



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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Rixon Murder Case — Strudwick Shameful Sentence

The Police Association of NSW today slammed the sentence handed down in the Tamworth District Court to Sharon Strudwick the woman who disposed of the same ammunition used in the murder of Tamworth Senior Constable, David Rixon VA.

Strudwick was sentenced to 20 months jail with a 10 month non-parole period. After time already served, she will be eligible for parole in November.

Police Association President, Scott Weber, said, "Today's woeful sentence is nothing short of disgraceful. Another example of just how out of touch the judiciary is and it's exactly why we need mandatory sentencing for such crimes.

"Even with Strudwick pleading guilty she could be free after November. She has pleaded guilty to acting with intent to pervert the course of justice, when she instructed her son, James Strudwick, to hide a black box she found in her garage up a toilet pipe, moments before Police searched her home.

"This is a person who is the former girlfriend of convicted murderer Michael Jacobs, the man jailed for life for the murder of David Rixon. She interfered with a police murder investigation trying to protect herself and her son when she told him to stash the package containing the bullets down the toilet s-bend.

"Quite simply the problem is the enormous gulf between public sentiment as expressed through the actions of parliament, and the actions of our courts in applying the law.

"Tragically, the circumstances surrounding Senior Constable Rixon's fatal shooting on 2nd March 2012 highlight the dangerous and life threatening situations police encounter each time they go out on a shift.

"The 40 year old father of six was shot by Jacobs after a routine traffic stop went horribly wrong in Lorraine St, West Tamworth. Senior Constable Rixon had pulled Jacobs over for a routine random breath test.

"Despite being shot through the heart and lung, Senior Constable Rixon returned fire, critically wounding Jacobs, and then partially handcuffed him in a final act of heroism. He later died at the scene as a result of his injuries. He was posthumously awarded the Commissioner's Valour Award (VA) for conspicuous merit and exceptional bravery whilst under fire.

"The lifetime of loss and pain continues for the Rixon family, for Sharon Strudwick, life still holds possibilities."

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PRESS RELEASE