



THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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Bro. JOHN GEORGE BAILEY
(1929 - 2011)
CHIEF INSPECTOR - N.S.W. POLICE



Bro Jack Bailey pictured in 1985 on his appointment
as Chief Inspector with Albury Police.
He passed away, aged 83 on Monday, 14 June 2011.

John George Bailey was born on 7th November 1929 to Eric and Florence Bailey at Gundagai.

His father, Eric George Bailey was a Constable of Police. As a result of his father's transfers to the towns of Narrandera, Deniliquin, Balranald, Moruya and Blayney, John's education was carried out in those townships.

In 1945, when his father was shot and killed in the line of duty in Blayney, John, his younger sister, Doreen and mother, Florence moved back to Sydney.

In 1946, John, Doreen and their mother Florence attended a presentation by the Governor General of the George Cross for the outstanding bravery exhibited by his late father, Constable Eric George Bailey.

The then Commissioner of Police, William John McKay, met with John and encouraged him to pursue a career in the N.S.W. Police Force. John accepted, applied and joined as a Cadet on the 20th April 1946, performing duties at several city locations.

On the 7th November 1948, he was sworn in as a Probationary Constable performing general duties and cyclist duties. In 1953, he was transferred to No. 21 Division, Special Squad, until 1955 when he was transferred to Tullamore.

In Tullamore it was common practice for John to exceed his Police Duties by being the Chief Scrub Nurse at the hospital, assisting doctors in conducting post-mortems and delivering local pay rolls to the local mines, amongst other things. His younger children, Ron and Cate, were born in Tullamore.

In 1966, he was transferred to Nelsons Bay as a Sergeant, being Officer in Charge. In 1973, he was promoted to Sergeant 2nd Class and transferred to Albury as a Supervisor. In 1977 as a First Class Sergeant he was transferred to Wollongong on Administrative duties. In 1984, as an Inspector, he was transferred to Albury and in 1985 he was promoted to the rank of Chief Inspector, Patrol Commander, Albury. He remained in that position until his retirement on 9th April 1988. He had served 42 years in the Police Force.

During his final years in Albury, John took a strong interest in the operations of the Police & Citizens Youth Club, eventually becoming President of that Club.

John's interest in lawn bowls began in Tullamore both as a player and organiser. He loved all sports and had an encyclopedic knowledge of cricket.

On 17th June 1950, John married Shirley Mercer at St. Jude's Church, Randwick. They had a daughter, Christine (Wanklyn), son, Ron and daughter, Cate. John and Shirley had been married for 61 years.

John died on the 14th June 2011 and his wife, Shirley has survived him but she is now in full time care. John and Shirley have eight grandchildren all residing in the Albury district.

John was a family man spending a lot of his time with his children. He spent time in his garden growing orchids and in promoting lawn bowls. Inquiries revealed that he was a very well respected person in the Albury district.

AWARDS:

1972, Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

1986, The National Medal.

1988, Police Medal with 40 years Clasp.

MASONIC HISTORY:

Initiated in Lodge Matrville No. 689 on 15th April 1950.

Passed and Raised in 1950.

Called off in good standing on 1st June 1960.

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Chris Wanklyn.

N.S.W. Police Academy.

N.S.W. Police Protocol.