

THE FRIENDS' GAZETTE

The newsletter of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum
4th Quarter Edition



FQPM President's Message

SEASONS GREETINGS

I would be pretty certain I'm not the only one asking the question: Where has the 2014 year gone? The year of course has had an extra buzz as the Queensland Police Service celebrated the sesquicentenary of its foundation in 1864. We at the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum were delighted to have a small role in these celebrations and the Management Committee focused its activity on a significant project in locating and restoring the grave of the very first Commissioner of Police Mr David Thompson Seymour. We of course did not know that our project would be two fold as we discovered Mr Seymour was buried in London and his first family have a family grave in Toowong Cemetery, Brisbane.

Friday the 5th of December witnessed the culmination of a year of research, fundraising and organising the restoration of the Toowong grave with a ceremony to rededicate and unveil a commemorative plaque on the restored site. The London grave site is to have a similar ceremony on the 30th January 2015 when the Agent -General for Queensland, Mr Ken Smith will host a rededication and commemorative plaque unveiling on behalf of the Queensland Police Service.

As this year comes to a close, we are already in planning mode for a significant project for 2015. Our Management Committee has identified an oversight that will be corrected when the grave of Police Tracker Sam Johnson, the only survivor of the police party sent to arrest the Kenniff Brothers early last century, will be suitably marked with a headstone at the Longreach Cemetery.

I am pleased to announce that most members of the committee have been returned at the AGM in October however two members have departed through the year and I take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of Ed Thring and Richard Batty for their work with the FQPM in recent years.

I thank our members and sponsors for their financial assistance through the year in particular the Queensland Police Credit Union for the major sponsorship of the Seymour Project.

My very best wishes to you and your families for this Christmas season and good health and contentment in 2015.

Bob Burns APM
President. FQPM

First Commissioner David Thompson Seymour Grave Project Lewisham, United Kingdom.

During 2014, the FQPM in cooperation with the Queensland Police Service have been finalising the arrangements for the monument restoration and construction of a plaque to be placed on the grave of Queensland's first Commissioner of Police David Thompson Seymour at Hither Green Cemetery in Lewisham in south-east London.



Seymour family grave in Hither Green Cemetery in Lewisham, London. Preparatory restoration has now commenced.

We had experienced some difficulties in securing an appropriate restorer located in the near vicinity of Hither Green who was prepared to take on the job. We eventually engaged a monument restorer from Lewisham but unfortunately some time was taken in assessing the work required. It was necessary to engage the assistance of our colleagues from the Metropolitan Police Historical Collections Group through their Chair Sioban Clark, who made personal representations on our

behalf to the restorer and in a short time we received correspondence outlining the estimates to clean the monument, repaint the inscriptions and to position a memorial granite plaque acknowledging D T Seymour as first Commissioner in this the 150th year of policing in Queensland.

It is anticipated that the restoration work and plaque inscription should be completed by mid-January 2015 for the rededication ceremony at the site on the 30 January 2015. The Seymour descendants and guests will also be invited to attend a small gathering hosted by the Agent General for Queensland at a local venue.

Police Tracker Sam Johnson Project

Police Tracker Sam Johnson, died in Longreach in 1919. Today Sam's last resting place is still unmarked. Sam's evidence was crucial in the

conviction of the Kenniff brothers concerning the murder of Constable George Doyle and station manager Albert Dahlke at Lethbridge's Pocket in 1902. Sam was the sole survivor of the police clash with the Kenniff brothers.

It was agreed by the FQPM Management Committee that his grave deserves the dignity of a headstone. Although unmarked, it could be located with accuracy from cemetery burial records and in relationship to adjacent graves.

The FQPM have established contact with the Officer in Charge of Longreach Police, Senior Sergeant Graham Seabrook and the CEO of the Longreach Regional Council Mark Watt, who have indicated that they are keen and available to assist the FQPM with the project and are prepared to undertake local research into Sam's life in Longreach, including the history of his wife, of whom there is very little known.



The grave site of Police Tracker Sam Johnson at Longreach Cemetery

Stephanie Thompson at the Longreach Regional Council also provided additional information concerning the Johnson grave, "We had a look through our cemetery records and have found the late Sam Johnson died on 22 June 1919. Our records indicate that he died of Influenza Broncho-Pneumonia. Sam was buried on 23 June 1919 and his grave is located in Section Three of the old cemetery in Longreach. The grave number is P632".

In the attached photo there are two key numbers - A632 is the marker for Sam, although it is noted on the plan copy as P632. Apparently that is a known anomaly with some markings. The other marker A309 indicates another person is buried with Sam. It is presumed that it may have been his wife, however there appears no available information to confirm this.

Hilda Maclean, Immediate Past President of the Friends of the Toowong Cemetery and historian, has offered to undertake research on behalf of the FQPM on Sam Johnson, in particular obtain some detail of his wife, who in preliminary research is not referred to by her name.

The Sam Johnson project will recommence in earnest in mid-January 2015.

Seymour Family Grave Restoration Project & Rededication Ceremony 5 December 2014 - Toowong Cemetery

Research into the location of first Commissioner, David Thompson Seymour's grave was undertaken in order to place a commemorative plaque to honour his role as the first Commissioner of the newly formed Queensland Police in 1864 and also to acknowledge his 31 years contribution to policing in Queensland as Commissioner.

Research revealed that although the Seymour family grave was established in the Toowong Cemetery in Brisbane following the death of Mrs Caroline Seymour in 1884, Mr Seymour himself was not interred at that place. Mr Seymour had remarried in 1888 and following his retirement in 1895 moved between Brisbane and London where he died in 1916.



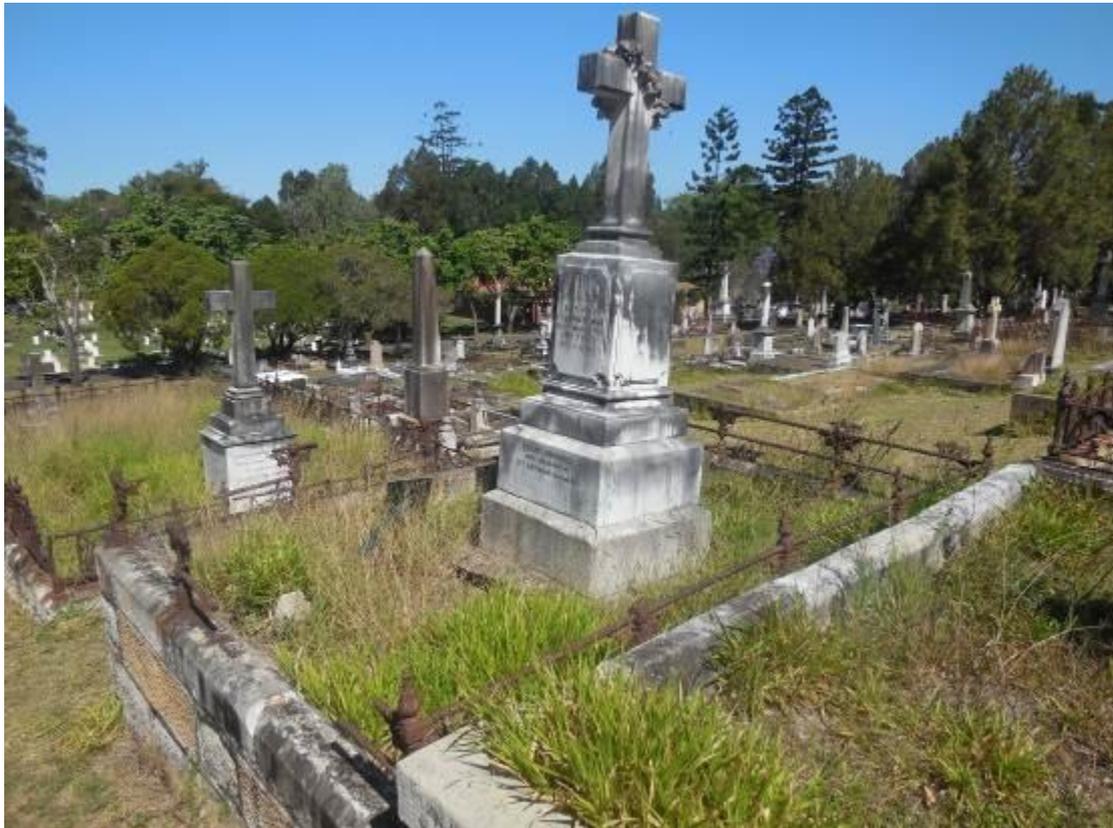
Commissioner Ian Stewart and Bob Burns, President of the FQPM unveil the commemorative plaque on 5 December 2015

The location of the family grave in Toowong Cemetery together with the prospect of a grave in London provided the FQPM with a parallel project. The Toowong grave, a family plot and substantial in size was in need of urgent restoration. An assessment of the site together with a program to restore the family grave was sought from Brisbane Memorial Care+Repair.

The FQPM together with some financial assistance from the Queensland Police Credit Union and the QPS managed the project and the restoration work was completed.

The dedication ceremony of the Seymour Family grave in Toowong Cemetery was conducted by Senior Police Chaplain Graeme Ramsden OAM on Friday 5th December 2014 which included the unveiling of a commemorative plaque by Commissioner Ian Stewart and Mr Bob Burns, President of the FQPM.

The following photograph will give a clear indication of the challenge that confronted the FQPM in undertaking the restoration of the Seymour family grave at Toowong. The monument was badly undermined and at a severely tilted.



A photograph taken before any restoration work on the Seymour family grave.

The FQPM were delighted to receive some additional information concerning the Seymour family. The Friends of Toowong Cemetery (FOTC) in conjunction with the Archaeology Department of the Queensland University are currently engaged in a project (dig) to recover some 2500 headstones buried at Toowong cemetery together with a number from the old Paddington Cemetery.

President FOTC Darcy Mattock wrote and advised that they had recovered the Paddington Cemetery headstone of the late Sherriff of Queensland William Anthony Brown who died in 1866. The information of interest to the FQPM was that his grandson Thomas Seymour, the son of David Thompson Seymour had also been interred in the same grave.

The inscription read as follows:

Sacred
To
The Memory of
William Anthony Brown
Late Sherriff of Queensland
Died 12th February 1866
Also
Of his grandson
Thomas Seymour
Son of
David T Seymour
Died 18th June

Inscription on the recovered Paddington Cemetery headstone



Portion of the Paddington Cemetery headstone for William Anthony Brown with reference to his grandson Thomas Seymour



Restored Seymour family grave 5 December 2014.

FQPM Stubby Coolers



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

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 FortitudeValley.



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

Orders can also be placed by contacting Committee Member Dennis Peters on 0427 037 860. Orders can be posted or picked up from Queensland Police Headquarters, 200 Roma Street, Brisbane 4000.

QP150 Commemorative Plaques

Two Queenslandshaped plaques have been produced by Alex Gordon-Jones to raise funds for the FQPM. They celebrate the 150 years of policing in Queensland. The first plaque displays five (5) halved sized cap badges, whilst the other displays a full-sized Queen Victoria helmet plate A127 next to the current Queensland Police Service cap badge.

Both these plaques are available in limited numbers only and are very collectible celebrating the QP150. Ideal as a nice farewell gift in this special year.

The plaques are offered at the following prices:

5 badge plaque	\$100.00
2 badge plaque	\$70.00

Postage applies.

Purchases can be made by contacting Alex Gordon-Jones on 0421 637892 or alexjones58@optusnet.com.au



QP150 Commemorative plaques

This will be the last opportunity to obtain one of these very collectable plaques.

FQPM Website

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

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

FQPM Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The FQPM AGM was held in the Court Room at the Queensland Police Museum at 1000 hours on Thursday 2 October 2014. The following members were elected to the FQPM Management Committee:

President	Bob Burns
Vice President	Brett Pointing
Treasurer	Position not filled
Secretary	Ian Townsley
Committee	Clare Hackett
	Grant Linwood
	Rob McCall
	Mark Plath
	Dennis Peters
	Geoff Sheldon

The next Management Committee meeting will be held at the Media Conference Room Ground Floor PHQ at 1000 hours on Thursday 5 February 2015.

Treasurer FQPM& Committee Vacancy

The position of Treasurer has now been filled by Management Committee member Rob McCall. Congratulations Rob on your appointment.

Rob's progression to the position of Treasurer now creates a casual vacancy as a member of the Management Committee. Should any FQPM member wish to be considered or nominate another member for the casual vacancy, please forward nomination/s to the FQPM Secretary. The vacancy will be discussed at the Management Committee meeting on the 5 February 2015.

Management Committee Meetings

The following are the scheduled Management Committee meetings for 2015:

Thursday 5 February 2015	1000 hours	Media Conf. Room
Thursday 2 April 2015	1000 hours	Media Conf. Room
4 June 2015	1000 hours	Media Conf. Room
6 August 2015	1000 hours	Media Conf. Room
1 October 2015	0900 hours	Media Conf. Room
1 October 2015 (AGM)	1000 hours	Museum Court Room
3 December 2015	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 membership approximately ten (10) days prior to the meeting. Should you wish to contribute an agenda item or a submission, please forward to the Secretary by the Close of Business on the Monday prior to the Meeting?

Ian Townsley
Secretary FQPM
30 December 2014