

# THE FRIENDS' GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum  
2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2016 Edition



## FQPM President's Message

The activity of the FQPM during the 150<sup>th</sup> year of the Queensland Police Service celebrations was to locate the graves of the first commissioner David Seymour and his family and continues to be a part of our activity during 2016.

The restoration and installation of the headstone of Thomas Seymour, David Seymour's infant son on the family grave at Toowong will be completed by the end of July 2016. Additionally I managed a visit to the London grave of David Seymour during a recent trip to the United Kingdom. Local research is continuing regarding the identification of more early police officers killed on duty and their names to be added to the QPS Honour Roll. The FQPM will seek to locate the graves of these officers with a view to ensuring appropriate identification and commemoration of the sites.

I am pleased to note the FQPM challenge coin has been a successful endeavour in our fundraising activities and plans are now proceeding to have a commemorative coin released in time for our 10<sup>th</sup> year celebration in 2017. I look forward to other activities as part of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an opportunity for all our members to participate in this significant event. Thank you for your continued support.

Bob Burns, President FQPM

## David Thompson Seymour Grave - Hither Green Update

President Bob Burns recently visited London during a trip to the United Kingdom where he was able to meet with members of the Metropolitan Police History Group. Members of this organisation were of great assistance in recent times to locate the grave of the first commissioner of the Queensland Police, David Thompson Seymour.



Sioban Clarke and Bob Burns at the grave of Commissioner David Thompson Seymour in Hither Green Cemetery, Lewisham.

Mr Seymour died in London in 1916 and was buried with his second wife Sarah at Hither Green Cemetery near Lewisham. President of the History Group, Sioban Clarke was able to accompany Bob during a visit to Hither Green and locate the refurbished grave.

A visit to the Metropolitan Police Heritage Centre at West Brompton enabled Bob to meet Phil

Barnes-Warden, who had located the Seymour grave in the first instance and who assisted Sioban Clarke in arranging the restoration and commemoration ceremony hosted by the Queensland Agent-General to London, Ken Smith in early 2015.



Phil Barnes-Warden with Bob Burns at the Metropolitan Police Heritage Centre.

### **New Names to be Included on the QPS Honour Roll 2016**

Commissioner Ian Stewart has approved both Sergeant Thomas James Heaney and Constable Benjamin Ebbitt, who are buried at the Toowong Cemetery, to be included in the Queensland Police Honour Roll and their names be included in various Queensland Police Service memorials which will occur later this year.

1. Sergeant Thomas James Heaney – assaulted on duty in 1905 at Woolloongabba and died from his injuries in 1906;
2. Constable Benjamin Ebbitt – assaulted on duty in 1890 at Croydon and died of his injuries in 1894.

Additionally, Senior Constable Henry James Fetherston – died from injuries he sustained from a horse-riding accident in Maryborough in 1885.

These three former officers are now under consideration for inclusion on the National Police Memorial in Canberra as well, which if approved will be added to that memorial on National Police Remembrance Day on 29 September 2016.

The FQPM have identified the final resting place of these former members as being in need of significant refurbishment or minor restoration. Further details of these projects is outlined below.

### **Update on Thomas Heaney and Benjamin Ebbitt Grave Restoration Project**

Thomas James Heaney and Benjamin Ebbitt were both superannuated from the Queensland Police due to injuries sustained during the execution of their duty. Both former member's names have been approved by the Commissioner, Ian Stewart, to be included on the Honour Roll and recommended to be placed on the National Police Memorial in Canberra.

The FQPM have commenced preliminary arrangements by seeking quotations for the restoration of Benjamin Ebbitt's grave and the establishment of a slab and headstone for Thomas James Heaney (where currently none exists).

At this time, the FQPM are examining a number of options in the restoration of the two grave sites, in particular a new structure for Heaney. The construction of the slab is made more difficult because of the slope and the inability to get a concrete truck near the site. This would mean that the concrete will have to be wheel-barrowed in.

Applications are to be submitted to the Brisbane City Council, once the Heaney grave design and the specific work to be undertaken on the Ebbitt is determined.

A significant amount of research has been undertaken by the QPS Honours and Awards Unit into the family history of the two former officers. Clearly, before any work can take place, concurrence must be obtained from any necessary family members.

FQPM is currently in the process of developing a detailed project plan, ultimately working towards an unveiling and dedication ceremony to be held towards the end of this year or early next year.

### **Senior Constable Henry James Fetherston Grave**

Senior Constable Henry James Fetherston died from injuries sustained from a horse-riding incident in Maryborough in 22 February 1885. He was 26 years of age and was subsequently buried in the Maryborough Cemetery.

A substantial monument commemorates his death and appears to be in a reasonable state of repair.

The FQPM propose to examine the monument in detail with a view to arranging the cleaning and restoration of the headstone and surrounds. Quotes will be obtained from local contractors to undertake any necessary work.



Henry James Fetherston's grave at Maryborough Cemetery



Fetherston grave. It can be seen that the monument requires some restoration.

## **Update on the Installation of additional headstone to the Seymour Family Grave**

The Seymour family grave at Toowong Cemetery was totally refurbished during 2014 which involved a complex restructure of the supports for the monument and the restoration of the headstone and the stone work surrounding the grave. This work was undertaken by Brisbane Memorial Care + Repair. The rededication ceremony was held on the 5 December 2015.

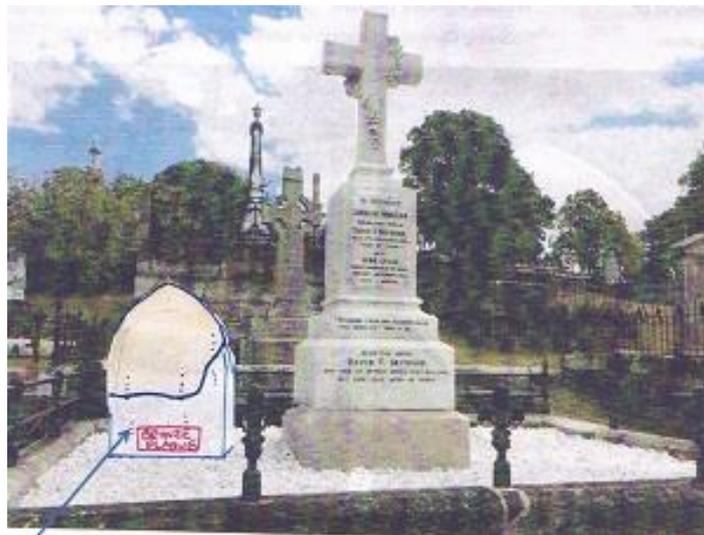
The Friends of the Toowong Cemetery contacted the FQPM during 2014 advising that during one of their combined archaeological 'digs' with the students from the Queensland University, a headstone from the Paddington Cemetery commemorating the former Sheriff of Queensland, William Anthony Brown and his grand-son Thomas Seymour (son of Commissioner David Thompson Seymour) was located.

The FQPM decided to reunite the damaged headstone in the Seymour family plot at Toowong Cemetery. Brisbane Memorial Care + Repair was engaged to complete the repair and installation in the present site, principally because they were familiar with the existing footing supporting the monument.

The existing headstone is to be pinned to a new 'ghost' base and this will be installed into a new footing connecting to the existing underpinned concrete footing.

Preparatory work has commenced. Approval has been received from the Brisbane City Council to proceed with the project. It is expected that the project will be finalised by the end of July 2016.

The FQPM extend our sincere gratitude to QBank who contributed substantially to the funding of this project



Drawing of proposed headstone and location in regards to existing Seymour Family Grave at Toowong Cemetery.



The repaired Brown/Seymour headstone. The white portion is the concrete blank which was be placed in and secured to the existing footings. A plaque will be affixed to the bottom of the exposed concrete.

### **Outstanding FQPM Membership dues for 2016/17**

FQPM Members

Membership dues for the year 2016/17 were in arrears as at the 30 June 2016.

The FQPM relies on your membership to assist in financing the organisation in order to meet our objectives.

Please renew your membership as soon as possible using the Membership Form which can be found on the FQPM website, also indicate any of your details that may have changed since last year.

Renewal	Annual	\$15.00
Life Membership		\$100.00

If you do not wish to renew your membership, please contact the Membership Officer, FQPM, so that the membership records can be adjusted accordingly.

If you have paid your dues in the meantime, our thanks and please ignore this advice.

## Sam Johnson Biography - Volunteer

Sam Johnson had quite a long career with the Queensland Police as a Tracker, yet his known biographical details are somewhat fragmented and to be found in a number of repositories.

The FQPM would be keen to document a detailed biography of Sam Johnson's life.

The FQPM were instrumental in erecting a headstone and slab on Sam Johnson's grave site at the Longreach Cemetery and re-dedicated the site on the 29 September 2015.

The FQPM are therefore seeking volunteer/s who would be prepared to research and record Sam's biography. Should you be interested in undertaking this project, please contact the Secretary FQPM.

## FQPM Challenge Coin

The FQPM have produced a challenge coin which is available for general sale. The obverse of the coin displays the badge of the FQPM and the reverse the badge of the QPS (necessary QPS approval obtained). The coins are 43mm across and housed in a plastic container.

The challenge coin is available for sale now and will sell for \$12.00 each. As usual, all proceeds will go towards the purchase of collectable items for the Queensland Police Museum.



Any early interest in purchasing one of these collectable coins can be directed to the FQPM website on [secretary@friendsgpmuseum.com.au](mailto:secretary@friendsgpmuseum.com.au).

Orders can be placed for pick up at Queensland Police Headquarters with Melissa Kirkpatrick, Executive Assistant, Office of the Deputy Commissioner - Strategy, Policy and Performance Level 7, Police HQ, 200 Roma Street BRISBANE QLD 4000.

Phone: +61 7 3364 4464 Fax: +61 7 3364 4053

Email: [Kirkpatrick.MelissaA@police.qld.gov.au](mailto:Kirkpatrick.MelissaA@police.qld.gov.au)

## Stubby Coolers

The FQPM commemorative historic police station (set of 6) series of stubby coolers are available for purchase.

Set of 6 are now \$24.00 per set (postage is \$9.00 anywhere in Australia).

The image of each police station extends around the entire cooler with the FQPM badge and website address placed in a prominent position.

The police stations that were selected were - Camooweal; Ewan; Jackson; Roma Street; Thornborough and Fortitude Valley.



FQPM Commemorative Stubby Coolers (set of 6)

For further information concerning ordering arrangements please refer to the FQPM website (Shop) at [www.friendsqpmuseum.com.au](http://www.friendsqpmuseum.com.au)

Orders can also be placed by contacting Melissa Kirkpatrick on 3364 4464. Orders can be posted or picked up from Queensland Police Headquarters, 200 Roma Street, Brisbane 4000.

**Get in now! There is only a few sets left of these very collectable historic Stubby Coolers.**

These particular series of coolers will not be repeated again!

## **FQPM Polo Shirts**

FQPM Polo Shirts are now available!



Should you have an interest in acquiring one of these casual dressy shirts please contact the FQPM Secretary so that you can select your size and colour of choice?

They come in a range of sizes, both male and female and a good choice of colours.

All shirts are priced at \$40.00 each plus postage if required.

## **FQPM Website**

The FQPM website is updated regularly, please take the opportunity to take a look.

[www.friendsqpmuseum.com.au](http://www.friendsqpmuseum.com.au)

## **Volunteers for Current Projects**

The FQPM are seeking volunteers to undertake a number of research projects that were commenced some while ago however due to other commitments have been somewhat neglected.

The projects relate to the grave/burial location of police officers whose names appear on the following lists:

- Commissioners of Police;
- In Remembrance Roll; and
- Roll of Honour.

Should any member wish to express an interest in undertaking any of the projects please contact the FQPM Secretary.

## **Membership**

Renewal of your membership will assist Friends of the Queensland Police Museum Inc. to continue with its goals of the advancement of the Queensland Police Museum, the acquisition and restoration of police heritage objects and the enhancement and effective sharing of knowledge concerning the history of policing in Queensland.

FQPM members are requested to encourage potential members to apply for membership.

The FQPM offer four levels of membership:

- Ordinary Membership: Annual subscription: \$15.00 per year.
- Life Membership: \$100.00 **(after 1 year as an ordinary member)**
- Corporate Membership: \$50.00 annual subscription.
- Junior Membership (under 18 years of age): \$15.00 one out payment until they attain the age of 18 years

### **Management Committee Meetings**

The following are the scheduled Management Committee meetings for 2016:

Wednesday 3 August 2016	1000 hours	Media Conf. Room
Wednesday 5 October 2016	0900 hours	Media Conf. Room
5 October 2016 (AGM)	1000 hours	Museum Court Room
Wednesday 7 December 2016	1000 hours	Media Conf. Room.

FQPM members are welcome to attend the Management Committee meetings as an observer. Should you desire to attend any of these meetings, you are requested to advise the Secretary so that an appropriate sized venue can be booked.

The meeting agenda will be forwarded to the FQPM Management Committee approximately ten (10) days prior to the meeting. Should you wish to contribute an agenda item or provide a submission, please forward to the Secretary by the Close of Business on the Monday prior to each meeting.

Ian Townsley  
Secretary FQPM  
(07) 3351 2797  
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23 March 2016