

# THE FRIENDS' GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum  
Fourth Quarter 2015 Edition



## Season's Greetings

I am delighted to again express my sincere appreciation to all the FQPM members who have contributed to a wonderful 2015 in support of the Queensland Police Museum. We can look back with great pride in what has been achieved and at the same time be excited by the increased interest shown in our activities and the opportunities for the FQPM to be involved in maintaining our history and heritage.

Our desire to honour our people was highlighted this year with the recognition of a permanent memorial and headstone on Police Tracker Corporal Sam Johnson's grave on National Police Remembrance Day at Longreach.

I would like to express my appreciation for the work done by the members of the Management Committee who together with QPM Curator Lisa Jones and her staff of the Queensland Police Museum have made a significant contribution to the police historical story.

I thank our FQPM members, donors and sponsors, Queensland Police Credit Union, Queensland Police Union of Employees and the Queensland Police Service who have once again been very supportive during the last 12 months.

My very best wishes to you and your families for the coming Christmas season and good health and happiness for 2016.

Bob Burns

## FQPM President's Message

The Annual General Meeting is now concluded and our management committee is set for the next twelve months. I welcome the new members and I thank the retiring members who have given their time and expertise to our organisation over a number of years. The AGM followed the completion of our major project for this year when the Queensland Police Service, the Queensland Police Union of Employees and the FQPM formally unveiled and dedicated the grave of police tracker Corporal Sam Johnson at the Longreach Cemetery. This ceremony took place prior to the National Police Remembrance Day service at the Stockman's Hall of Fame and was attended by a large crowd including local, state and regional council representatives, the aboriginal community and local police officers and their families. It came as no surprise that some historical police related stories

were raised and there is every chance additional police heritage sites will now be identified. I would like to thank all those members who contributed to the success of this project particularly member Peter Keegan of Roma, Longreach Police command and our Secretary Ian Townsley for the organisation of the dedication ceremony. The Regional Assistant Commissioner Tony Wright observed that the dedication of this memorial to Sam Johnson completed the circle as the memorials to the two men who perished in the Kenniff saga have been in place for some years.

I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support as we strive to enhance our three principles of recording our history, saving our heritage and honouring our people.

Bob Burns, President FQPM

### **Presentations to the Queensland Police Museum (QPM)**

The FQPM continue to provide significant historic assets to the Queensland Police Museum. A presentation of a QP150 Limited Edition Commemorative Sword which had been suitably engraved was made to the Curator of the QPM by the President of the FQPM, Bob Burns at the conclusion of the AGM on the 30 September 2015. This sword will now complete a series of QPS commemorative swords that have been produced since 1982.



(Left) FQPM President Bob Burns presenting Queensland Police Museum Curator Lisa Jones with the QP150 Commemorative sword. (Right) Committee Member Wayne Coyne presents the Curator with a bound copy of the Queensland Police Operation Order for the Royal Visit 1954

FQPM Committee Member Wayne Coyne presented to the Curator a bound copy of the Queensland Police (QP) Operation Order for the Visit to Queensland of Her Majesty, the Queen in 1954. The document was a legacy from Wayne's father Andrew Coyne QPM who served with distinction in the

QP. Additionally, a signed letter by the then Commissioner John Smith was included. This presentation is very significant, in terms of the Queensland Police operational history.

### **History Group Exhibition Brisbane City Hall 19 November 2015**

On the 16 October 2015, the FQPM received an invitation from the Office of the Lord Mayor, Brisbane to attend Brisbane's History Group Exhibition morning tea and display on Thursday 19 November 2015.

The FQPM established a display in the Sherwood Room of City Hall where a range of historic Queensland Police and recent FQPM project photographs were exhibited, together with the newly acquired FQPM banner.



Ian Townsley and Bob Burns at the Brisbane History Group Exhibition at the Brisbane City Hall on 19 November 2015

FQPM President Bob Burns and Secretary Ian Townsley represented the Association and fielded many inquiries about the FQPM and the Queensland Police generally. We were fortunate to meet quite a few close relatives of now retired or deceased officers.

The FQPM wish to express our gratitude to the Queensland Museum staff Virginia, Duncan and Georgia who assisted in transporting the display items from and returning to Police Headquarters.

The FQPM are now registered with the Brisbane History Group and will take the opportunity to attend future events organised by the Group.

### **Restoration and Placement of Samuel Seymour Headstone**

In 2014, the FQPM completed two significant projects in connection with the first Commissioner of the Queensland Police, David Thompson Seymour.

With invaluable assistance from the Metropolitan Police History Collections Group in London, the grave of David Thompson Seymour at Hither Green Cemetery at Lewisham, London was restored and a dedication ceremony held. It was attended by the Agent-General for Queensland, senior Metropolitan Police members and the family members of David Seymour.

The Seymour family grave which the FQPM found in a very dilapidated state located in the Toowong Cemetery was restored after some fine work by our contractors, Brisbane Memorial Care + Repair. The project was suitably concluded with a well-attended unveiling and dedication ceremony.



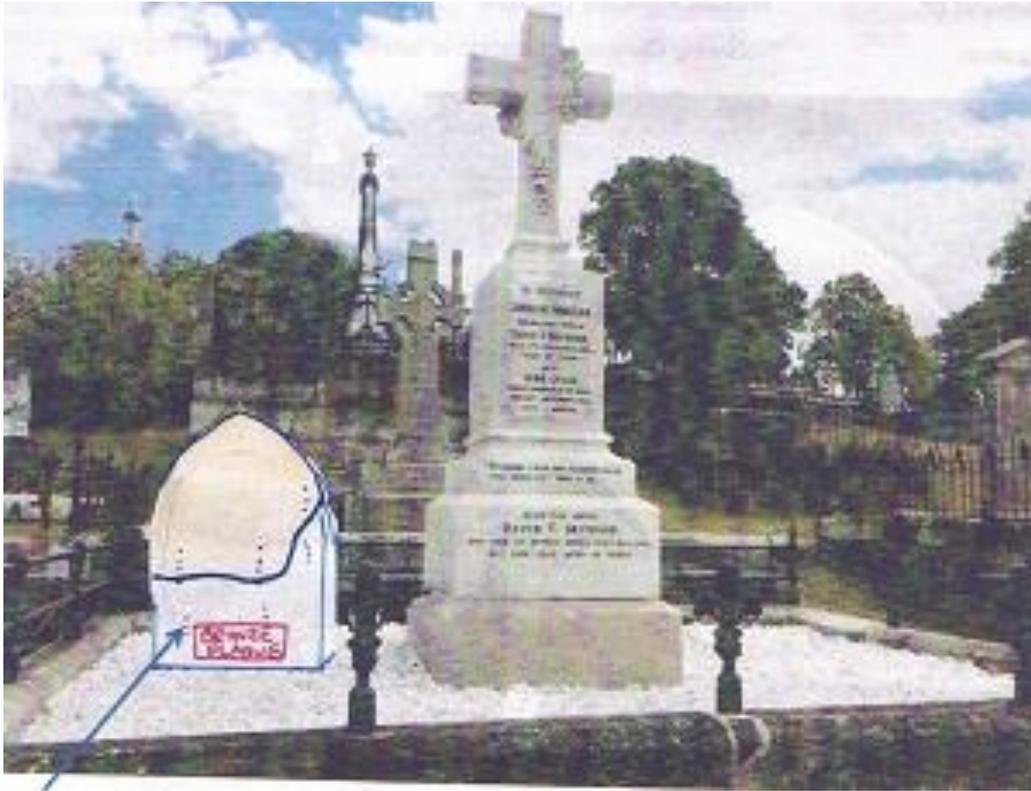
The Friends of the Toowong Cemetery who made a significant contribution to the Seymour grave project, in particular, the dedication ceremony arrangements, located the headstone of William Anthony Brown former Sheriff of the High Court in Queensland during the course of their annual archaeological dig with students from the Queensland University. On the same headstone, which

regrettably has some of the portion missing, was the details of Thomas Seymour the son of David Thompson Seymour, who had been interred with his grandfather. William Anthony Brown and Thomas Seymour were initially buried in the initially buried in the Paddington Cemetery, now Lang Park which is why the headstone ended up at Toowong, together with many others.

The FQPM Management Committee approved the concept of restoring the memorial and obtained an estimate to have the headstone located with the Seymour family grave at Toowong. A quote was obtained from Brisbane Memorial Care + Repair which included fabricating a reinforced off-form concrete 'ghost' to replicate the missing section in profile, connect the existing sandstone to 'ghost' using stainless steel dowel and insert the entire headstone upright in new 'sleeved' concrete footing adjacent to the existing Seymour family headstone. The estimate obtained amounted to \$2145.00.

It was noted that the sandstone headstone remnant is in good condition with little damage to the remaining top section. The proposed site of installation has recently installed concrete footing on the left side of the site under the gravel (poured in September 2014 when the Seymour memorial was restored). The existing Seymour memorial has no lettering on the side where the proposed installation would be placed so as not to obstruct family details.

The Management Committee considered the matter at a meeting on 2 December 2015 and approved the quotation and subsequent expenditure.



Proposed location and design of the restored headstone (a biographical commemorative plaque would be attached to the bottom of the 'ghost' section).

### **Update on Current Project – Research and Compile a list of Queensland Police recipients of the Kings Police & Fire Services Medal (KPFSM), Queen’s Police Medal (QPM)**

At a recent FQPM Management Committee Meeting, the issue was raised that there was no single point of reference where a researcher could readily find the Queensland Police recipients of the King’s Police Medal (KPM)(later the King’s Police and Fire services Medal)(KPFSM), the Queen’s Police Medal (QPM) or the Australian Police Medal (APM).

It was agreed that a list of recipients should be collated with additional information in instances where the medals were awarded under significant circumstances.

Should you have any information that may assist in the compilation of this comprehensive research document, please contact the Secretary FQPM.

### **Imperial Service Order/Medal**

A significant amount of work has to date gone into collating information concerning the award of the Imperial Service Order and the Imperial Service Medal to Queensland Police recipients. These medals were awarded to retired members of the Queensland Police between 1907 and 1956.

As all the awards were presented after the officer’s retirement from the Queensland Police, it has been decided to include additional information

about the recipients, including any other awards that they may have received during their service.

The list, together with information about the awards will be presented in a book form and it is expected that it will be available through the FQPM.

We would be interested in hearing from anyone who can provide any additional information concerning Queensland Police recipients or these particular awards. Photographs of recipients would be of assistance.

### **FQPM Banner**



After significant design consultation and general discussion, the FQPM banner has now been finalised. It was first erected in conjunction with the Brisbane City Council History Group Exhibition at the City Hall on the 19 November 2015.

It is intended that the banner will be raised at all functions attended by the FQPM

### **Appointment of FQPM Website Administrator**

At times the management of the FQPM Website can be an arduous and sometimes complex responsibility. The Management Committee have considered an offer from former Committee Member, Website Administrator and Life Member Ed Thring, who is now living in Bali. Ed was the Administrator when the Website went live and has become proficient with the intricacies of the system.

The Committee considered Ed's offer at the Management Committee meeting on the 30 September 2015 and has decided to accept.

Ed commenced his responsibilities as at the 1 October 2015. Should you have any suggestions or queries concerning the FQPM Website, please contact the Website Administrator through [www.friendsqpmuseum.com.au](http://www.friendsqpmuseum.com.au).

### **Potential project - Thomas James Heaney & Benjamin Ebbitt**

Former Queensland Police Officers, Sergeant Thomas James Heaney and Constable Benjamin Ebbitt both died of injuries sustained whilst on duty. Heaney in 1906 and Ebbitt in 1894. The Queensland Police Service Honours and Awards Unit is currently researching their service with a view of having their names included on the Honour Roll. The submission is to be considered in the week commencing 7 December 2015 and it is expected that a decision will be made by the end of December 2015.

Sergeant Thomas Heaney died on the 27 September 1906 (40 years) after being superannuated out of the Queensland Police on the 1 January 1906, owing to the horrific injuries he received in the courageous discharge of his duty some sixteen months earlier. In late 1906, he was posthumously awarded the first Queensland Police Merit Medal.

Constable Benjamin Ebbitt died on the 10 May 1894 (24 years) in South Brisbane. He have been suffering the ill effects of a brutal assault when he had occasion to interfere between two men fighting, whilst he was stationed in Croydon. The men ceased their own quarrel and turned on the Constable and seriously assaulted him. One of the men picked up a stone and struck him in the ear, rupturing his eardrum. He also sustained internal injuries. After being ill for some time in Croydon, he came to Brisbane for medical treatment. His heath improved marginally, only to develop consumption, from which he subsequently died.

The FQPM were requested to assist initially in locating the graves of both former members at the Toowong Cemetery. The grave of Benjamin Ebbitt was located, however in a dilapidated state and there is currently no marker or headstone on the location where Thomas Heaney's grave is positioned.

The FQPM have obtained quotes for the restoration of Ebbitt's grave and the installation of a suitable headstone on Heaney's grave. The development of a project plan and the commencement of any restoration work will be dependent upon the decision made to include the former Queensland Police officer's names on the Honour Roll.



Benjamin Ebbitt grave at the Toowong Cemetery.

## 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 is 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.

## 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](http://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.

This 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.

### **Historical Objects Purchasing Officer (HOPO) Report**

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

Should you become aware of any items of significant Queensland Police history, please advise the HOPO on 0423 206 838 or [sheldon.geoff@police.qld.gov.au](mailto:sheldon.geoff@police.qld.gov.au).

### **DO YOU HAVE ITEMS OF QUEENSLAND POLICE SIGNIFICANCE TO DONATE?**

The Friends of the Queensland Police Museum (FQPM) is 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](mailto: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, the HOPO or any member of the FQPM Management Committee? We would also be delighted to discuss any donation you may wish to make.

## Volunteers for Current Projects

The FQPM is 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 on [secretary@friendsqpmuseum.com.au](mailto:secretary@friendsqpmuseum.com.au).

## Membership

Renewal of your membership will assist FQPM 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 Website

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

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

## **FQPM Management Committee Appointments 2015/16**

Congratulations and best wishes to the 2015/16 FQPM Management Committee. The following members were appointed to the FQPM Management Committee at the AGM held on Wednesday 30 September 2015:

President:	Bob Burns
Vice President	Brett Pointing
Treasurer	Rob McCall
Secretary	Ian Townsley (Membership Officer)

Committee

Mark Plath (Internal Auditor)  
Dennis Peters  
Kevin Darch  
Geoff Sheldon (HOPO)  
Cameron Kirkpatrick  
Wayne Coyne

### **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:

3 February 2016	1000 hours	Media Conf. Room.
6 April 2016	1000 hours	Media Conf. Room.
1 June 2016	1000 hours	Media Conf. Room.
3 August 2016	1000 hours	Media Conf. Room.
5 October 2016	0900 hours	Media Conf. Room.
5 October 2016 (AGM)	1000 hours	Museum Court Room.
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 an appropriately sized venue can be booked, if necessary.

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.

Ian Townsley  
Secretary FQPM  
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0414 421347  
14 December 2015