

COMMEMORATING BOURKE'S RICH POLICING HISTORY

During a recent visit to Bourke for a meeting of the Police Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Council (PASAC), Commissioner Scipione took the opportunity to lay wreaths on the graves of three members of the NSW Police Force killed in the line of duty.

Snr Cst John McCabe was shot by bushranger Charles Rutherford in October 1868 near Enngonia, 60 miles from Bourke.

He died from his injuries one month later.

Cst Michael Costigan and Cst George Armytage were both shot by a barman at the Royal Hotel in Bourke in September 1877. Cst Costigan was killed instantly while Cst Armytage died later that evening.

The Commissioner laid wreaths on their graves, and also on the grave of retired Tracker, Sgt Frank Williams ISM in the presence of his descendants, who still live in the Bourke area.

Sgt Williams' grandson, Sgt Mick Williams APM, is a serving officer based at Bourke.

Tracker Williams was born in 1881 on the Warrego River on what is today called Toorale Station. He was a Ngemba man who, for 17 years, worked as a tracker for local police and was paid in rations. He eventually joined the NSWPF and in



1945 was promoted to the rank of sergeant. Tracker Williams served for 45 years before his retirement.

He was honoured with the award of the Imperial Service Medal for Faithful Service.

ABOVE Among the special guests at the commemorations was our oldest serving Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer, 71-year-old Uncle Les Doole from Brewarrina

BELOW A plaque commemorating the life of retired Tracker, Sgt Frank Williams ISM and his contribution to policing will be placed in the reception area of the Bourke Police Station

