

## Introduction

The Friends of the Queensland Police Museum (FQPM) have been extremely active in the past months on a range of issues, in particular with a focus on projects associated with the Queensland Police 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations.

### **First Commissioner David Thompson Seymour Project**

In early 2013, the President of the FQPM Bob Burns APM had informal discussions with Commissioner Ian Stewart APM concerning the project the FQPM had undertaken in order to locate the burial place and research the family background of the first Commissioner of the Queensland Police (QP) David Thompson Seymour. The Commissioner expressed an interest in pursuing the project in light of the QP150 Celebrations.

Tracing the Seymour family history proved a real challenge due to the extended family from two marriages, his first wife Caroline Matilda Seymour had died in Brisbane and was buried at Toowong Cemetery. Caroline and David were married in Brisbane in 1864, the year he was appointed the Police Commissioner.

Further children resulted from his second marriage. Some family members were eventually located in Victoria and Western Australia as well as the United Kingdom.

It was later established after considerable leg work that David Thompson Seymour had retired to England and had passed away in 1916 and buried in Hither Green Cemetery in Lewisham in the south-east of England.



*David Thompson Seymour's grave at Hither Green Cemetery, London SW*

During the course of inquiries in England, a close working association was developed with our counter-parts, the Friends of the Metropolitan Police Historical Collection (Friends), in particular through their Chair, Sioban Clark.

The Friends arranged a preliminary clean up and removed some of the long grass together with the build-up of moss and green mould so as to ascertain the precise wording on the monument and confirming that Mr Seymour was buried there along with his second wife Sara.

The FQPM continued negotiations with the Lewisham Council with a view to having the monument restored and a plaque placed to commemorate both the QP150 Celebrations and the significance of David Thompson Seymour as the first Commissioner of the Queensland Police.

We were at a stage with the project that the Lewisham Council had agreed to our proceeding with the work on the monument and the placement of a plaque providing that we completed an indemnity document as it was a private grave and therefore required family consent. Additionally, an application and costs were to be submitted to the Council.

Recently the whole concept of the project changed when in April this year.

A young girl in her early 20's knocked on the door of the Queensland Police Curator Lisa Jones. She identified herself and asked if she could find out any information about her ancestor, Police Commissioner David Seymour.

Ms Jones said it was a jaw-dropping moment.

"It was the most amazing thing. I just said, "Really?" She was completely unaware of all that had been going on and it was purely by chance that she came here at this time," Ms Jones said.

"She is a lovely girl and we were delighted to be able to show her the photos and D.T. Seymour's file."

Commissioner Ian Stewart was also amazed to hear of the chance encounter and asked to meet Ms Proudlock. He had the opportunity at a morning tea in May, along with FQPM President Bob Burns and Secretary Ian Townsley, where he presented her with a QP150 commemorative book.



Commissioner Ian Stewart, Lucy Proudlock, Lisa Jones (Curator QPM), Ian Townsley (Secretary FQPM), Bob Burns (President FQPM).



Commissioner Ian Stewart presenting Lucy Proudlock with a QP150 Book.

Since returning to London, Lucy Proudlock has advised that the whole family has become very excited about the prospect of a plaque for their ancestor's grave and they all plan to attend when it is eventually installed later in the year.

The association with Lucy and her family has certainly simplified the administrative process in finalising the arrangements as planned in completing the FQPM DT Seymour grave project.

#### **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 Doyle and station manager Dahlke in 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, in relation to adjacent graves.

The information concerning the unmarked grave was brought to the notice of the FQPM through now member, Mr Peter Keegan of Roma who is currently researching the arrest of the Kenniff brothers and their subsequent conviction (as a matter of interest, Constable Doyle and Mr Dalke are memorialised on a property at Tamrookum near Rathdowney).



Memorial at Tamrookum

A significant amount of research will need to be undertaken to ensure that no cultural sensitivities are impinged during the process.

We believe that this is a historically and culturally significant issue that would be fitting to undertake as part of the QP2014 celebrations and as a consequence the FQPM have communicated with the QPS QP150 Celebrations Committee to gauge interest from the QPS in joining with us in proceeding with the project. We are still awaiting a reply.

### **Stubby Coolers**

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

### **Farewells and Welcomes**

The President and Committee of the FQPM extend our thanks and best wishes to Committee Member (Website Administrator) Ed Thring, his wife Anna and family. Ed is retiring from the QPS shortly and is moving house to Bali. His position has been filled by Senior Sergeant Dennis Peters who we know will do a fine job.

Following discussions with the Commissioners Chief of Staff Superintendent Peter Fleming concerning the appointment of a Commissioner's Representative on the FQPM Committee, Acting Inspector Ken Collin was appointed. We look forward to working with Ken in the future.

### **Presentation to Metropolitan Police Historical Group**

The FQPM are very grateful to the Friends of the Metropolitan Museum Historical Group for their assistance in firstly locating the grave of David Thompson Seymour and attending to administrative matters which for the tyranny of distance would have made things potentially difficult for the FQPM.

FQPM Committee Member Clare Hackett on behalf of the FQPM presented a hard covered QP150 Book to the Chair Sioban Clark in appreciation, during a planned overseas trip.



FQPM Committee Member Clare Hackett presenting Sioban Clark (Chair Friends of the Metropolitan Police Historical Group) with a QP150 Book at Hither Green Cemetery Lewisham at the grave of David Thompson Seymour.

### QP150 Commemorative Plaques

Two Queensland shaped plaques have been produced by Alex Gordon-Jones to raise funds for the FQPM. They are both available only in limited numbers and celebrate the 150 years of policing in Queensland. The first plaque displays five (5) halve 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

### **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)

### **Next FQPM Committee Meeting**

The next FQPM Management Committee meeting is to be held at 1000 hr on Thursday 7 August 2014.