

# THE FRIENDS' GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2016 Edition



## FQPM President's Message

As another year's end is fast approaching. We can take time to reflect on what has been achieved over the last year. Three more historical deaths of officers whilst on duty or as a result of injuries received during their service have been recognised formally and added to the QPS and National Honour Roll. The FQPM has taken on the project to locate the last resting place of these officers and provide appropriate acknowledgement befitting their status as dutiful men.

Our recent AGM saw two new members join our Management Committee. Bob Cochrane and Brian Silvester bring their respective skills to our endeavours to ensure our people are honoured and our history is recorded.

I would like to express my appreciation for the work done by all our members together with Curator Lisa Jones and her staff of the Queensland Police Museum. I would like to acknowledge also the ongoing support and assistance of our Patron, Commissioner Ian Stewart and his senior staff who have been generous in their efforts to ensure our projects are progressed as smoothly as possible. Particular acknowledgement to Senior Sergeant Mel Wilkins at the Honours and Awards Unit for her cooperation and assistance.

Our supporters and sponsors, QBANK, Queensland Police Union of Employees and the Queensland Police Commissioned Officers Union have once again been very encouraging during the last twelve months and we look forward to their continued interest in support of our work in identifying our history and heritage.

My very best wishes to you and your families for the coming Christmas season and good health and happiness for 2017.

Bob Burns, President FQPM

## Former Commissioner Frederic Charles URQUHART

Commissioner Frederic Charles Urquhart 1917 - 1921

During the course of research into the grave locations of former Commissioners of the Queensland Police, the FQPM located the final resting place of Commissioner Frederic Charles Urquhart at the Toowong Cemetery, Brisbane.

The Australian Dictionary of Biography carries a substantial biography of Commissioner Urquhart.

Frederic Charles Urquhart was born in Sussex, England, and following service as a midshipman he migrated to Queensland in 1875 where he worked in the sugar and cattle industries and became a telegraph linesman until 1878.

He joined the Queensland Native Mounted Police Force in 1882 and served in the Gulf, Cape York, and Torres Strait Districts. During this period of his service he was involved in a campaign against the Kalkadoon Aborigines at Battle Mountain. Following his transfer to the general police in 1889 his role included assisting in the search for shipwrecks such as *The Quetta* and charting parts of the coastline and several of the far northern rivers. His findings were published in *The Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland* (1897).

In 1896 when he transferred to Brisbane, he was promoted to Inspector in Charge of the Criminal Investigation Branch where he served until his appointment as Queensland's fourth Commissioner serving from January 1917 until his retirement in 1921. During his police service he wrote and published bush verse including *Camp Cazonettes* in 1891 and *Blood Stains* in 1919.

Upon the completion of his term as Police Commissioner he was appointed as Administrator of the Northern Territory in January 1921, based in Darwin where he remained until January 1926. On his return to Brisbane he settled at Clayfield and he died in December 1935.

A copy of his publication *Camp Cazonettes* is held the Queensland Police Museum. The search for the second volume of poems, *Blood Stains* has so far been unsuccessful. If members or readers are aware of this publication, please contact the FQPM or Queensland Police Museum curator Lisa Jones.

A more comprehensive biography can be read online in the [Australian Dictionary of Biography – Frederic Charles Urquhart](#)



Grave of former Commissioner Frederic Charles Urquhart at Toowong Cemetery Brisbane.

It can be seen from the photographs of the Urquhart grave that minor maintenance is required.

### **Retired Police Grave Maintenance arrangements between FQPM and the QRPA**

Mr Greg Early, President of the Queensland Retired Police Association (QRPA) advised in correspondence that QRPA meeting of the Gladstone Branch was held at Spinnaker Park, Gladstone on Wednesday 7th September 2016. The following issue was minuted at that meeting.

*Chris Lette and Stan Janas advised Members that they had carried out maintenance to Sergeant Dan Stiller's memorial cross and site on the Bruce Highway, north of Farmer Creek, Mount Larcom. They hope to complete remaining maintenance by 1st December 2016. Sergeant Dan Stiller was killed on duty whilst performing a wide load escort on 1st December 2010.*

*Maintenance to grave sites of retired former police officers who apparently have no relatives able to attend was discussed, which included retired Sergeant Noel Stone and former Senior Constable Cyril Magdalinski at Gladstone. President Darryl Saw has been cleaning the plaques and replacing artificial flowers on these graves at least once per year. Gladstone branch will take both areas of maintenance on as an ongoing project. A resolution was also passed to suggest to Senior Management Committee to suggest to other branches that they may also like to undertake similar projects in their areas.*

The FQPM have policy in respect to the funding of grave maintenance projects and that extends at this time, to graves of Commissioners of Police, officers whose names appear on the QPS Honour/Remembrance

Rolls or any grave or monument pertaining to any officer adjudicated by the Management Committee as being appropriate.

Any submission for funding by the QRPA Branches will be considered by the FQPM Management Committee on a case by case basis.

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

We have previously provided information concerning the condition of the graves of Benjamin Ebbitt and Thomas Heaney. Both these former QP officers are buried at Toowong Cemetery. The grave of Benjamin Ebbitt is in serious need of restoration and regrettably Thomas Heaney grave is not marked at all.

It is the intention of the FQPM to rectify this situation and have commenced the process with seeking quotations to refurbish the Ebbitt grave and establish a slab and headstone on the Heaney grave.

Both Heaney and Ebbitt were admitted recently to the QPS Honour Roll, as well as the National Police Roll in Canberra.

The FQPM have now engaged Brisbane Memorial Care to undertake the required work which has now been commenced. A large tree which had grown up beside the Ebbitt grave pushing it off its alignment has now been removed.

It is expected that the work on the two graves will be completed early in 2017 and the event will be marked by a re-dedication ceremony, at which the families and friends of the former officers will be invited to attend.

FQPM will be seeking assistance to fund this project and will look to significant benefactor/s to contribute the "lion's share" of the cost. Other avenues will also be examined, including approaching the families.

### **Maintenance of the Grave of Henry James Fetherston – Maryborough Cemetery**

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.

Henry Fetherston's name was admitted to the QPS Remembrance Roll by the Commissioner Ian Stewart on the 27 September 2016.

The President and Secretary were fortunate to meet with retired QPS representatives who have an interest in the restoration of police graves, in particular in the Maryborough area.

We spoke with retired QPS member Noel Sparks and his wife Denise, who were keen to coordinate the necessary work on the Fetherston grave.

The FQPM are currently awaiting an assessment of the specific restoration required together with a quotation for any materials or work by local contractors. Aside from some minor structural repair to the monument, the remaining work would include cleaning the monument, painting the iron fence and cleaning the grave surface and perhaps covering with weed mat and decorative stones.

It is believed that much of the restoration can be achieved with volunteer labour and any other refurbishment work necessary, quotes are to be obtained. FQPM would consider any submissions for financial support.

### **In Search of Constable Daniel Gould Copley's Grave**

The FQPM recently received a request to assist in locating the grave of the late Constable Daniel Gould Copley.

Senior Sergeant Mel Wilkins QPS Honours & Awards advised that on 17 March 1864, Constable Copley was on duty in the township of Drayton. He attended the Royal Bull's Head Hotel several times throughout the afternoon during St Patrick's Day celebrations and returned in the evening at about 9:00 pm and stayed until 2:00 am the following morning. On the morning of 18 March 1864, Constable Copley was reported missing by his wife. A search was conducted and his body was found in the public well in Drayton on 19 March 1864. It was noted he was wearing his police uniform when found, however his police hat remained missing.

An autopsy revealed there was no apparent evidence of a struggle and that Copley died by drowning. Numerous witnesses were called to give evidence at an inquest as it was believed the circumstances of Copley's death was suspicious. Investigations led to two possible suspects accused of throwing Copley down the well, however the inquest finished with an open finding in that it could not be determined how he ended up in the well.

This year, Copley was considered for inclusion in the QPS Honour Roll and the National Police Memorial in Canberra, however due to not being able to confirm the circumstances which lead to his drowning, it has been determined he does not meet the criteria, at this time for inclusion on either of these entities.

FQPM Committee Member Rob Cochrane was tasked to investigate the possible resting place for Daniel Copley. He reported, *inter alia* that the Death Certificate for Daniel Gould Copley indicates he died on 18 March 1864 and was buried on 19 March 1864 in the Drayton and Toowoomba

Burial Grounds. It is assumed, at this stage, that he was a Roman Catholic. His Death Certificate indicates that a Roman Catholic Minister (among others) witnessed his burial.

The Toowoomba Council website for the Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery outlines that in 1864 a Deed of Grant in Trust was issued over an area of two acres (0.8094ha) to the Trustees of the Church of England for a Toowoomba cemetery. A later deed, issued in 1867, expanded this to eight acres (3.2 ha) and extended the trusteeship to various religious denominations. The dimensions of today's cemetery were laid down in 1882 when an area of 67 acres (27.11 ha) was gazetted for the Drayton & Toowoomba cemetery. Control of the cemetery was passed from the Trust to Toowoomba City Council in 1974. The first registered burial was in 1866, two years after Copley's burial in the Drayton and Toowoomba Burial Grounds. So, the Drayton and Toowoomba Burial Grounds and the Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery appear to be the same place but this needs to be confirmed. If they are the same place, the first registered burial there was two years after Copley's recorded year of burial.

A 'deceased search' search on the Toowoomba Council website for Daniel Copley and variations reveal nothing. A 'deceased search' using just Copley reveals that one Pierce Copley (44 years) was buried in the Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery on 31 May 1949. He is the only reference to a Copley being buried in the Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery. Toowoomba Council website also has the reference: *Photographs have been taken of all memorials at the Drayton & Toowoomba Cemetery and Oz Cemeteries have kindly donated photos of the regional cemeteries controlled by us. These photos have been linked to the records and are available to view/print via the deceased search.*

Using Wikipedia there is a reference that the cemetery was neglected during the 1960s and by the 1970s the earlier graves were overgrown with grasses, weeds and trees, and many headstones and grave surrounds had been vandalised or allowed to deteriorate.

The main issue from what I have learned so far is that it appears Daniel Copley was buried in the Drayton and Toowoomba Burial Grounds two years before the first registered burial. The year of Copley's burial was most certainly 1864 so it could be that the reference to the year of the first registered burial is a typographical error on the Toowoomba Council website. If the first registered burial was not in 1866 but 1864 it would indicate that Copley was buried in the Church of England section as other religious denominations did not have an exclusive area until 1867.

Can you HELP? We would be interested in contacting anyone who may be able to shine some light on the Copley mystery? Should you be able to provide some assistance, please contact the Secretary, FQPM at [www.friendsqpmuseum.com.au](http://www.friendsqpmuseum.com.au).

## **Carrick Thring – From Junior Member to Life Member**

Carrick Thring is 9 years of age and was born on 17 March 2007, the same year as the inauguration of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum. From an early age he developed an interest in all things police and military. His other great interest is the history of the RMS Titanic and other famous ship wrecks.



Carrick in Pranuka (Scout Movement) uniform.

His hobbies are collecting badges and coins and learning to play the trumpet. His favourite toys are his trains and cars.

He also enjoys reading and watching documentaries on YouTube.

He and his younger sister Kiera attend the Mahadika Primary School in Sanur, Bali. His favourite sport is selat (Indonesian martial arts).

Carrick is the son of former Committee Member and retired QPS officer Ed Thring. Ed and his family now reside in Bali.

The President and Committee of the FQPM extend congratulations to Carrick on his FQPM Life membership.

## **New and Elevated FQPM Members since the last Issue**

### **Most recent members:**

Christiana Burrell 162 (Junior Member)  
James Byrne 161 (Tasmania)  
Robert Cochrane 157  
Melissa Kirkpatrick 159  
Richard Power 160

### **Latest Life Members:**

Chris Burrell  
Peter Derges  
Jock MacDonald  
Ian Stewart  
Carrick Thring (former Junior Member)

## **Volunteers for Current Projects**

The FQPM are pleased to welcome on board volunteer Jodie Muir who is in the process of compiling a list of Queensland Police officers who were awarded Royal Humane Society of Australia (RHSA) medals or certificates

since their inception in 1874. This list will provide a single point of reference for anyone researching RHSA awards to members of the Queensland Police. It is likely that the FQPM will develop this list into a book form, covering the origins of the awards, together with the alphabetical list of the recipients.



Jodie Muir

Jodie Muir is a 23 year old undergraduate student at Griffith University in her final semester of a Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice with a future career interest in research, intelligence and policing.

Jodie has done an outstanding job in collating the RHSA list and has now volunteered to undertake the research and development of the lists of the final resting places of the former Commissioners of Police, officers named on the Honour/Remembrance Rolls.

These lists will provide information as to the specific location of the final resting place of the aforementioned officers, either by individual cemetery records, GPS coordinates or historic location descriptions.

As with much of the information collated by the FQPM, the Queensland Police Museum will update their QP historic personnel records held for research purposes.

### **Sam Johnson Biography – Volunteer/s**

We are still seeking a keen volunteer to undertake the task of researching and documenting the biography of Police Tracker, Sam Johnson. Sam had quite a long career with the Queensland Police, yet his known biographical details are somewhat fragmented and to be found in a number of repositories.

The FQPM are committed to documenting a detailed biography of Sam Johnson's life following the work undertaken by the Friends' 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 FQPM Secretary.

## FQPM Merchandising

### FQPM 10 Year Commemorative Challenge Coin

2017 marks the first decade of the operation of the FQPM (2007 – 2017) and commemorates 10 years of support to the Queensland Police Museum.

It was considered appropriate that a commemorative challenge coin be struck for the occasion and is represented by the FQPM badge on the obverse with the effigy of a police officer working a traffic point on the light blue over dark blue colours of the Queensland Police Service on the reverse. The pointsman was taken from a photograph taken in 1964 to commemorate 100 years of the QP. The image is that of Constable Richard Hausmann who resigned from the QP a short time later to run his family's farm, due to his father falling ill. The reverse design is reinforced with the words "Commemorating 10 years of Support to the Queensland Police Museum" with the dates "2007 – 2017".

This challenge coin is a limited edition and when they are sold, will not be reproduced.



The cost of the coins is \$12.00 and can be obtained from Melissa Kirkpatrick, the Queensland Police Museum or by contacting the Secretary FQPM. Contact details appear in this newsletter and the FQPM website at [www.friendsqpmuseum.com.au](http://www.friendsqpmuseum.com.au).

### 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.

Ph.one: +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

***Stocks are running low and this design will not be repeated.***

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)

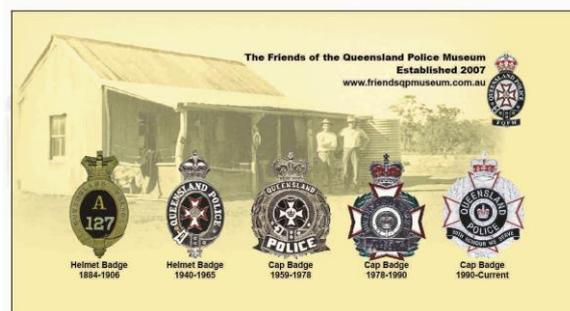
For further information concerning ordering arrangements please refer to the FQPM website (Shop) at [www.friendsqpmuseum.com.au](http://www.friendsqpmuseum.com.au)

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.**

### BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR!

The FQPM are in the process of producing a new stubby cooler depicting the five badges of the QPS together with the FQPM badge. These coolers will be available individually at \$5.00 each plus postage. Further detail will be sent out as soon as the artwork is finalised.



The final art work has been sent to the manufacturers and should look something like the above.

## 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 polo 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)

## Membership

Membership to the FQPM assists the Association 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 2017**

Wednesday 1 February 2017 1000 hr  
Wednesday 5 April 2017 1000 hr  
Wednesday 7 June 2017 1000 hr  
Wednesday 2 August 2017 1000 hr  
Wednesday 4 October 2017 0900 hr  
1000 hr (AGM)  
Wednesday 6 December 2017 1000 hr.

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  
0414 421347  
12 December 2016