THE FRIENDS' GAZETTE

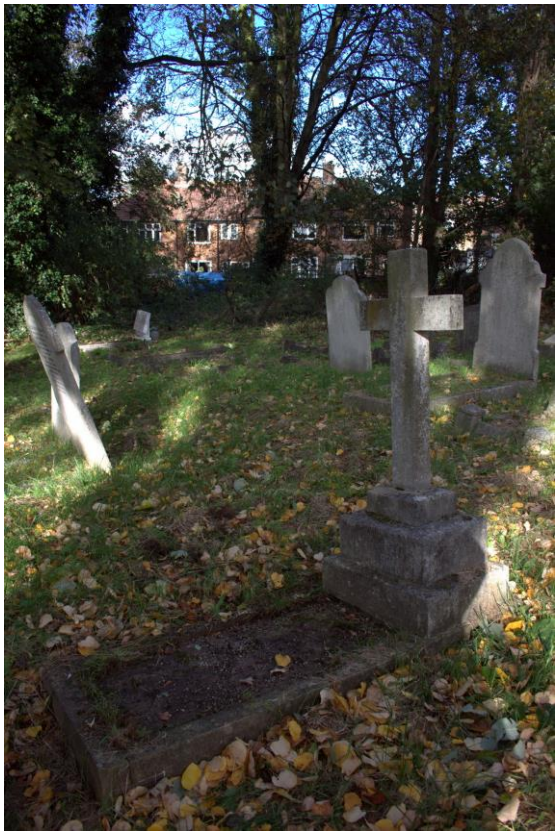
The newsletter of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum
3rd Quarter Edition

Introduction

The Friends of the Queensland Police Museum (FQPM) have been extremely active in the past months on a range of projects in line with achieving our objectives and with a particular focus on ventures associated with the Queensland Police 150th Anniversary Celebrations.

First Commissioner David Thompson Seymour Project Lewisham, United Kingdom.

The Queensland Police Service and the FQPM are very keen to progress the restoration of the grave of the first Commissioner of the Queensland Police, David Thompson Seymour at Hither Green Cemetery in Lewisham in south-east London.



Seymour family grave in Hither Green Cemetery in Lewisham, London

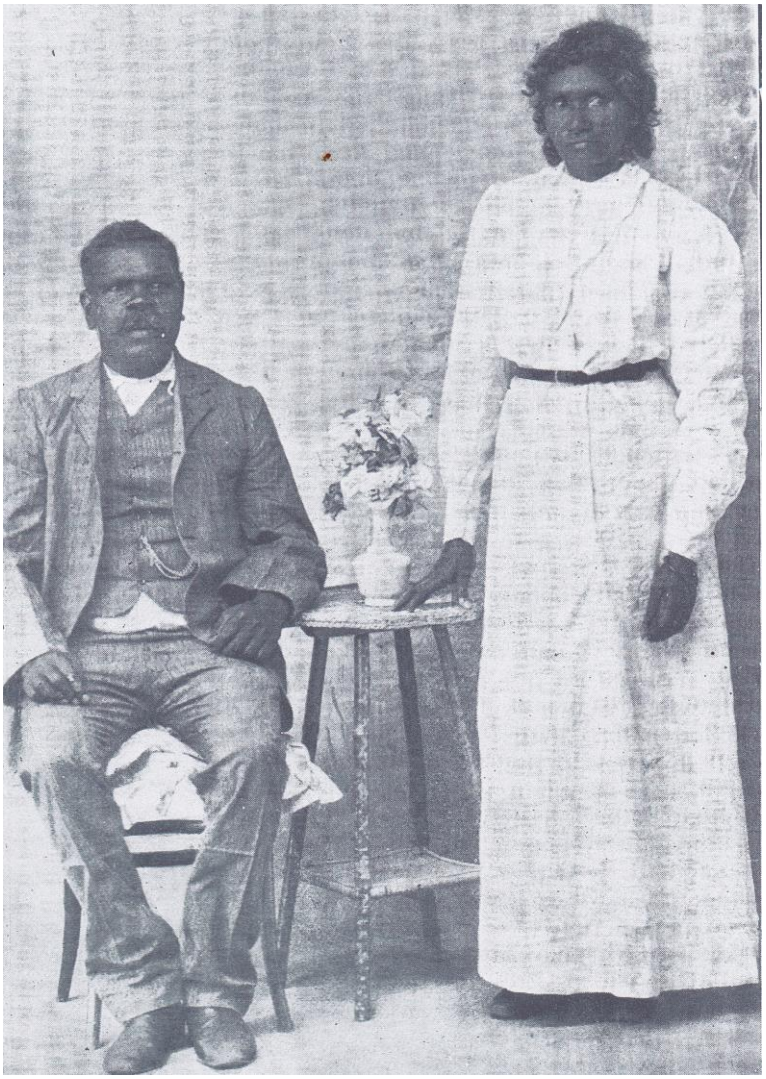
We had been experiencing some difficulties in securing an appropriate restorer located in the near vicinity of Hither Green, who was prepared to take on the job. We eventually engaged a monument restorer from Lewisham but unfortunately they took their time in assessing the work required. It was necessary 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 should be completed within eight weeks and a date then set for a rededication ceremony at the site. The Seymour descendants and invited guests will also be invited to attend

a small gathering hosted at this stage by the Agent General for Queensland at a venue to be advised.

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 at Lethbridge's Pocket in 1902. Sam was the sole survivor of the police clash with the Kenniff brothers.



Sam Johnson and his wife. Photograph taken prior to his death in 1919.

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.

Hopefully, there will be more to report on the progress of this project in the next issue of THE FRIENDS' GAZETTE

Seymour Grave Restoration Project Toowong

The FQPM recently learnt that the Seymour family grave at Toowong Cemetery had been listed on the Brisbane City Council (BCC) Heritage Trail. This cemetery tour included graves of persons of some note who are interred at Toowong Cemetery.

This restoration project was approved by the FQPM Management Committee and subsequently a quote was obtained from Brisbane Memorial Care + Repair. The quote listed a number of issues that required attention to complete the project. These included:

- Stabilize and straighten memorial centre monument -$2,000
- Clean marble monument - $340
- Tidy and paint metal fence - minimal repair approach - $320
- Preparation of internal space for subsequent gravel infill including weed matting - $320
- Realign rear wall - $160.

We were able to proceed almost immediately with the project as a consequence of a timely financial donation by one of our generous sponsors, the Queensland Police Credit Union to whom we are extremely grateful.

Restoration work has now commenced. The cleaning and detailing of the monument is now in progress.

Photographs showing before and after shots of the state of the monument

FQPM Heritage Site/Object Management Policy

The FQPM have of recent times received a number of inquiries seeking our assistance in the restoration of former police officers graves. The following guidelines outline the FQPM policy:

Background

The purpose of this document is to clarify the role and responsibilities of the Committee for the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum (FQPM) concerning the degree of/level of responsibility for the financial contribution and involvement in the restoration, refurbishment, enhancement, preservation or acquisition of neglected or damaged

Queensland Police heritage sites/objects including grave sites pertaining to former members of the Queensland Police.

Definitions

Queensland Police heritage site/objects *may include historical buildings, sites or objects that have heritage or historical significance to the Queensland Police. These may include police station buildings, watchhouses, event sites, monuments, plaques or graves of former members of the Queensland Police.*

Acquisition *includes donations, loans, bequests or gifts or objects/sites obtained by purchase.*

Heritage *includes valued objects and qualities such as historic buildings and cultural traditions that have been passed down from previous generations.*

Historical *includes the study of past events, relative to the Queensland Police and the State of Queensland.*

Objectives

- *To provide funding or support for the acquisition, restoration, refurbishment, enhancement or preservation of Queensland Police heritage sites or objects.*

- *To develop an information strategy to encourage employees of the Queensland Police Service and members of the general public to supply details of sites/objects that may be of interest to the FQPM Committee.*

- *To encourage the reporting of information concerning the existence of a Queensland Police heritage site/objects in need of the FQPM Committee's recognition.*

- *To assess each application or report for historical or heritage import and the capacity to commit funding and/or physical involvement, if any, by the FQPM Committee.*

- *To provide either funding or physical support to relevant projects that meet FQPM criteria.*

FQPM Criteria.

The site/object/event must be:

- *Of historical or heritage significance to the Queensland Police.*

- *Apparently abandoned, neglected or unencumbered with respect to community or family responsibility or interest, as in the case of abandoned police grave sites or discontinued traditions.*

Where significant financial or labour costs to acquire or restore a site, object or event are assessed as significant, donors/benefactors to support the project, all or part will be sought.

Projects which are initially assessed and rejected by the FQPM on heritage, historical or financial grounds may be reassessed and reconsidered in the future in the light of new information.

Heritage Site/Object Register

A Heritage Register will record the details of sites, objects or events considered as potential projects by the FQPM. The register will record FQPM assessment decisions, project selection, progress and completion and projects for future consideration.

QP150 Commemorative Sword Project

The Proof of Concept sword was received from the manufacturers on the 20 May 2014 and the orders for swords that had been identified in the paid responses were placed shortly thereafter. Delivery is expected in the very near future.

The Proof of Concept sword is available for inspection by contacting either Inspector Brian Rogers on 3364 6898 or Senior Sergeant Richard Batty on 3364 4570.

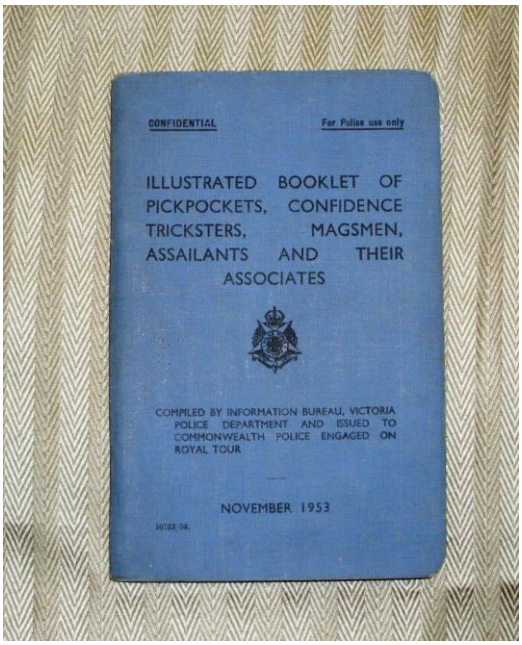
FQPM Museum Acquisitions

The FQPM Historical Object Purchasing Officer (HOPO) has been very active recently and has obtained the following items for presentation to the Queensland Police Museum:

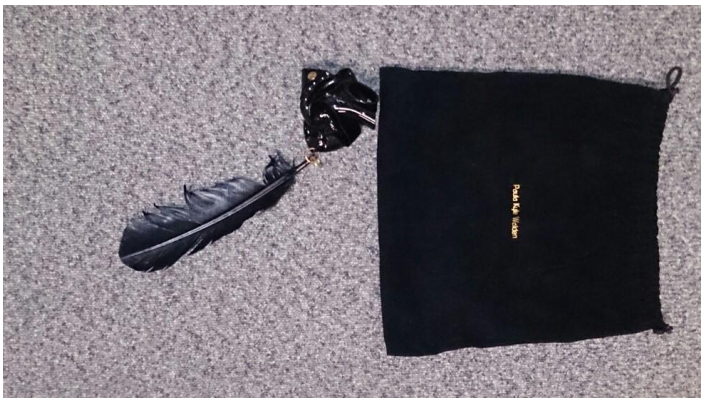
- Police Baton. This historical baton was used by a Special Constable at the 1912 General Strike in Brisbane. It is not a turned piece, but a shaped piece of tree branch. A nice addition.

- DVI (Disaster Victim Identification) Squad orange overalls in good condition. A welcome addition to the museum's uniform collection. The shoulder patches date them to about 1981.

- A book produced for the Royal Visit in 1954 for reference by police attached to the tour.



- A direct donation of two pieces of fashion accessories obtained from an auction from a multi-million dollar fraud on the Health Department. This was an investigation and trial that involved a fake Tahitian prince. Donated by Bob Atkinson.



- A direct donation of certain mounted police ceremonial items from Wayne Coyne from his father's collection. Wayne's father is the late Sergeant Andy Coyne QPM, a long time officer of the Police Mounted Unit. The items consist of a metal two piece badge that is fitted on the baldric which is a belt worn diagonally from shoulder to hip; a ceremonial epaulette and an officer's epaulette with an aiguillette attached.

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 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 Queensland shaped 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) 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

Acknowledge RNA Police Exhibit Volunteers

The FQPM President and Committee wish to acknowledge and extend our thanks to the FQPM members who volunteered to assist at the Police Exhibit at the RNA Show.

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 Fees

Members are reminded that FQPM membership fees are due on the 30 June each year. If you are in arrears for this year, please forward your

payment as soon as possible. It is with regret that the names of those in default will be removed from the register of members, if fees are not paid by 30 September 2014.

FQPM Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The FQPM AGM is to be held in the Court Room at the Queensland Police Museum at 1000 hours on Thursday 2 October 2014. The AGM will be preceded by the Management Committee meeting at 0900 hours.

Ian Townsley
Secretary FQPM
31 August 2014