

# Canberra turns out *for a fallen son*



*AFP Protective Service Officer  
Adam Dunning*



*Photo - Courtesy AAP*

*A funeral with full Police and Military Honours was held for Australian Federal Police Protective Service Officer Adam Dunning at the Anzac Memorial Chapel of the Royal Military College Duntroon on Thursday, 30 December 2004.*

In recognition of PSO Dunning's prior military service and his status as a RAAF reservist, RAAF personnel also played an active role in the service.

PSO Dunning was murdered in the Solomon Islands on 22 December 2004 when he was shot while on patrol in the capital of Honiara with another officer.

Prime Minister John Howard, Governor-General Michael Jeffery and Commissioner Mick Keelty were among more than 1000

police and defence personnel who attended the service to farewell PSO Dunning in the presence of his family and friends.

Following the RMC Chapel ceremony the funeral cortège travelled under police escort along Anzac Parade where hundreds of Canberra's citizens lined the footpath to pay their respects enroute to a private service.

At the time of the funeral a Honiara man, John Hen Ome, 31, had been charged in connection with the murder and on 11 January James Tatau, 29, appeared in a Honiara magistrates court also charged in connection with PSO Dunning's death.

# Valedictory for PSO Adam Dunning

[Delivered by Commissioner Mick Keelty]



Photo - Beck Browne

*Adam Dunning joined the Royal Australian Air Force cadets in 1995. Even at this early time in his life, Adam's outstanding service as a young cadet was noted by his senior officers and he was complimented for having a positive attitude to his duties.*

In 1998 Adam was accepted into the Airfield Defence Guard becoming a permanent member of the RAAF. Once again, Adam proved his competence and his natural leadership abilities through being awarded dux of his recruit course.

The skills Adam learned in this position were further developed when he was posted to East Timor as part of the Australian Defence Force commitment to the United Nations Assistance Mission. Adam's unit was in the first wave of deployments and their duties were to secure Dili Airport. It was during this period that he showed great compassion in adverse circumstances.

His ability to diffuse situations was noted by senior officers and he was made Second in Command of his section.

Adam and his unit received a Meritorious Unit Citation for their work in East Timor.

During his time serving with the United Nations, Adam developed a personal passion for the work of the organisation, seeing it as an opportunity to help others less fortunate than himself. Adam remained an active member of the 28th Squadron Reserve Unit.

On the 29th March 2003 Adam joined the Australian Protective

Service, which at that time had become an operating division of the Australian Federal Police. During his recruit course, Adam once again excelled in all areas of his training, demonstrating his determination to serve his community.

Adam commenced his operational duties as part of the protection deployments to the Parliament of Australia. Again, Adam demonstrated enthusiasm for his work and was a popular member of his team.

On 4 October, 2004 Adam commenced duties as part of the Australian Federal Police contribution to the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands better known by its acronym – RAMSI.

RAMSI is contributed to by 11 participating police forces in the Pacific Region and is an initiative of the Pacific Island Forum. When the mission commenced it adopted the pidgin title of *Operation Helpem Fren*. From day one of the mission the people of the Solomon Islands readily acknowledge that they have benefited greatly from the presence of RAMSI personnel.

Adam quickly adjusted to the work of the mission and life in Honiara. On 18 November, 2004 he was awarded a commendation in recognition of his efforts in disarming a male person carrying a replica pistol in the precincts of the Honiara Magistrates Court. In front of a crowd of more than one hundred onlookers, Adam had the presence of mind not to over react, but instead, he quietly and confidently de-escalated the situation.

In the early hours of 22 December 2004, Protective Service Officer Adam Dunning was on a routine patrol in Honiara with a colleague protecting the Prime Minister's residence and the Governor-



General's residence. Adam and his colleague had also patrolled the residence of senior members of the Royal Solomon Islands Police force and RAMSI staff whose lives had been under threat.

At ten minutes past three in the morning while continuing his patrol of high risk premises, Adam was fatally wounded by a gunman secreted by the side of the road.

It is said that no greater sacrifice can be made than to lay down your life for your fellow human being. While Adam got to know many Solomon Islanders in his time there, through his sacrifice there is no doubt he will be long remembered in the Solomon Islands community for generations to come. Tragically, they will know of his bravery but he will not have the opportunity to see the positive impact of his work and his life.

At a memorial service in Honiara conducted on 23 December 2004, we said that the Dunning

family have lost a son, a brother and a nephew. The AFP has lost a courageous and professional young officer. The people of Australia and the Solomon Islands have lost a dedicated young man committed to serving, with his colleagues, the will of the governments of Australia and the Pacific Island Nations.

Adam Dunning died for peace and law and order. His work and his death will always be remembered by his colleagues in the Australian Federal Police.

*May he rest in peace.*

