and obliging nature and probationary constables liked to contend that his heart was as big as his frame of six feet and 20 stone.



## 1925 Fremantle wharf riot

The WA Police have repeatedly been caught in the middle in stand-offs between management and labour during disputes on the Fremantle waterfront. The 1919 'Dimboola' riots—the 'battle of the barricades'—are a famous example because a man lost his life.



Some of the deadly equipment used against the officers.

The riot of 1925 was potentially even more dangerous, but human and property damage was more limited because of the swift and determined reaction of the police. In late 1925 local maritime union members combined with strikers on a British ships to try and stop a ship called the 'Borda' being moved from one wharf to another. The situation eventually escalated into violence; the police decided to move in and use maximum lawful force, though not firearms. On 2 November a strong contingent of foot and



Exhausted officers at rest a day after the struggle.

mounted police forced their way onto the wharf, in the face of bitter resistance from strikers armed with an astonishing array of improvised weapons and missiles. Batons and fists were freely used on the part of the police and many arrests were made.

A good many police officers and strikers were hurt and the officer in charge—Inspector William Sellenger—received no less than four injuries. One was nearly fatal, as one missile that struck him near the heart was only deflected by a pocket watch. After the event, 65 police officers were commended for bravery in the *Police Gazette*.

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## 1926 Policing the Golden Mile

The Gold Stealing Detection Staff had come into existence because of the amount of rich ore being stolen from the mines in the Kalgoorlie area. The miners sold it to illicit gold dealers, who smelted and extracted the gold in portable plants hidden in the bush. The task of detecting these offenders was very difficult, as members of the public did not look upon persons involved in this activity in the same way they might judge other criminals. Detective Inspector Walsh, the Officer in Charge, was about to retire at the age of 65 years and would possibly have been on his last major job before his retirement. His partner, Sergeant Pitman, was 54 years of age. The Gold Stealing Staff at the time worked in secrecy, never advised other police of their activities, and they were often absent for days. When the two men had not been seen for 14 days after they were last sighted in late April 1926, it posed a dilemma as to what had happened to them and an extensive police search developed. As was discovered later, they had used bicycles to travel in darkness some 20 miles from Boulder intending to



20 miles from where they had been slain.

Subsequently it was found that the police officers had surprised two men, Coulter and Treffene, who were smelting gold-bearing ore in a furnace. The police officers were killed with a shotgun, each offender shooting one of the officers. They then attempted to burn the bodies in the ore furnace, but this proved unsuccessful. Returning to Boulder, they enlisted the aid of a third man named Clarke (he was financing their activities) to return to the scene of the crime, where Coulter dismembered the bodies and transported the remains to the mineshaft where they were located.



The three men were charged with the killings, however Clarke turned King's Evidence against the others, and his charge was not proceeded with. Both Coulter and Treffene were hanged for their part in the gruesome crime. Clarke was given a new identity and left Australia for another country. A marble statue, known as the Pitman and Walsh Memorial, was erected through the contributions of members of police forces in the Australian states. It now stands outside the Chapel at the Joondalup Police Academy, a poignant reminder of the dangers faced by police officers in the course of their duties.



surprise two men who, they believed, were smelting gold at an old mine site. It was here that they were murdered. However, it was not until the morning of May 12 that the mystery of their disappearance was solved, when two men driving a sulky through the bush were attracted to an abandoned mine shaft (Miller's Find) by a cloud of blowflies. On looking down into the shaft, the men could see, about 60 foot down, the decomposing, dismembered and half-burned bodies of the missing officers. The site where the bodies were found was about

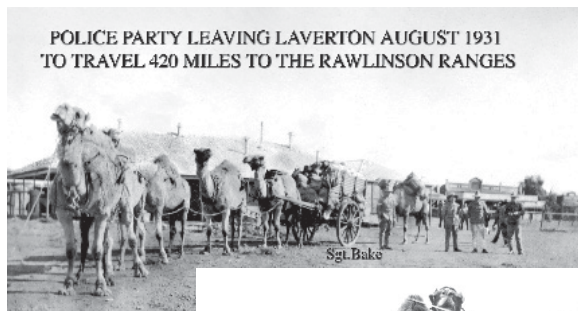
## 1930 Mobile wireless communication established in policing

Western Australia is believed to be the first State to introduce mobile wireless communication in Patrol cars. The year 1930 saw the introduction of two Bentley patrol vehicles equipped with wireless. This coincided with the employment of three morse code operators to man the vehicles. This innovation was followed by a police patrol to the Rawlinson Ranges taking a radio set and an operator to communicate by morse with headquarters.

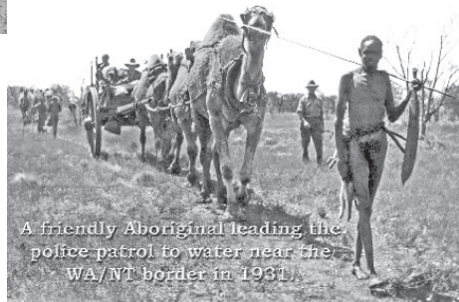


# Episodes in Western Australia's Policing History

This patrol set out on 1 August 1931, from Laverton (600 miles from their Perth headquarters) to travel a further 420 miles to inquire into the suspected murders of two men. Their plant consisted of a dray pulled by five camels, together with a further seven camels carrying supplies, and three of the police officers mounted on horses. The police officer guiding the dray was the radio operator. The patrol had to be abandoned after 12 weeks due to a drought and the death of some of the camels. Had it not been for the use of the radio on this occasion more serious consequences could have resulted



*A friendly Aboriginal leading the police patrol to water near the WA/NT border in 1931.*



## 1932 Kimberley expedition

Constant challenges face police officers, and they must be prepared to launch themselves into the unknown without notice. Such was the task faced by Constable Gordon Marshall when he was directed to mount an expedition from Wyndham Police Station, located in WA's remote Kimberley region, on 18 June 1932. His instructions were to search for downed German aviators Capt. Hans Bertram and his crewman Adolph Klauseman. They had become lost flying to Australia over the Timor Sea, run out of fuel, and crash-landed their Junkers seaplane "Atlantis" on the remote Kimberley Coast near Eric Island, 100 miles from Wyndham. The search party's route was via the



*Marshall's dog was an important component when he went on patrol. He made special leather boots for his dog, for when they were in rough country.*



*Marshall at Wyndham Station*

a plant of 20 horses and mules Marshall had to travel some 200 miles before reaching the area where the tracks had been sighted. They covered the distance in 14 days and located the flyers and Mission Aboriginals from Drysdale River Mission. The airmen had been wandering lost for 45 days. The German Government decorated Constable Gordon Marshall for his role in this rescue.

*The citation Marshall received.*



challenges of uncharted mountain ranges, ravines, crocodiles and rivers. With Special Constable Smith, Aboriginal trackers and

## 1934 Kalgoorlie riots

From the early 1900s there were religious and later racial tensions between various sections of the Goldfields population. There was a serious riot at Kalgoorlie in 1920 that required considerable police attention.

Worse followed in 1934, due to simmering hostility and resentment among mine workers of 'British Australian' origin. It was directed at those from other European countries; some of the latter were paying 'kickbacks' to get work or accepting lower wages in order to gain employment. A death in a hotel brawl led to a very public explosion of violence from 29 January. Mobs of 'British Australians' formed and ransacked and burned hotels, boarding houses and clubs, eventually taking on and routing their opponents in a running fight that ended in the burning of a foreign worker's camp outside Boulder.



# Episodes in Western Australia's Policing History

The Kalgoorlie police were hopelessly outnumbered, as only 18 officers were available to deal with thousands of rioters. Heroic efforts were made to stop the violence—the police saved both lives and property during a number of incidents. Sergeant Ernest Moloney, later a police inspector, played a memorable role. He seized two would-be arsonists and made them help him in 'shouting down' a mob about to set fire to a hostel. He then moved among the angry crowd, most of whom were armed, persuading them firmly and politely to keep the peace and go home.

Because of communication problems, it took three days for the last batches of reinforcements to arrive. In all, 52 members of the police Force and 150 special constables under the direct command of Police Commissioner William Douglas were active in gathering information, making arrests, preventing further violence and providing food and shelter for the destitute. Three lives had been lost; Commissioner Douglas took the opportunity to reform and strengthen the Goldfields police and browbeat local authorities into taking action about public house opening hours.



## 1942 Broome bombings

In the course of the Japanese thrust into South East Asia, Broome and other towns in WA's north were the first ports of call for large numbers of civilian refugees. After the fall of Singapore and Java in early 1942, the state's coastline was open to attack.

In early March enemy aircraft were scouting the area around Broome and a passenger steamer, the 'Koolama', was bombed and sunk with some loss of life. Broome was the police command centre for the Kimberley.



On 3 March 1942 disaster struck when a squadron of zeros attacked at dawn. By ill-chance



numbers of Dutch refugees were still on three flying boats lying off shore. The craft were bombed and strafed without mercy, then partially burned. The exact death toll still remains a mystery; as many as 100 women and children may have lost their lives. The wrecked aircraft had to be dragged onshore and the bodies retrieved, if possible, a gruesome business that was largely the task of the police. The photographs tell a bleak story in themselves.

## Policing during World War II

During the Second World War, the WA Police played a critical role in steering the community through our greatest national crisis. Material and personnel resources were stretched to the limit. The whole of the State was virtually a war zone—as many as six northern towns were bombed by the Japanese. Policing tasks extended to security and intelligence work, looking after enemy aliens, coast watching, protecting the port towns, controlling prisoners of war on occasion and maintaining law and order during the influxes of Australian and allied servicemen.

In the far north, Reginald Carr (a future Police Senior Assistant Commissioner) became a living legend because of his exploits. Carr was stationed at several places in the Kimberley. His physical prowess and knowledge of the area soon came to the attention of the military authorities. When the North Australian Commando Unit was formed to protect the coasts and act as a key resistance group if the Japanese launched an invasion, Carr was attached to the outfit as a guide and coastal patrol leader—and also to teach members some of the finer



# Episodes in Western Australia's Policing History

points of unarmed combat. He operated in both WA and the Northern Territory and was probably in the middle of more enemy bombing raids than most soldiers based in the north. On one occasion he had the unlovely task of burying the bodies after the Benedictine Mission at Kalumbaru was attacked.



During one patrol, an enemy submarine was located a few hundred yards off the coast. Carr and a commando leader decide to swim out, force open the hatch and throw down some grenades as a gift for the crew. Unfortunately, the pair ran into a large and curious school of sharks on the way and had to make a slow and hair-raising retreat back to the beach. The patrols found evidence of some Japanese landings, as some small craft and submarines had to land at times to find water—but there was no direct hostile contact.

When the Air Force established the huge Truscott base on the Anjo peninsula, a police station was established there—with Carr as the sole constable and officer in charge. His task was to help keep the peace among the construction crews. For Carr, one of the highlights of the war years was the sheer pleasure of watching allied aircraft head out across the Timor Sea to bomb the Japanese. The constable added another unique event to his police career in 1945; he talked his way onto a Liberator bomber and took part in one raid on an enemy base in Indonesia.

finally devised a system which he introduced at an Australasian Police Conference. It was adopted in 1950 and so a further enhancement took place in this field for the identification of palm prints found at crime scenes, which in turn could be compared and identified from the prints taken from criminals, and which were being held throughout the country. Latent palm prints from crime scenes could not previously be searched to identify offenders.

## 1950 *Amana* crash in York

The worst crash in civil aviation in Australia (at the time) occurred near Perth, on 26 June 1950. ANA Skymaster "Amana" operated by Australian National Airways, departed Guildford airport heading for Adelaide, when soon after departure, the airport lost radio contact with the plane and it crashed at approximately 10pm on that date. Subsequently another Skymaster plane, named "McDougall Stuart" and operated by Trans Australia Airlines, spotted a fire in bushland between Chidlow and York and reported the co-ordinates. Police and Rescue workers located the "Amana", which had crashed in dense scrub on Berrybrow Estate, York. 28 people died in the crash, including 23 passengers and five crew members. Only one person survived, an Adelaide businessman.



## 1950 Palm printing by Inspector A. J. Baird

A further milestone in the advancement of aids to detection was the taking of palm prints. Baird, a member, and later OIC of the Police Scientific Bureau in WA, had been working on a means to classify palm prints since 1938. He



## 1963 Serial killer Cooke

In 1963, for a period of eight months, Eric Edgar Cooke, 32 years, threw the people of Perth into a state of nightly fear due to serial killing. With cool efficiency he murdered six people, wounded two, striking at random and at irregular intervals, in at least five suburbs. Four persons were shot dead, one was raped and strangled, and another stabbed to death. Most of the crimes occurred in the victims' own homes. Three of these were young females. All of the murders were committed during the night-time.

# Episodes in Western Australia's Policing History

Every available police officer was thrown into this inquiry. Sixty thousand .22 calibre rifles were located and test fired to compare with the bullets taken from the victims. Thirty thousand fingerprints were taken from males over the age of 12 years, to compare them with fingerprints taken from the various crime scenes.

A rifle was found on the 16 August 1963 secreted in geraldton-wax bushes, in Rookwood Street, Mt. Pleasant by an elderly couple who stopped to pick some of the flowers. On testing it was found to be one of the murder weapons.

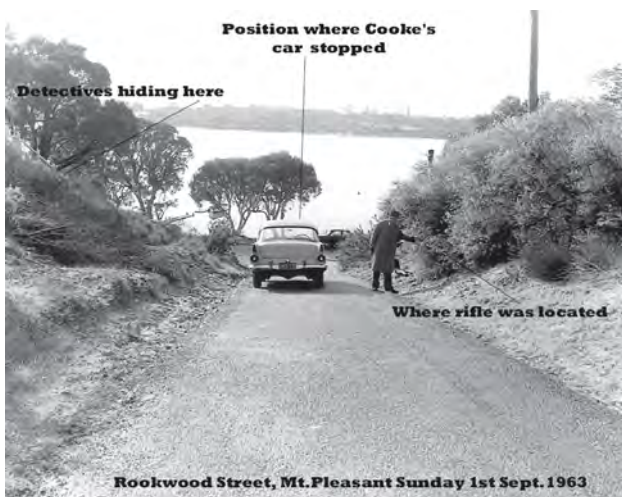


*Cooke pointing out one of his crimes to Detective Sergeant Nielson and Dunne.*

Detectives mounted an around the clock watch on the location, after replacing the murder weapon with a similar rifle which had been rendered not capable of firing. Seventeen days later, on the 1 September 1963, Detectives Hawker and Skehan arrested Cooke when he returned to recover the weapon with the intention of committing a further shooting. Cooke was convicted of murder and sentenced to death. His execution took place on 26 October 1964. He was the last person to be hanged in Western Australia.

The last hanging in Australia is believed to be Ronald Ryan in Victoria in 1967.

The excellent rapport that existed with Jack Coulter of the *Daily News* and Ralph Wheatley of the *West Australian* resulted in them being kept abreast of the clues and police activities, while they agreed not to publish details of the discovery of the rifle, so as not to spook the murderer.



## 1964 Peacekeeping in Cyprus

From the 1960s, police officers from WA have played a distinguished role in various peacekeeping and counter-terrorist operations in other countries. Usually they have worked under the control of the Commonwealth Police & later the Federal Police, but such was not the case in the earliest period of international activity.

As early as the 1950s an abortive attempt was made to obtain the services of WA police officers during the Malayan Emergency, in effect a guerrilla war that dragged on for nine years. A direct commitment was made for the United Nations Force in Cyprus from 1964, to keep the peace between the feuding Greek and Turkish sections of the island's population.

Because of resource difficulties, it was not possible for the Australian Commonwealth Police to take command of the various

State contingents for several months. The WA police sent three constables for the first contingent. The WA police refused to



carry firearms, because they believed it would be provocative and a barrier to forming cordial relations with the locals. The main problem in the first months was to act as go-betweens in getting Greek and Turkish Cypriot police to behave reasonably and stop using violence against civilians. The work was always dangerous, especially when staging roadblocks to check whether motor vehicles were conveying weapons.

From October 1964 the Commonwealth Police took direct command of the contingents; in all 41 WA officers served in Cyprus between that year and 1976.

## 1975 First Aboriginal Police Aides

In 1974 the Mowanjum Council of Elders requested Government assistance for their proposed community policing scheme aimed at dealing with the high level of problem drinking and violence within their community and the nearby town of Derby in the Kimberley region of WA. The Commissioner of Police Athol Wedd supported the proposal and after Legislation was passed appointed the first Aboriginal Police Aides in the Kimberley Region in 1975, their role being to assist police officers in their dealing with the local Aboriginal communities.



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The scheme was fully supported and financed by the Police with selection, training, and supervision undertaken by the OICs of the stations to which they were appointed. Police Aboriginal Liaison Unit in Perth maintained oversight and dealt with any problems that arose. However, various reviews pointed out that at times Aides and OICs needed more guidance in implementing the aims of the scheme, which defined the role of Aides as predominantly reactive as support for police officers in their day to day operations. As they did not have full police powers it was important that their role was fully understood.



A review in 1996, under the Delta reform programme, was a comprehensive examination of all aspects of the Police Aids Scheme. As a result of its recommendations, Commissioner of Police Bob Falconer implemented changes, including a name change to Aboriginal Police Liaison Officer (APLO) and the establishment of a training course at the Police Academy, which led to the APLOs being seen as a more professional unit. APLOs serve in metropolitan and country areas, as well as specialist units. In early 2006 a decision was taken that all APLOs who could satisfy the entry requirements be inducted into the Police as fully sworn officers, whilst the remainder will continue in a support and liaison role.

## 1976 Bunbury woodchip bombing

Conservation is another area where politically-motivated destruction of property has been a regular event. One of the earliest examples of this type of political violence occurred in 1976 when two masked and armed men planted 1000 sticks of gelignite at the Bunbury woodchip export terminal in Western Australia and blew up the conveyor tower. Other charges they set failed to explode and were defused by police.

In the early hours of 19 July 1976, Michael David Haabjoern, 28 years, and John Robert Chester, 27 years, drove to Bunbury from Manjimup (130 kilometres) in a stolen car with false number plates, with 1000 sticks of gelignite, fuses, detonators and timing devices. They intended to blow up the port's loading facilities, thus disabling the machinery used to export woodchips. They gained entry by cutting away the fencing, and, wearing stocking masks and armed with a .303 rifle, entered, held up the watchman at gunpoint, then tied him up. Haabjoern set the three charges at three critical points of the machinery used to load the woodchips for shipping. They told the watchman that they intended to blow it "sky high". They then left in the watchman's vehicle, taking him with them.



*Sergeant Jack Billing was subsequently promoted to an Assistant Commissioner in 1987.*

On the access road into the port they placed two signs, "Danger Separate Explosives" and "Danger Charges Ahead". They then dumped the watchman nine kilometres away, where he later managed to free himself. The first explosion detonated at 5.25am causing serious damage to the stacking gantry (about \$300,000). The



# Episodes in Western Australia's Policing History

remaining two charges malfunctioned and failed to explode. A bomb expert, Sergeant Jack Billing, was rushed from Perth to Bunbury where he was able to defuse the bombs at great risk to himself. Extensive inquiries made by Detectives led them to Manjimup about one week later and the men were arrested and charged. A further large amount of explosives were found, being part of the original amount they had stolen by breaking into three explosive-magazines in Perth. They both received ten years' imprisonment, with a minimum amount to serve of three and half years. This was imposed after appeal because the original sentence was considered too light.

## 1980 Noonkanbah controversy

"Noonkanbah"—Crown Land leased to an Aboriginal community for pastoral purposes—was the subject of a series of fierce controversies throughout the year.

Issues arising from opposition to the attempts of an oil exploration team to carry out work on the lease which included alleged violation of sacred sites—Aboriginal land rights—royalty and compensation payments—led to confrontation, reported threats of violence and obstruction which, in turn, necessitated police assistance. The period July to October of 1980 saw a mammoth task undertaken when it was necessary to escort an oil-drilling rig from Eneabba to Noonkanbah Station, a distance of approximately 2500 kilometres, and facilitate the entry of the rig on to an oil-drilling site within the precincts of the station. Attempts were made at many points in the progress of the convoy from protestors to prevent the rig from reaching its destination. The number of police involved in this task, together with the logistical aspects of manpower, technical expertise, and catering and ancillary services was without precedence in Western Australia up until that time.



## 1982 WA Police introduce Neighbourhood Watch—a first for Australia

October 27, 1982 was the date set for the official launch of Neighbourhood Watch in Bunbury, WA. Local Sergeant Jim King brought back to Perth the initiative from the New Zealand Police in 1981. Sergeant King was able to see first hand Neighbourhood Watch working in an environment very close the Australian way of live. A regional TV station put together a 30 second promotional 'spot' which they aired numerous times, free of charge, leading up to the launch. A major sponsor was sought to fund the promotional material associated with the program.



A community/police program that encouraged neighbourhoods to work together to prevent crime. The eyes on the street aspect attracted more than 320,000 participants in the Western Australian program in the nineties.

Neighbourhood Watch now has a strong reputation as a valuable crime prevention program here and overseas. Neighbourhood Watch in WA is now online. The program took new dimensions in 2005 by combining the benefits of the web and email, where people can join Neighbourhood Watch by subscribing to receive regular emails from their local police station.

This is one example of the community, police and key stakeholders working together to prevent crime.

## 1987 Schwab murders

A German tourist named Josef Thomas Schwab went on a rampage of killing in the Northern Territory in May and June 1987. The naked bodies of two Western Australians, Marcus Bullen and his son Lance Bullen, were found in shallow graves in the Victoria River area of the Northern Territory. The victims had been shot and their vehicle and clothing had been set alight. Schwab then travelled across the border into Western Australia, and at the Pentecost River Crossing near Kununurra on 14 June, he shot a further three people, Terry Kent Bolt, Phillip Charles Walkemeyer and his fiancé Julie Anne Warren. Schwab stripped them of their clothing and threw them into the river, which was inhabited by crocodiles. Driving their vehicle from the scene about one kilometre away Schwab set it on fire.

# Episodes in Western Australia's Policing History

Police responded to these crimes by mounting an exhaustive search by road and air. He was located in a bush camp some 650 kilometres away from these last killings approximately 14 kilometres from Fitzroy Crossing. He fired on police with a high calibre rifle. Schwab refused to desist when called upon and was shot dead by police.



## 1988 Fremantle prison riot

In the afternoon of January 4 and 5 of 1988 the prisoners located in the Main Division of Fremantle gaol rioted and assaulted a number of prison officers. Six prison officers were taken hostage, five of whom were detained in the Main Division yard by inmates for some nineteen hours with the other being released by inmates due to the extent of his injuries. During the riot several fires were deliberately lit in cells causing structural damage in excess of \$1.5 million. The riot came to an end by mid-morning of Tuesday 5 January, when the remaining hostages were released. Inquiries were commenced resulting in 223 charges against 35 inmates. The charges related to assaulting public officers, deprivation of liberty and arson.



## 1991 Air Wing rescues 'Kirki' crew

On 21 July 1991 the 84,000-tonne Greek tanker 'Kirki' lost its bow and caught fire off the coast of WA during a severe storm. During the incident and the towing of the stern section to a safe haven, 17,280 tonnes of light crude spilled into the ocean off



The Kirki after the storm had abated, and salvage crews had been winched aboard, preventing the ship from sinking.

Cervantes and Jurien Bay, WA. Serious coastal pollution was avoided due to the wave action during the storm and the Leeuwin Current, both of which dispersed the majority of the 7900 tonnes initially spilt (off the two towns) out to sea.

The sea was hammering the stricken ship; the wind was blowing at 30 knots. The police helicopter, Polair One, flew 24 sorties under hazardous and difficult conditions to rescue 24 members from the stricken tanker. As a result two of the crew of the police helicopter, Sergeant Ray Rudge and Constable Glen Rudrum, received the Royal Human Society's bronze medal for bravery. In addition a Group Citation For Bravery was made to all of the police helicopter crew: Clive Mayo, Ray William Rudge, Glen David Rudrum, and Derek Vincent Whitfield.



There is some excellent graphic footage from Channel 7 near to the time the resue was taking place, with the tanker partly on fire, leaking oil, and with the sea breaking over the ship.

# Episodes in Western Australia's Policing History

## 1992 Boat people search

A large search and rescue operation took place in January 1992. Mrs Debby Holt of King Edward River Station, a remote cattle station in the Kimberley, notified the Wyndham police (located 200kms to the east) that 32 ragged, exhausted Asians had turned up on her doorstep. Despite language difficulties, the Holt family worked out that the pair were boat people—part of a group of 56 from mainland China who had landed illegally at Swift Bay, with the intention of walking to Wyndham, a distance of 200kms. They had been walking in the wrong direction for some 10 days and the remaining 24 were then in serious trouble—the heat was terrible, food was scarce and they were wandering hopelessly lost. Only rainstorms prevented death from thirst.

Inspector Con Calameri of Kununurra Station coordinated the search from the Holt homestead. Officers from the Police Force and the Departments of Immigration, Customs, Quarantine and Health joined forces, while the Northern Territory Police provided a helicopter. A fixed wing 182 Cessna aircraft and two more helicopters arrived soon after, along with a Coastwatch 'Shrike' Aerocommander. The Police Air Wing worked out that about three million acres of territory bounded by the Indian Ocean in the west and the Mitchell and Roe rivers to the east and south had to be covered.



The search by land and air took a week, finding individuals or groups of two or three people on a piecemeal basis. The last of the Chinese was found on 25 January; he was 30 kilometres southwest of the King Edward River Station and had walked about 160 kilometres. The operation had lasted for eleven days and, amazingly, no lives had been lost.

## 1993 Armoured personnel carrier rampaging Perth streets

In May 1993 WA Police were confronted with a rampaging 11 tonne tracked vehicle driven by Gary Alan Hayes, 31 years, who had stolen the vehicle from an army depot. His first attack was on the Wembley Police Station, located 10km from the city, at 4.40am crashing



through a fence, damaging a police vehicle, as well as the building itself. Detectives from this station had been dealing with him over other criminal offences. He had previously been charged over \$78,000 worth of counter-terrorist equipment stolen from the SAS barracks in November 1992. Police attended and he then crashed into the rear of their van knocking them into a lamp post. He then travelled into the city, to Police Headquarters and the City Police Station where at 5.15am he smashed through security gates. He then commenced to run over six police vehicles and a motor cycle, as well as private vehicles, parked in the secure area. Crashing his way out and demolishing the exit gates, he then travelled to the Central Law Courts, slamming into the masonry supports to this building. He then travelled to the CIB building in Beaufort Street, Perth and caused further damage, but could not get past the bollards guarding the building. Travelling onto Parliament House, he circled the building and stopped. Police negotiators attempted to talk to him



# Episodes in Western Australia's Policing History

through a slit in the front of the vehicle, but he set off again into the central city.

Police had noticed that a hatch on the vehicle was not totally secure. Three officers climbed onto the vehicle from the rear. The driver became aware and he attempted to dislodge them by driving into a bus shelter, which he demolished in the process. The TRG officers managed to drop a tear-gas grenade into the vehicle through the loose hatch, which also gave them entry, finally arresting the offender who resisted arrest violently at about 6.15am. It was then discovered that the vehicle was not carrying ammunition for its guns. He was charged on 19 counts of Criminal Damage, burglary and Assault of Police Officers.



The preparedness of police to confront and neutralise such varied situations only comes with our commitment to planning and training for all contingencies, with each decade bringing further challenges.

Constable D. Shaw and Constable A.J. Power received a Commissioner's Certificate of Merit for their actions resulting in the arrest of this person.

## 1995 Crime Stoppers –putting the finger on crime

The Crime Stoppers program commenced operation in Western Australia in February 1995 with the formation of Crime Stoppers Western Australia Limited. Crime Stoppers in WA epitomises the partnership approach to policing with sponsors, media and board members working together to solve and or prevent crime. Members of the public are encouraged to ring crime stoppers on 1800 333 000 if they have information about any crime, or any suspicious activities.



## 2002 Cross border cooperation

Cooperation with other Australian police jurisdictions and other public agencies has often been critical, especially near some of WA's sparsely populated borderlands.



Operation Swamp, in early 2002, is a good example. The WA police worked with Northern Territory detectives and members of the Departments of Immigration, Conservation and Land Management and Customs. Roadblocks were set up at two places on the border with the Northern Territory, with Kununurra (WA) as the operational centre.

In three days over 1200 vehicles were stopped. Arrests were made for drug and traffic offences, while three tourists were caught with expired visas, along with one person wanted for extradition to South Australia.

## Constable Care Child Safety Foundation (Inc)

The Constable Care program specialises in the delivery of early intervention strategies to children. In partnership with the WA Police and statewide primary schools, Constable Care focuses on community safety, crime prevention, bullying, child protection and respect issues. Constable Care 'life skills' programs are presented through live puppet shows (five to eight-year-olds) and interactive drama plays (nine to 12-year-olds).



Specific messages are complemented by teacher packs, activity books, product merchandise and a daily electronic and print media campaign. Ongoing evaluation proves these early intervention strategies are extremely effective and the retention of key messages by children is very high.

# Episodes in Western Australia's Policing History

In 2004 and 2005 Constable Care was recognised nationally with an Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Award.

In 2005 '1192' life skills programs were presented to 136,522 statewide children. Since 1996 a total of 1,073,691 children have participated in Constable Care programs.



Life skills programs aim to:

- Increase awareness, understanding and acceptance of crime prevention, child safety, and respect among our target audience and the wider community
- Reinforce messages of crime prevention and protective education
- Deliver a coordinated and holistic early intervention education approach
- Emphasise a safe, healthy, protective and crime free environment

There is no other organisation in Western Australia or for that matter, Australia—government, private or community operated—developing or implementing the type of programs delivered by Constable Care.

The Police Academy is a registered training organisation and is able to offer endorsed qualifications and accredited courses.

Recruits are trained to a standard of excellence with demanding physical training and law studies being an every day event for them. Recruits are also instructed in driving techniques, knowledge of urgent duty driving legislations, self-defence techniques, the use of firearms, batons and oleoresin capsicum spray, bushcraft and survival techniques, specialist investigative training, ethics and cultural diversity.

The Police Academy has unique facilities including a 'scenario village' with integrated closed circuit television, monitoring real life training in purpose built retail outlets, banking facilities, a service station, double storey house, upstairs flat and mock police station. Training in this facility is complemented by the use of professional actors who role-play diverse situations that students may encounter in real life situations.

The academy has forged close partnerships with Edith Cowan University, West Coast College of TAFE and the City of Joondalup, all of whom share the common goal of the pursuit of excellence. The Joondalup Learning Precinct is the only education campus in the world incorporating a university, police academy and a technical and further education college.

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## 2002 WA Police Academy —purpose built complex

Officially opened in February 2002, the Western Australia Police Academy is a state of the art training complex, at the forefront of international training and development. One of the most modern and advanced law enforcement training facilities in the world, the WA Police Academy is responsible for the development and delivery of training to all of its employees.

Contributing to the quality training are a purpose built firearms training area and firearms range, mock court, parade ground and an outback survival area.

In the late 1990s it was identified that the WA Police had outgrown the Maylands facility and planning commenced to build a new Police Academy.

A 5-hectare parcel of land was selected nestled between Edith Cowan University and West Coast College of TAFE in Joondalup, now known as the 'Joondalup Learning Precinct'.

