Royal recognition

The Queen’s Birthday 2016 Honours List included 11 members of the NSW Police Force.

PHOTOS SASHA WOOLLEY MULTIMEDIA UNIT

Officers recognised in the Queen’s Birthday 2016 Honours List received their awards last month in a ceremony at Government House.

Commissioner Andrew Scipione, who received the Officer of the Order of Australia, congratulated the eight police officers awarded Australian Police Medals, Det Ch Insp Andrew Slattery, who was named a Member of the Royal Victorian Order, and Robyn Foster, who was presented with the Public Service Medal.

“My own award is more about the achievement of the NSW Police Force than about me. I head a trusted, well-prepared and hard-working organisation.”

The ceremony, hosted by the Governor of NSW, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC, DSC (Ret’d), also saw three officers recognised for their bravery.

Australian Police Medal
Supt David Eardley has 35 years’ service and, as Commander at Bankstown LAC since 2010, is responsible for one of the largest and most challenging commands in the state. Designated as a detective in 1988, he is also a member of the State Crime Command Robbery Advisory Council steering committee and the Witness Security Assessment Committee.

Supt Stephen Egginton leads Hawkesbury LAC, which encompasses large areas of national park and waterways and therefore demands a range of policing responses to bushfires, floods, overdue bushwalkers, and motor vehicle and recreational water craft accidents. He joined as a trainee in 1988 and went on to serve as Commander of the Education & Training Field Support Unit and as Staff Officer to Deputy Commissioner, Corporate Services.

Mid North Coast Commander, Supt Paul Fehon has enjoyed a diverse career since joining in 1979, including extensive experience in criminal investigation leading drug trafficking and organised crime investigations, and the forward command operations in the successful manhunt for fugitive Malcolm Naden. Supt Fehon has also managed significant emergencies including major floods, cyclonic weather conditions, and major heavy vehicle collisions.

Supt Mark Noakes, who joined in 1985, was designated as a detective in 1994 and promoted to Superintendent in 2006, as Commander of the State Surveillance Branch, he reformed its structure, focus and management processes as it increased its strength and oversaw the implementation of the Physical Surveillance Training Program. Supt Noakes again instigated a process of reform when seconded to the Aviation Support Branch in 2011. Now its Commander, he has delivered two new aircraft into service and bolstered the branch’s search and rescue and counter terrorism capabilities.

Det Supt Michael Willing has dedicated the majority of his career since joining in 1990 to criminal investigation. In 2007 at the age of 35, he became one of our youngest ever superintendents and, after taking command of Homicide Squad in 2011, is now its longest-serving commander. He has represented the NSW Police Force on a number of executive-level external committees including the Child Death Review Team and the Domestic Violence Death Review Team.

Robbery & Serious Crime Squad’s Det Ch Insp Michael Sheehy has dedicated the majority of his 30-year policing career to criminal investigation and has overseen high profile investigations and critical incident investigations including the murders of the Gonzales family, Anthony Zervas at Sydney Airport, Michael McGurk and Snr Cst William Crews VA, and the death of Thomas Kelly. The principal tutor of the Homicide Investigators Course.
from 2008 to 2013, his knowledge is highly valued.

The initiative of Sex Crimes Squad's Snr Sgt Kevin Charles Allard has allowed the NSW Police Force to remain at the forefront of surveillance operations in Australia. After joining in 1984, he began at the State Surveillance Branch in 1996 where he tailored a training course that helped re-build the capability's credibility and effectiveness. An expert in digital photography, his research and trial of digital cameras led to their use by police for gathering evidence.

Snr Sgt Donna Murphy joined in 1985 and, since 2009, has shown courage and determination in directing licensing investigations into the 276 licensed premises in the Kings Cross LAC. Following high-profile deaths after assaults in 2012 and 2013, she led the project to implement ID scanning devices in high-risk licensed premises, an initiative that has helped deliver significant decreases in steal from person offences and alcohol-related assaults.

Public Service Medal

Robyn Foster, a member of the Senior Executive, was awarded for outstanding public service in the advancement of workforce planning, industrial relations, organisational design and change management for the NSW Police Force. She joined as a police officer in 1981 and has worked in a variety of leadership and management roles including her current position of Director, Shared Services since 2010. Ms Foster is a fellow of the Vincent Fairfax Fellowship Program at the Centre for Ethical Leadership, Melbourne Business School and an alumna of the Cranlana Programme. She has completed the Executive Master in Public Administration and a Bachelor of Business (Human Resource Management).

Member of the Royal Victorian Order

Det Ch Insp Andrew Slattery was recognised for highly distinguished services to royalty protection. He joined the NSW Police Force in 1984 and performed protective security and close personal protection duties in preparation for the 2000 Sydney Olympics. He was later promoted to Operations Coordinator at the Protective Security Group. Det Ch Insp Slattery acted as personal protection officer to Her Majesty The Queen during her official visit in 2000 and has overseen all security operations planning for all royal visits since 2001 including visits by Her Majesty The Queen, Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall, and The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince William and Kate Middleton. In 2006, he was promoted to the rank of Detective Chief Inspector, as Commander of the Protection Operations Unit.

Officer of the Order of Australia

Commissioner Andrew Scipione received an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to law enforcement, through advancing the professionalism of policing and leadership of international investigations and counter terrorism activities. The Commissioner since 1 September 2007, he joined the NSW Police Force in 1980 and rose to the rank of Detective Superintendent in 1995 when he took command of the Special Technical Investigation Branch. From 1992 to 1998, he was also a senior NSW police counter terrorism advisor to SAC-PAW, and was appointed Chief of Staff to the Commissioner in 1998. He was appointed Assistant Commissioner in charge of Special Crime & Internal Affairs in 2001 and Deputy Commissioner in 2002.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

When a neighbour spotted a vehicle submerged in a flooded creek on the Mid North Coast on 2 March 2013, Snr Cst Michael Dietrich and his son immediately raced to the scene. Snr Cst Dietrich attached a rope around his chest, tied the other end to his neighbour’s vehicle, and jumped into the raging water. In four trips to the vehicle, which was wedged against trees 30 metres downstream, he pulled an elderly woman, a man and their two dogs to safety.

Group Bravery Citation

Sgt Carter Knyvett and Sgt Karen Peasley were recognised for their bravery in apprehending a man armed with a crossbow at Rocky River on 15 April 2012. They had been called to a rural property near Tenterfield following reports of a man threatening people with a large knife. After initially dropping the knife and retreating, the offender reappeared with a crossbow. He advanced towards the officers, ignoring all directions to drop his weapon. Sgt Knyvett discharged his firearm a number of times and struck the man. The officers conducted CPR on the offender until paramedics arrived.