

THE FRIENDS' GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum
2nd Quarter 2015 Edition



FQPM President's Message

I would like to welcome a number of new members to our organisation, all of whom have expressed the desire to contribute to the work being done to ensure the history of the Queensland Police is recorded and conserved and I also thank all our current members for your continued support.

It is with some sadness that I express the condolences of the FQPM Committee and Members to one of our Life Members and former Management Committee Member Greg Early on the passing of his wife Ruby.

I mentioned in our previous Gazette that a number of new projects were under consideration for our programme this year. The unmarked grave of Tracker Sam Johnson, a significant figure in the conviction of the Kenniff Brothers for murder is now progressing with assistance of local historians. Another matter relating to the death of an on duty police officer in 1865 is also gaining momentum following a number of inquiries from members of the public. I am also pleased to see inquiries being made by community members relating to police items of historical significance that are in their custody and that relate to family members of some generations past.

I look forward to your continued support as the FQPM embark on the projects for this year.

Bob Burns, President FQPM

Recognition of Generous Donations

The FQPM are indeed fortunate to have been recently bestowed with two very generous financial donations. As you are aware the FQPM does not receive any Government funding but relies solely on memberships, donations and merchandising income to acquire the necessary revenue to achieve our objectives.

The FQPM was contacted by former Assistant Commissioner Peter Swindells who was a committee/signatory member of a working committee formed at the Queensland Police Academy to raise funding to refurbish the Avenue of Remembrance. A very short account of the circumstances surrounding the raising of the funds follows: The remaining funds were subsequently donated to the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum.

Early in 2000 some adverse comments had been received concerning the run-down condition of the Avenue of Remembrance at the Queensland Police Academy. As a result, a small working committee was formed to

examine the situation and raise funds for the restoration. Clem O'Regan and Peter Swindells were appointed signatories for the restoration account.

Discussions were held to formulate proposals on how to raise funds. Further discussions were held with John Just, the then QPS Finance Officer. John was very supportive and eventually a concept plan was developed through the Department of Works. The Committee set about raising funds and John Just followed up on how best to seek Government assistance, however a number of events overtook us. The Government of the day decided to fund the building of a new Police Academy at Gailles. Brett Pointing was later appointed as the QPS project officer and we had discussions with him and he indicated that it may be possible to incorporate the concept plan into the new academy as there was provision for some type of remembrance concept. This was then the position until in later years when the Government withdrew funding for a new academy and everything was put on hold.

In recent years many of the members of the Committee had moved on and the proposal lapsed. There had been some funds raised by the committee and after consultation with some of the stakeholders it was decided to donate this money to the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum to assist with the restoration of the historical and significant graves of Queensland Police Officers.



FQPM President Bob Burns with Assistant Commissioner Clem O'Regan and former Assistant Commissioner Peter Swindells at the Queensland Police Museum 10 June 2015

The proceeds of the donation will be allocated specifically for the maintenance of former Queensland Police officer's graves for which the FQPM have accepted responsibility. The President and Management Committee of the FQPM extend their sincere gratitude for the funds received.



FQPM President Bob Burns, Curator Queensland Police Museum Lisa Jones and Alex Gordon-Jones on the 10 June 2015

In early 2014, the FQPM was approached by Alex Gordon-Jones who had undertaken a project to design and develop two styles of Queensland Police commemorative plaques. He proposed that the proceeds of the sale of the plaques was to be donated to the FQPM.

On the 10 June 2015, Alex handed the FQPM President a cheque as well as presenting an example of each of the plaques to the Queensland Police Museum to the Curator Lisa Jones.

A number of the plaques are still available and can be obtained by contacting Alex Gordon-Jones on 0421 637 892.

Progress of the Sam Johnson Project

Project Background

Police Tracker Sam Johnson died in Longreach in 1919. Today Sam's last resting place at the Longreach Cemetery 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.

Progress to date

The FQPM carried out as much research and restoration coordination arrangements remotely from Longreach and the decision was made to travel out to Longreach and negotiate with the locals and finalise preparations.



Longreach Cemetery. Sam Johnson's grave is centre photo with the two markers at the head on 4 June 2015

The President Bob Burns and Secretary Ian Townsley travelled by car out to Longreach on the 1 June 2015 and returning on the 4 June 2015. Following meetings with the Longreach Regional Council representatives, the dilemma of the exact location of Sam's grave was put to rest, however during the course of the detailed inquiries it was revealed that Sam's grave location was confirmed. We are very grateful for the preliminary work carried out by FQPM member Peter Keegan, who undertook significant research in an attempt to precisely locate Sam's grave.

We were fortunate to be able to talk with the Longreach contractors John and Kaye Kuhn at the cemetery site to discuss the design of the proposed memorial. They provided an estimate for the work which has subsequently been approved by the FQPM Management Committee.

Proposed design and estimate

Propose a sandstone rock approximately 750mm in height set into a reinforced concrete slab measuring 3000mm x 1200mm.

The slab will be reinforced with steel mesh with a 300mm rat wall set on 6 piers approx. 1200mm x 300mm. This will minimise any movement in the black soil.

The plaque is to be attached to the sandstone – sandstone provided in total cost.

Plaque to be provided by FQPM.

Total of proposed work - \$3100.

Additional expenditure will be incurred with the production of an appropriately designed cast bronze plaque which will be attached securely to the sandstone headstone.

It has been agreed that an unveiling/dedication ceremony will be held as soon as practicable once the restoration is complete. Discussions were held with representatives from the Central Queensland Indigenous Development Ltd in Longreach to ensure that no cultural issues impede the project or subsequent dedication ceremony. The local indigenous people have been invited to contribute to the dedication.

Sam Johnson Biography - Volunteers

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 are therefore seeking volunteer/s who would be prepared to continue the research and record Sam's biography, although quite an amount of material has already been gathered. Should you be interested in undertaking this project, please contact the Secretary FQPM.

Acquisitions for Queensland Police Museum

The acquisition of suitable items for the Queensland Police Museum (QPM) has now taken a step forward with the appointment of our new Historical Objects Purchasing Officer (HOPO) Geoffrey Sheldon. Geoff has been very energetic in searching for and acquiring items for the Queensland Police Museum.

Geoff recently negotiated the purchase and acquisition of three QPS commemorative swords and a QP bayonet, scabbard and frog. The swords consisted of the 1982 Commonwealth Games, the 1987 World EXPO with poignard and the 1988 Bi-centennial.

The QPM were deficient a specimen of the 1987 World EXPO sword. Due to the sale arrangements settled by the vendor, the FQPM took advantage

of the offer and purchased all three. Arrangements will be made in due course to offer the 1982 and 1988 swords for sale.

DO YOU HAVE ITEMS OF SIGNIFICANCE TO DONATE?

The Friends of the Queensland Police Museum (FQPM) are always interested in obtaining items of Queensland Police historical significance. Should you have any item/s that you believe may be of interest, please contact the FQPM on secretary@friendsqpmuseum.com.au.

Should you wish some advice concerning the disposal of police uniforms or equipment, the matter can be discussed with the Secretary or any member of the FQPM Management Committee? They would also be delighted to discuss any donation you may wish to make.



QP bayonet, scabbard and frog together with the three commemorative QPS swords

A presentation of the 1987 commemorative sword was conducted at the Queensland Police Museum (QPM) on the 10 June 2015. The FQPM President Bob Burns handed the acquisition to Lisa Jones, Curator of the Queensland Police Museum



FQPM President Bob Burns presenting the 1987 QPS commemorative EXPO sword to the Curator of the Queensland Police Museum Lisa Jones.

Friends of the Toowong Cemetery

The Friends of the Toowong Cemetery (FTC) conduct an annual 'dig' with archaeology students from the Queensland University and have recovered



Friends of the Toowong Cemetery and Queensland University 'dig'. Headstone leaning against tree.

some historically significant headstones. During the 2014 'dig' the 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. Previously the recovered headstone were covered up for the next 'dig'. The Brisbane City Council has now given approval for historic headstones to be retained and placed at the Toowong Cemetery.

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

Now that the offer has been made to the FQPM to accept the historic headstone, the dilemma is now "What do we do with it"? Decisions, decisions! Should you have any ideas, please contact the Secretary 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 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 Orders can also be placed by contacting Committee Member Rob McCall on 0439 794 000. 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

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

New FQPM Members

The President and Management Committee of the FQPM extend a warm welcome to the new members who joined us since the last *Gazette*:

Thallon Keegan – Roma
 Gavin Ricketts – Caloundra
 Alex Gordon-Jones – The Gap

We also extend our thanks and congratulations to the following members who are now Paid Life Members:

Rob McCall
 Duncan Campbell
 John McCormack
 Warren Young

Management Committee Meetings

Due to an administrative issue the FQPM Management Committee meetings will be held on the first Wednesday every two months. The following are the scheduled Management Committee meetings for the remainder of 2015:

5 August 2015	1000 hours	Media Conf. Room
30 September 2015	0900 hours	Media Conf. Room
30 September 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 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 the meeting.

Next Edition:

- Search for the location of Acting Sub Inspector Cecil Hill's grave
- Resolution to decide the final resting place for the historic Seymour headstone.

Ian Townsley
Secretary FQPM
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9 March 2015