

ANZAC DAY 2020 - LEST WE FORGET

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THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020

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Herald Sun

We're for you

FOUR OFFICERS KILLED IN SHOCKING KEW TRUCK CRASH
COPS HAD PULLED OVER PORSCHE DRIVER ON EASTERN FWY

The scene at the Eastern Freeway last night. Picture: MARK STEWART

POLICE HORROR

ANTHONY DOWSLEY

FOUR police officers were killed as a result of a smash on the Eastern Freeway last night which witnesses described as a "pure horror scene".

The four were hit by a truck after pulling over the driver of a Porsche for erratic behaviour. A manhunt was underway last night after the Porsche driver fled the scene on foot.

The officers had stopped the citybound car near Kew about 5.30pm. The three male officers and a policewoman were standing at back of the black Porsche in the emergency lane when the truck ploughed into them.

FULL REPORT, PAGES 2-3

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WEATHER

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TODAY

MIN 12
MAX 21

Cloudy, evening showers and possible thunderstorm. Northerly winds to 45kmh

TOMORROW

MAX 21

Partly cloudy



SATURDAY

MAX 21

Partly cloudy



SUNDAY

MAX 19

Showers



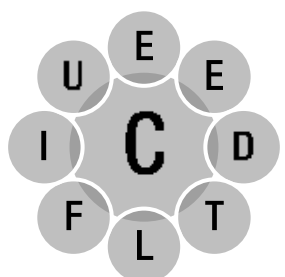
WEDNESDAY LOTTO

Draw 3967: 11, 4, 24, 19, 43, 15. Supps: 12, 8. Div 1 prize pool: \$1 million; Prov prize pool: \$1,781,400.26

OZ LOTTO Draw 1366: 13, 11, 16, 34, 23, 28, 39.

Supps: 21, 8. Div 1: \$2,289,010.50; Div 2: \$48,669.90; Div 3: \$2822.60; Div 4: \$294.45; Div 5: \$46; Div 6: \$24.40; Div 7: \$14.50

WORD PUZZLE



In making a word each letter may be used only once, and the centre letter must be included. No slang, hyphens, apostrophes or plurals ending in 's'. Minimum four letters. Good 13, Very good 22, Excellent 29

abbey ably aery alley ally baby
BAREBELLY barely barley barve
beery belay belly berley beryl bleary
bray byre early eyeball layer leery
lyre rally really relay rely yabber yale
year yell yeller

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FOUR OFFICERS MOWN DOWN AND KILLED BY



The wreckage of the truck and police car on the Eastern Freeway after last night's horrific crash. Pictures: MARK STEWART, TEN NEWS, NINE NEWS

PM: WHO needs more power

AUSTRALIA wants to give the World Health Organisation the authority of an international "weapons inspector" so experts can immediately enter any country to investigate future pandemics.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has discussed the idea with key allies, including the US, amid fears the world lost valuable time to contain the coronavirus in the early days of the outbreak in China.

Australia also used a G20 meeting of agriculture ministers to demand international

CLARE ARMSTRONG

experts scrutinise wildlife wet markets and assess risks to biosecurity and human health.

Mr Morrison sees bolstering the WHO's authority to intervene earlier as the best way to ensure no time is lost responding to future pandemics.

WHO experts were first allowed to conduct a field visit to Wuhan to observe the Chinese government's response to the new coronavirus on January 20 — a month after the disease was first detected. Under Aus-

tralia's proposal, international health officials would be able to gain access to any country without permission, similar to UN weapons inspectors.

Mr Morrison discussed the importance of transparency and the role of the WHO with US President Donald Trump yesterday. Labor's foreign affairs spokeswoman Penny Wong said giving WHO inspectors more power was a "good idea" but warned it would need a "lot of work" to get international agreement.

EDITORIAL, P40

WE CHUCKED AWAY \$5K

GEE LONG garbos are heroes in the eyes of Betty and Ronald Stones, after they rescued the pensioners' savings from the rubbish.

The couple, in their 80s, spent more than a year saving about \$5000 from their pension in the hope of buying a camper van.

But the wheels almost fell off their plan yesterday when Mrs Stones mistakenly threw the money into their bin.

When they realised what had happened, Mrs Stones rang the City of Greater

HARRISON TIPPET

Geelong. Council staff worked with waste contractor Cleanaway to locate the truck and unload its contents.

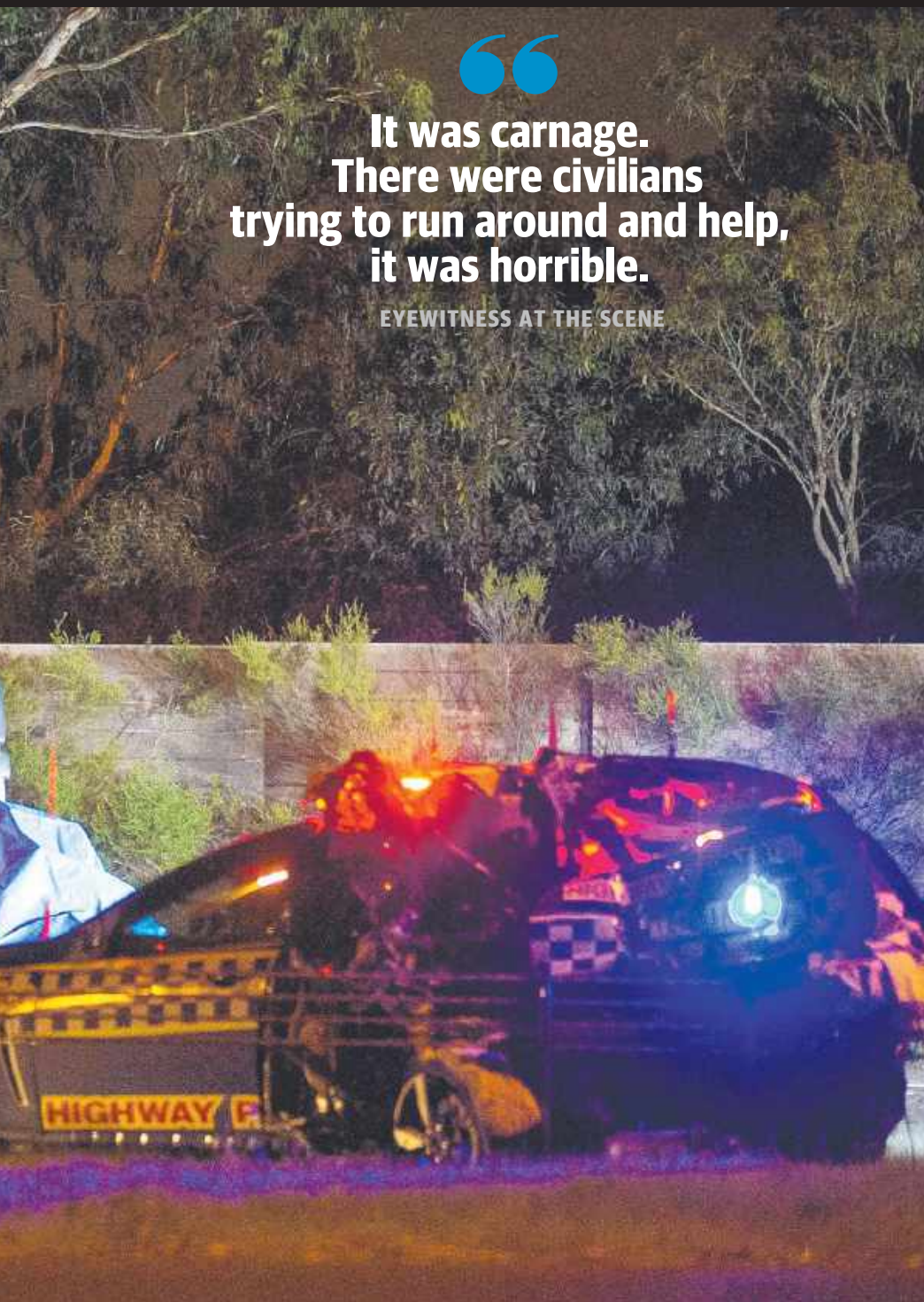
"Four or five of us took a thorough look through ... and we were lucky enough to come across the \$5000 in a wallet," Adam Tucker, the council's operations manager of green organics, said.

Mrs Stones said: "I was so relieved, I couldn't believe it. I'm glad they found it. I would have been in the doghouse."

TRUCK DURING TRAFFIC STOP ON THE EASTERN FREEWAY

“It was carnage. There were civilians trying to run around and help, it was horrible.”

EYEWITNESS AT THE SCENE



DARKEST DAY FOR VICTORIA POLICE

FOUR police officers were killed as a result of a smash on the Eastern Freeway last night which witnesses described as a “pure horror scene”.

The four were struck from behind in the emergency lane by a truck, after pulling over the driver of a Porsche for erratic behaviour.

The Porsche driver fled the scene on foot during the chaos and was being hunted last night. And the homicide squad was called in to investigate whether the actions of the truck driver were deliberate or if it was purely an accident.

The citybound black Porsche had been pulled over near Kew about 5.30pm when the horror unfolded.

The three male officers and a female colleague were standing around the car in the emergency lane, with the driver being spoken to, when a semi-trailer truck ploughed into them and their vehicles.

The three male officers died at the scene. The female officer died in hospital shortly after. Two of the dead were believed to be rookie officers.

The collision occurred in a 100kmh zone, but all drivers must by law slow to 40kmh when passing emergency vehicles that are stopped with blue lights flashing.

Chief Commissioner Graham Ashton arrived at the

ANTHONY DOWSLEY, MARK BUTTLER AND BRIANNA TRAVERS

scene just before 8pm as the fourth death was confirmed. It is believed to be the worst loss of police life in a road crash in the force's history.

The Porsche driver was pulled over by two members of a road policing unit in an unmarked car. The officers then called for support from a highway patrol unit, who were in a marked vehicle.

Immediately after the impact, the truck driver, in his late 30s or early 40s, was pulled from his cabin by another driver who witnessed the crash. He was taken to hospital with non life-threatening injuries and was to be interviewed by homicide officers.

But the Porsche driver ran off, and was last night the subject of an intense manhunt.

Other police and paramedics were on the scene within minutes. A witness said: “There were at least half a dozen ambulances, police and fire trucks there. It looked like multiple casualties. Plastic covers over the vehicles.”

“It was a nightmare, a pure horror scene.”

Another witness described it as a “horrific” scene, adding: “It was carnage. There were civilians trying to run around

and help, it was horrible.” About seven good Samaritans, including an off-duty doctor and an off-duty paramedic, were among the first on the scene to get out of their cars and try to assist the stricken police officers.

A spokesman for Victoria Police said last night: “The exact circumstances surrounding the collision are still to be determined. Detectives from the major collision investigation unit are at the scene.”

Homicide squad officers were then called in.

A key to the investigation will be why the truck was being driven in an area where police obviously felt they were safe enough to intercept and deal with the Porsche driver.

The Police Association Victoria said last night it was “shocked and immensely saddened by the deaths of four of our dedicated members killed while protecting the community on the Eastern Freeway”.

The association was providing “immediate and ongoing support” to the colleagues and families of the officers.

“This is a brutally sad reminder of the danger police face in the course of their service, every minute of every shift,” it said.

anthony.dowsley@news.com.au
— **ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY JOSH FAGAN AND ANEKA SIMONIS**



Bushfires and storms power big electricity bill

SUMMER bushfires and storms which played havoc with Victoria's energy system have left households and businesses with an expensive bill.

A new report from the Australian Energy Market Operator, to be released today, shows energy retailers were hit with \$144 million in extra charges after several electricity emergencies in the first three months of this year.

The most costly blow came on January 31, when the mercury peaked at 43.6 degrees in

TOM MINEAR

Melbourne and severe storms damaged Victorian transmission towers.

The storms severed the power-sharing connection between Victoria and South Australia for 18 days and knocked Alcoa's Portland aluminium smelter offline.

The market operator said the heatwave that day led to the third-highest energy demand across the country on record.

Total market costs hit a record \$310 million for the first quarter of the year, \$166 million of which was recovered from energy generators.

That included \$34 million spent on emergency electricity reserves — required when a market shortfall was imminent.

That figure included \$8 million when the connection between Victoria and New South Wales was temporarily lost during bushfires on January 4.

The market operator said

despite extreme price volatility in Victoria during these events, wholesale gas and electricity prices were the lowest since 2016.

On average, east coast wholesale gas prices fell by an average of 42 per cent.

Lower gas prices, as well as increased wind and solar supply and reduced demand overall, also helped to bring down wholesale electricity costs.

“With prolonged bushfires and major power system separation events, changing mar-

kets and a reduction in operational demand, and the lowest east coast wholesale energy prices since 2016 — it's been an extraordinary start to the year,” market operator chief executive Audrey Zibelman said.

“Although electricity and gas prices were generally lower this quarter, major power system separation events following bushfire and storm activity created volatility in both energy and frequency control markets.”

Relatively mild weather in the second half of summer meant electricity demand was well down on the same time last year.

The report also showed energy demand had only decreased slightly during the coronavirus crisis.

Unlike parts of Europe and the United States, where demand for power has fallen by as much as 30 per cent, the drop was only 4 per cent in New South Wales in late March.

FOUR COPS KILLED IN HORROR SMASH

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Herald Sun

// LARGEST LOSS OF LIFE IN VICTORIAN POLICE HISTORY

// OFFICERS HIT BY TRUCK AFTER PULLING OVER PORSCHE DRIVER, WHO FLED SCENE

The scene at the Eastern Freeway near Kew last night. Picture: MARK STEWART



DARKEST DAY



FOUR police officers have been killed in an Eastern Freeway smash that Chief Commissioner Graham Ashton last night called "a crime".

Two constables and two senior constables were hit from behind by a refrigerated truck while standing in the emergency lane, after they had pulled over the driver

ANTHONY DOWSLEY

of a black Porsche 911 for speeding. It was the single deadliest incident in Victoria Police's history, eclipsing Ned Kelly's last stand.

The Porsche driver fled on foot and was last night being hunted.

FULL REPORTS INSIDE

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CANDLE &
LAST POST**
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“It is a tragedy for the whole force, and they are all feeling that down at the crime scene

CHIEF COMMISSIONER GRAHAM ASHTON

“Though we may not yet know their names, we will always call them heroes

PREMIER DANIEL ANDREWS

“Deepest sympathies go to their families, fellow officers and friends at this terrible time

PRIME MINISTER SCOTT MORRISON

“This is a brutally sad reminder of the danger police face in the course of their service

POLICE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA SECRETARY WAYNE GATT

Force in mourning

Death of 4 officers shatters police

ANTHONY DOWSLEY, MARK BUTTLER, BRIANNA TRAVERS AND JOSH FAGAN

FOUR police officers have been killed in an Eastern Freeway smash that Chief Commissioner Graham Ashton last night called “a crime”.

Two constables and two senior constables were yesterday hit from behind by a refrigerated truck while standing in the emergency lane, after they had pulled over the driver of a Porsche for speeding.

It was the single deadliest incident in Victoria Police's history, eclipsing Ned Kelly's killing of three officers in 1878.

The Porsche 911 driver fled the scene on foot during the chaos and was being hunted last night. The *Herald Sun* last night confirmed he was known to police.

The homicide squad was called in to investigate whether the actions of the truck driver were deliberate or if it was purely an accident.

“In these type of events, obviously we have to do an investigation as to criminality,” Mr Ashton said.

“We have had four tragic deaths. Those officers concerned have been the victim of crime.”

Premier Daniel Andrews said he was grieving alongside four families, whose “hearts are breaking”, while Prime Minister Scott Morrison expressed his “deepest sympathies”.

Two members of a road policing unit, in an unmarked car, pulled over the city-bound black Porsche for “excessive speed” near Kew about 5.30pm.

The officers called for support from a highway patrol unit who were in a marked vehicle, after deciding to impound the Porsche.

They were standing around the car in the emergency lane speaking with the driver, when a semi-trailer ploughed into them and their vehicles.

The three male officers died at the scene. The female officer died in hospital shortly after.

One of the officers had only “very recently” joined the force.

The crash occurred in a 100kmh zone, but all drivers must by law slow to 40kmh



Police at the scene of the accident last night examine the wreckage of a marked and an unmarked police car hit by the truck.
Pictures: MARK STEWART



when passing emergency vehicles that are stopped and are displaying blue flashing lights.

Immediately after the impact, the truck driver, in his late 30s or early 40s, was pulled from his cabin by another driver who witnessed the crash.

He was taken to hospital with non life-threatening injuries and was to be interviewed by homicide officers as

they awaited a blood analysis.

Mr Ashton said the truck driver had suffered a “medical episode”, although it wasn't clear whether it was before or after the crash.

A key to the investigation will be why the refrigerated truck, which police said was being used by a commercial poultry business, was being driven in an area where police felt safe enough to deal with

the Porsche driver.

“We don't know at this stage what has caused him to drive that truck into our police members. We're still forming that up in terms of why that has occurred,” Mr Ashton said.

In a personal plea to the Porsche driver, Mr Ashton said: “I strongly suggest he gets himself down to the nearest police station.”

Police Association Victoria

secretary Wayne Gatt said the deaths would “shock police in stations across Victoria”.

“These police officers were doing something that we do 10 times, 20 times, 30 times a shift — intercepting a motor vehicle on the side of the road, this is the bread and butter of policing,” he told reporters last night.

“This isn't stuff that you go to do and expect to be killed doing.

“But each and every time a police officer does that for the next little while, they'll have this in the back of their minds, there's no doubt.”

anthony.dowsley@news.com.au

IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Multiple police fatalities in a single incident:



OCTOBER 26, 1878
NED KELLY'S LAST STAND
Sergeant Michael Kennedy, 36, and Constables Thomas Lonigan, 36 and Michael Scanlan, 34, were shot and killed by Ned Kelly's gang of bushrangers during a siege at Stringy Bark Creek.

DECEMBER 8, 1911
Constables James Ogilvie, 52 and Harold Riddle, 38, died after sustaining fatal injuries in a car accident.



OCTOBER 12, 1988
WALSH ST MURDERS
Probationary Constable Damien Jeffrey Eyre, 20, and Constable Steven John Tynan, 22, were ambushed and murdered after being lured to an abandoned car in Walsh St, South Yarra and shot dead.



AUGUST 16, 1998
SILK-MILLER MURDERS
Sergeant Gary Silk and Senior Constable Rodney Miller were gunned down at close range while investigating a series of armed robberies in Melbourne's southeast.

MAY 20, 2000
Senior Constable Mark Bateman, 30, died with his partner, Senior Constable Fiona Robinson, 31, when their divisional van was involved in a crash while answering a priority-one call at Northcote.

APRIL 22, 2020
Four officers — three men and a woman — were struck and killed by a semi-trailer on the Eastern Freeway while attempting to impound a Porsche.

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MAX 21



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Partly cloudy

SATURDAY

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Showers

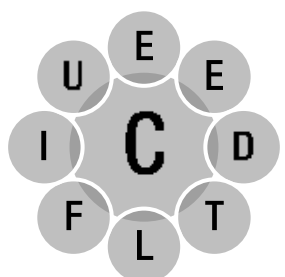


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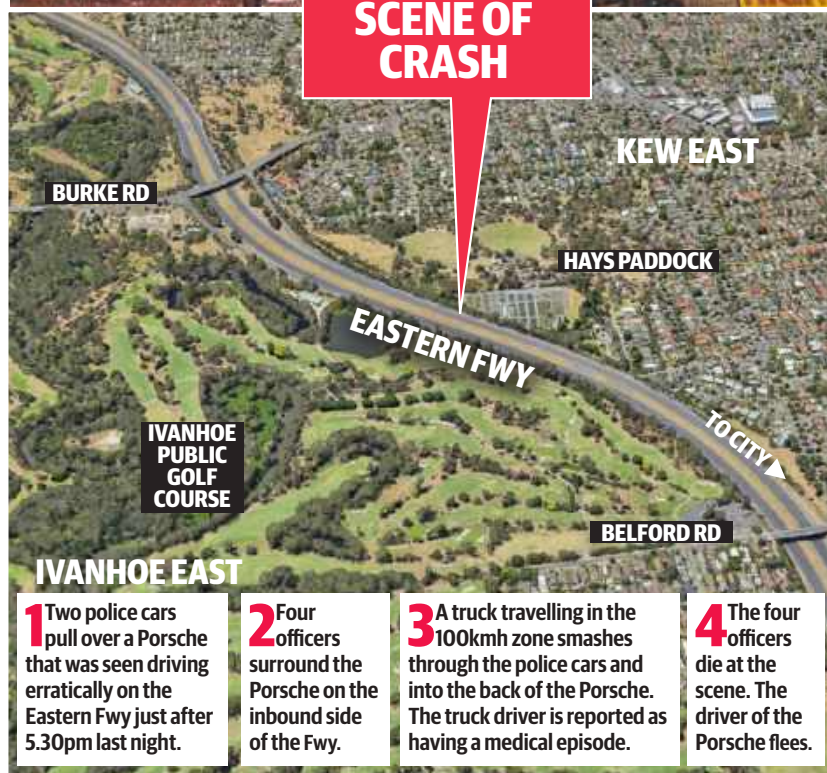
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HEARTBREAK WILL TAKE MANY YEARS TO HEAL

The wreckage of the truck and police car on the Eastern Freeway after last night's horrific crash. Pictures: MARK STEWART, TEN NEWS, NINE NEWS



SCENE OF CRASH



IVANHOE EAST

- Two police cars pull over a Porsche that was seen driving erratically on the Eastern Fwy just after 5.30pm last night.
- Four officers surround the Porsche on the inbound side of the Fwy.
- A truck travelling in the 100kmh zone smashes through the police cars and into the back of the Porsche. The truck driver is reported as having a medical episode.
- The four officers die at the scene. The driver of the Porsche flees.



PM: WHO needs more power

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HARRISON TIPPET

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Mrs Stones said: "I was so relieved, I couldn't believe it. I'm glad they found it. I would have been in the doghouse."

AFTER HORROR DESTROYS FOUR LIVES IN A SPLIT-SECOND



“It was carnage. There were civilians trying to run around and help, it was horrible.”

EYEWITNESS AT THE SCENE



Haunting scene of quiet and carnage

It was a deafening crash followed by cold, dark silence. As Victoria's Chief Commissioner, Graham Ashton has attended many accidents throughout his career, but last night was different.

"I can tell you there's an eerie quiet down there that sometimes you don't see at crime scenes," Commissioner Ashton said after walking the location where four of his colleagues had lost their lives.

Not since three policeman were gunned down during the bloody siege at Glenrowan Inn in 1878 had so many officers fallen in the line of duty.

Ned Kelly's Last Stand at Stringybark Creek is inked in the history books as the worst loss of police life in a single incident. Last night, a new chapter of tragedy was added.

And make no mistake, Commissioner Ashton said, these brave men and woman had been the victim of a crime.

The carnage of the scene was spread across the median strip of the usually busy Eastern Freeway. Stay-at-home restrictions meant traffic was lighter than usual last night, but for those driving past at the time, the haunting images will be impossible to forget. A crumpled Porsche 911 crushed under a Volvo truck. Debris strewn in all directions.

JOSH FAGAN

Beneath the wreckage three policemen were dead. Their female colleague succumbed to her injuries in a hospital bed not long after.

"It's a tragic night for the officers' families, it's a tragic night for the police family more generally. It's a sad night for all Victorians," Commissioner Ashton said.

About seven good Samaritans, including an off-duty doctor and an off-duty paramedic, were among the first on the scene. They could do little, as bodies in high-vis vests lay across the freeway.

For the officers' families, it will take time to comprehend the senseless loss of life.

"Everyone down there is feeling it at the moment. Everyone understands what a tragedy this is for the families of those officers and for the whole force," Commissioner Ashton said. "They're all feeling that deeply."

The questions are many? Why did the truck driver plough straight into four officers? Why did the Porsche driver then run off, fleeing the scene? Where did he go after jumping a fence next to one of Melbourne's busiest freeways?

If he's still on the run, it's been "strongly suggested" by Mr Ashton that he head down

to the nearest police station and turn himself in.

A witness described the Eastern Freeway accident area last night as "pure horror".

"There were at least half a dozen ambulances, police and fire trucks there. Plastic covers over the vehicles. It was a nightmare, a pure horror scene."

Another eyewitness, who saw the aftermath of the crash, said it was "horrific".

"It was carnage," the eyewitness said. "There were civilians trying to run around and help, it was horrible."

The truck driver, meanwhile, is in hospital under police guard.

Somehow he was uninjured by the force of the crash, but suffered a medical episode.

He is undergoing medical tests and will be questioned at the earliest opportunity.

As news of the tragedy broke across the web and airwaves last night, leaders offered their sympathies to the yet to be named victims.

Premier Daniel Andrews said: "Though we may not yet know their names – we will always call them heroes."

"Tonight, somewhere in our city, four families' hearts are breaking."

"Our heart are breaking with them," Mr Andrews said. josh.fagan@news.com.au

Bushfires, storms power big bill

SUMMER bushfires and storms that played havoc with Victoria's energy system have left households and businesses with an expensive bill.

A report from the Australian Energy Market Operator, to be released today, shows energy retailers were hit with \$144 million in extra charges after several electricity emergencies in the first three months of this year.

The most costly blow came on January 31, when the mercury peaked at 43.6 degrees in Melbourne and severe storms

TOM MINEAR

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The market operator said despite extreme price volatility in Victoria during these events, wholesale gas and electricity prices were the lowest since 2016.

COUSINS ARRESTED OVER DRUGS AGAIN



Ben Cousins

FALLEN AFL star Ben Cousins is back behind bars and will face court this morning. The former West Coast Eagles hero was found sleeping in a park, with methamphetamine allegedly in his possession.

The arrest of the premiership-winning Brownlow medallist comes only weeks after he opened up in a Channel 7 doco, and talked about getting his life back on track.

His long battle with drug addiction has already seen

CAITLYN RINTOUL

him serve two stints in prison.

Police responding to a report of erratic driving in suburban Perth about noon yesterday found the reported car parked up a short time later, and Cousins sleeping next to it.

The one-time Richmond player, 41, allegedly had 2.5g of meth in his possession.

He was refused police bail, 9 News Perth reported last night, and was due to appear before magistrates today.

BREAKING NEWS



FOUR POLICE OFFICERS DEAD IN HORROR EASTERN FWY CRASH

Four police officers have died in a shocking crash on the Eastern Freeway in Kew this evening, with the incident involving multiple cars and a truck. ...



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Latest: Chief Commissioner Graham Ashton providing an update at the scene of the horrific crash in Kew where four officers have died
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Sandy May · 13:13

I hope the driver of the car is located . He may be in severe shock . Just terrible for everyone..

Like · Reply · 41w

➦ 8 Replies



Comare Comuyamu · 12:36

How does this happen???? 40km limits near emergency services??? 🌹🌹🌹🌹🙏🙏🙏

🙏 RIP

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➦ 5 Replies



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PORSCHE DRIVER ARRESTED

FOUR OFFICERS KILLED IN CRASH



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