



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Community Recognition Statement

4 May 2021

NSW MOUNTED POLICE

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend) :

The NSW Mounted Police are not a common sight in Newcastle, but recently they paid a visit to a very special lady.

Rita Meredith was spending her final days in palliative care at Calvary Mater Waratah and her wish was to see and smell a horse one more time.

At age 18, Rita joined the UK Police Force and 2 years later she became the first woman to join the Mounted Police Division. Rita spent 10 years in the UK Police Force before leaving to set up her own riding school.

She moved to Australia in 1991, after having her own children, and went on to foster more than 60 kids, many with disabilities.

A call went out to the NSW Police Mounted Unit to see what they could do.

Not wanting to disappoint a fellow officer, horses Hollywood and Don, with their handlers Senior Constable Nicole Harvell and Senior Constable Graham Lovett, travelled to Newcastle to create an unforgettable experience for Rita.

Rita was able to spend time smelling and patting Hollywood and Don and even fed them a few apples.

Thank you to the NSW Mounted Police for making Rita's final wish come true.