



The touchstone for Senior Constable David Rixon killed in Tamworth on 2 March is the 754th police officer's name to be added to the National Police Memorial in Canberra.

Police pay tribute

Police members across the nation honour their own.

Police across Australia and the South-west Pacific paused on September 28 to pay tribute to police officers who have been killed on duty or have died as a result of their duties.

National Police Remembrance Day was held for the sixth time at the National Police Memorial at Kings Park in Canberra.

The AFP hosted a dusk service to commemorate those fallen police officers. The 2012 commemoration sadly marked the addition of Senior Constable David Rixon's name to the memorial.

Senior Constable Rixon was tragically shot and killed on 2 March, 2012, after a traffic stop in Tamworth, NSW.

Shortly before 8am on 2 March, Senior Constable Rixon stopped and spoke to the driver of a vehicle in West Tamworth for the purposes of a random breath test. As Senior Constable Rixon approached the vehicle, the offender drew a firearm and shot him.

Despite his injury, Senior Constable Rixon returned fire from his service pistol, which hit the offender. He then placed handcuffs on the offender. Senior Constable Rixon then collapsed from his injuries and died at the scene. He was unable to be revived.

AFP Commissioner Tony Negus said National Police Remembrance Day was an important day to reflect, remember and honour those officers who have dedicated their lives to duty.

"These fallen officers have put their lives on the line for the safety and protection of others, as do thousands of police across Australia every day," Commissioner Negus said.

"Today we pay tribute to the memories of these brave men and women and show that the sacrifices these officers have made will never be forgotten."

The National Police Memorial was completed in 2006 and honours all Australian police killed on duty since 1803. The memorial now carries the names of 754 police officers. Included in that number were three names added retrospectively following ongoing historical research into police deaths.

First Constable James Norman Brewis died from injuries suffered following a vehicle accident near Derrinallum in Victoria in 1954.

Superintendent Joseph James McCluskey drowned in 1896 following a boating accident at Tasmania's Spring Bay.

Chief District Constable William Bennett suffered a spear wound in 1827 while defending a homestead at St Peter's Pass in Tasmania.

National Police Remembrance Day was first declared in 1989 and is the day each state police force remembers its own fallen at services in their capital cities.

The national service held in Canberra brings together representatives from state and federal police to remember all Australian police killed on duty.