On the evening of 9 January 1867, Special Constables John Carroll, Patrick Kennagh, Enneas McDonnell and John Phegan were ambushed and murdered at Duck Pond, Jinden whilst searching for the notorious Clarke Gang.

The murder of the four special constables to this day constitutes the largest mass murder of police in Australian history (Ned Kelly killed three police officers at Stringybark and killing around the district (including Michaelago) and the far south coast (Bega) since about 1865. So notorious they were; that the Felons Apprehension Act was amended to (incorporate) Outlawry and killing of criminals on sight by citizens).

By 11 January 1867, Special Constable John Carroll, Patrick Kennagh, Enneas McDonnell and John Phegan were found shot to death and about 800 metres away were the bodies of Constable Jinden and Kennagh. Pinned to the body of Carroll was a round note. From writings at the time there is a suggestion that, from their wounds, two of the special constables were executed.

Senior Constable Wright and an Aboriginal tracker Sir Watkins Wymne (later bestowed the title of sergeant major) arrested the two surviving members of the Clarke Gang at Berry's hut near Jinden on Friday 26 April 1867 after a long shoot out.

The Clarke Gang, made up of relatives (Bega) since about 1865. So notorious they were; that the Felons Apprehension Act after the murder of the four special constables was established at the Bradwood cemetery. A couple of signs on a star picket was placed at the location of the mass murder site at Duck Pond.

A detailed information sheet will be posted on the Monaro Local Area Command Facebook site closer to the date.

Memorial service in January 2017

A large memorial for the four special constables was established at the Bradwood cemetery. A couple of signs on a star picket was placed at the location of the mass murder site at Duck Pond.

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The activation that took place before surrender involved hundreds of shots being fired over several hours. John Clarke was wounded in the shoulder. Tom Clarke was wounded in the buttock, the black tracker was wounded in the arm and Constable Walsh was wounded in the hip.

After they hobble the horses they all go into the hut.

The first party of police arrive on foot. They take up positions around the hut and behind the haystack. They examine and position the bushrangers’ horses.

The bushrangers emerge from hut, go through the slip rails and proceed towards horses. The police call on them to surrender. The police open fire as the bushrangers retreat towards the hut. The Berry family run from the hut.

John Clarke returns fire and is shot in the shoulder. Both Clarke’s fire a police with their revolvers.

Before the bushrangers reach the hut they are confronted by Constables Walsh and Egan who have run from the side. Walsh is shot in the hip.

Many more shots are exchanged.

Senior Constable Wright orders wounded Constable Walsh to catch one of the bushrangers’ horses and go to re-enforcements.

Random shots are fired after Walsh’s departure.

In due course nine mounted police arrive on the scene including the return of Constable Walsh. They take up positions around the hut. Walsh calls to the front of the hut and calls on the bushrangers to surrender.

The Clarke’s emerge with hand in hand. The police only hold up one hand. They are handcuffed and shake hands with the police. The commentary will then tell the end of the story.