



Sacrifice remembered

Two new names were added to the National Police Memorial on National Police Remembrance Day in Canberra.

Law enforcement members paused on 27 September to remember the sacrifice of fallen police officers as the touchstones for Detective Inspector Bryson Charles Anderson and Constable Casey Blain were added to the National Police Memorial.

Detective Inspector Anderson was fatally stabbed at a siege in Oakville, NSW, on 6 December 2012 and Constable Blain died from injuries sustained during a single vehicle crash on 29 March 2013 near Georgetown, Qld.

A light breeze and clear skies broke for the dusk commemoration as more than 300 people paid tribute in a moving ceremony. AFP Commissioner Tony Negus hosted the service and delivered the formal address.

Governor-General Quentin Bryce attended as Guest of Honour in her capacity as patron of the National Police Memorial.

Ms Bryce spent time with members of both families of the deceased officers at the end of the service.

The new Minister for Justice, Michael Keenan MP, was also present for the service.

Other officials included diplomatic representatives from the embassies of a range of South West Pacific nations along with representatives from all Australian police jurisdictions.

Mr Andrew Wood, the Chief Operating Officer, said the ceremony is a fitting way to formally and officially remember those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities.

“Underlying the formality and ceremonial traditions that are planned and delivered by the AFP’s Ceremonial and Protocol Officers, is the public demonstration of support for the families of the officers killed in the line of duty,” Mr Wood said.

“While the AFP is the host jurisdiction for the National Police Memorial, all Australian police jurisdictions play key roles in the service to promote a unified commemoration to all police who have died in the service of the Australian community.”

The day of commemoration began at dawn, with the combined ACT Policing and NSW Police Force service at the Monaro Local Area Command Memorial, Queanbeyan, NSW.

AFP Chaplain, Reverend Gayl Mills blessed the new touchstones before they were escorted to the National Police Memorial for installation. The touchstones were lit for the first time during the dusk service.

NRPD services were held throughout Australia, the South West Pacific and at AFP mission locations throughout the world.