



National Police Memorial a monument to all jurisdictions

A \$2.4 million project designed to commemorate Australia's fallen police officers will be constructed in King's Park on the northern shore of Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra in time for this year's Police Remembrance Day on 29 September.

The construction of the National Police Memorial got underway with a groundbreaking ceremony on 10 February by the Governor General, Major-General Michael Jeffery in the presence of representatives from all Australian police jurisdictions.

Representing the Australian Federal Police, Commissioner Mick Keelty said the memorial will be representative of all jurisdictions within Australia along with 43,000 currently serving police officers, retired members and their families.

"The memorial will also recognise the unique nature of police service, and the special men and women who face danger in their daily lives for the protection of the Australian community," Commissioner Keelty said.

The dedication is expected to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for those who take part in the twilight ceremony on 29 September.

The memorial will commemorate more than 700 officers who have been killed on duty or have died as a result of their duties since policing began in Australia.

Before the dedication, there will be a march involving current and former officers and family from all jurisdictions.

The march will begin at Old Parliament House and proceed 1.6km to the memorial site. Past members and families will then be able to take a seat near the memorial site to watch the dedication ceremony.



Governor General Major-General Michael Jeffery about to turn the first soil on the site of the National Police Memorial aided by AFP Deputy Commissioner John Lawler.



It is anticipated that the march contingent will exceed 500 people and include a colour party from each jurisdiction, a massed band and a mounted escort.

The dedication and march will feature rarely seen ceremonial procedures, ensuring the dedication displays due homage to the members being commemorated.

In conjunction with the opening, a major exhibition on the history of policing in Australia will be held at Old Parliament House. Drawn from historical collections of all Australian police jurisdictions, this exhibition promises to be a significant tourism draw card.

The dedication of the memorial will be the completion of the project directed by a committee convened by the National Capital Authority (NCA).

NCA Chief Executive Annabelle Pegrum said, "Australian memorials traditionally become a place to reflect on Australia's history and its cultural values. This memorial has been designed in a way to encourage community understanding and appreciation of policing, while allowing for individual officer's stories to be told and remembered."

"The winning design incorporates the elements of individual contribution, loss and community service which policing is known for," Ms Pegrum said.

The design under construction was judged best of 77 entries. The winning design, by Fairweather Proberts Architects with Urban Art Projects, features a main wall clad in cast bronze panels and granite floor with inlaid text. Construction of the memorial is managed by the NCA.

The memorial is jointly funded by the Australian Government (through the AFP), state and territory police services and Police Federation of Australia.

Details of the design and dedication can be found at www.npm.org.au



The Governor General and Mrs Jeffery chat with senior police from all Australian jurisdictions attending the ground-breaking ceremony. The flags of all Australian police services were paraded at the ceremony.