

Letters to the editor can be sent by:

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Amelia's story

Dear Andy

I write in response to the story *Amelia's 12 April days* (*Police Journal*, February 2010), which was about our beautiful angel, Amelia.

Firstly, thank you to Brett Williams who wrote the article. From the moment I made contact with him, his honesty, empathy and professionalism allowed the telling of our story to be easier than it might have been. The story has also opened up another avenue for my cause of raising money for SIDS and Kids.

The two incidents reported in the story affected me greatly but, in a strange way, made me a stronger and better person.

Despite the many anti-SAPOL comments I have heard, I have nothing but praise for how I have been treated by the organization and individuals within the job.

I owe a lot to many people and groups, particularly Major Crash guys Dan Hassell, Jeff Gill, Ken Lyons, Ron Parry (ex-SAPOL), Gary Hancock, Keith Atkins and Robyn Cramer. I acknowledge them for their care and understanding, for getting me through the loss of my aunt and cousin, and for their support in the aftermath of my first crash investigation back at work.

I also acknowledge every person within the Sturt LSA, particularly the then boss, Graeme Adcock, and his wife for taking time out over Easter to visit us in hospital; Grant Moyle for his visit; John McCaffrey and Mark Williams

(Netley); everyone on the old Netley and Sturt team 6, especially Steve Brain (for that chat on the side of the road) and Graeme Shearer.

I thank the old team 2 at Sturt for its support and, of course, everyone on my current team (team 3) at Sturt who put up with me.

The people I need to thank most are my current sergeant, Mick Quinton, and Dave Ballard, who not only made me enjoy the job again but also convinced me to run my first marathon. But the most thanks belongs to Seamus McDaid who, from the moment I rang him from the hospital, was there for me whenever I needed anything, even just a talk.

From elsewhere within SAPOL, Sturt police chaplain Jeff Oake came to us not as a man of religion but as a mate. Dawn Lunn, who was then at Welfare Section, did everything she did for us at any time we needed it. And, of course, my best mate in the job Neil Northam of Comms – we have both been through a lot but are coming out the other side in one piece.

Numerous people have donated money to my cause and sent me cards, e-mails and SMS messages both in the past and since the *Police Journal* article has come out. The response from other SAPOL members to this story has been incredible.

My marathon training is in limbo – due to legal and political reasons in the ACT beyond my control the running of the Canberra Marathon is in doubt and might not occur. I hold out hope that it will go ahead but,

if it doesn't, I will still run the 42.195kms on April 11 even if I am the only person who shows up. I have run well over 1,000 km in training and I promised a certain little girl I would do it.

Many people look at sportspeople such as footballers as their idols. I look up to people such as Steve Moneghetti and Lee Troop – both Olympic marathoners who I have had the privilege to run with in Victoria – and African runners Haile Gebrselssie, Paul Tergat and Sammy Wanjiru. These blokes can run the marathon in two hours, five minutes, and less. They train on dirt tracks and come from incredibly poor backgrounds.

But the person I look up to the most is my wife, Belinda, for not only the support she gives me but also her understanding while I train and run in a very selfish sport and spend many hours away from home. Her strength and courage after losing Amelia inspires me beyond belief.

Again, thank you to all.

Jon Fuller

Ride Like Crazy one of the best

Dear Andy

I am writing to commend the efforts of the RLC team for their achievement with the organization and running of the 2010 Ride Like Crazy.

In the last three years I have participated in many like rides for other worthy charities both here and interstate and found the RLC to be, if not on a par with these rides, far

exceeding the co-ordination and organization standards of such events.

I, like many SAPOL participants, invited many of my non-police mates (from both here and interstate) along for the ride. I experienced a great deal of pride in the level of professionalism of the RLC team, the unselfishness of volunteers, and the helpful way that all involved conducted themselves throughout all aspects of the ride.

I'd go as far as saying that the bar has well and truly been lifted from the 2009 effort (not that there was anything wrong with 2009).

My mates and I have ridden the last few TDU Challenge rides (140kms-plus), coast-to-coast rides (Glenelg to Victor, 100km-plus), and the Round the Bay in a Day rides (Port Phillip Bay, 220kms-plus). We all found that the RLC now rates as one of the best.

Over a few beers during the debriefing, we agreed on the main factors that made the ride as good as it was:

- » To schedule the ride just before the TDU.
- » A distance less than 120kms from start to finish.
- » A loop with a CBD start and finish.

It was really a stroke of genius to get the numbers up from last year.

A huge thanks to SAPOL and all the members who had to work and make it safe for all of us rolling our legs over – particularly during the wet bits descending down through the gorge.

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My non-police mates now all agree that the RLC has a permanent spot on our cycling calendar (during the TDU cycling festival) and they have all committed to bring along other non-police friends who might themselves enjoy the experience in 2011.

Thanks also to the Police Association for jumping on board with some sponsorship and promoting cycling as a way for its members and families to stay fit and healthy.

Regards

Simon Bell

*Detective Sergeant
Sexual Crime Investigation
Branch*

Ride the Ali Way

Dear Andy

The *Ride The Ali Way* charity bike ride is a fundraising initiative designed to raise money for Alison Oestmann and her family.

Ali is a local Ceduna resident and former SAPOL employee who has been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour. Ceduna police are organizing the ride and aim to raise \$25,000, with all proceeds going to the Oestmann family.

The ride, planned to take place between May 6 and 10 this year, will cover 400kms from Port Lincoln to Ceduna. It is open to SAPOL, emergency-services personnel and the public and the itinerary is:

- » May 6 – dinner and fundraiser in Port Lincoln.
- » May 7 – ride Port Lincoln to Mt Hope (85km).
- » May 8 – ride Mt Hope to Elliston (95km).
- » May 9 – ride Elliston to Streaky Bay (125km).
- » May 10 – ride Streaky to Ceduna (112km).

Sponsorship and donations can be made to BankSA Ceduna, BSB 105-100 Account 033798940.

Tom Rieniets

Thomas.rieniets@police.sa.gov.au

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If the agreement does not comply, it will not be binding.

Some of the hallmarks of a binding agreement are that:

- » The parties will have disclosed their financial circumstances at the time of entering into the agreement.
- » It includes a statement that the parties have each received legal advice before signing the agreement.
- » It has, as an annexure, a certificate signed by each party's lawyer confirming that he or she provided the relevant party with independent legal advice.

Pre-nup agreements are not only available to couples contemplating marriage,

but also people in or entering de facto relationships, including same-sex de facto relationships. These agreements are known as certified domestic partnership agreements and are only binding if they strictly comply with the *Domestic Partners Property Act*.

Advice on drawing up these contracts is highly recommended for any couple looking at a long-term commitment.

Tindall Gask Bentley provides a free legal service to Police Association members. Appointments can be made through the association to receive free preliminary legal advice covering all areas of law, particularly families and wills.