

THE FRIENDS' GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum
1st Quarter 2015 Edition



FQPM President's Message

Now that the sesquicentenary year for the Queensland Police Service has passed and the frantic activity of completing various projects to mark this significant occasion has subsided it may be time to draw breath and hope 2015 is just a tad less hectic.

The Management Committee have met for the first time this year to take stock and ensure that we can now focus on a number of projects to enhance the value of the Queensland Police Museum.

The project the Committee identified previously regarding the grave of Police Tracker Sam Johnson at Longreach is now activated and some research has commenced. We are indebted to Longreach Police District staff who have made some inroads into the necessary information and contacts required to complete this project with dignity and respect to the deceased and his community.

It would appear that the profile of the FQPM was raised somewhat during the last 12 months and we are now being contacted by a number of groups and researchers who have brought some aspects of police history and heritage to our attention. We will attend to each of these contacts and make appropriate decisions as to how the FQPM can be involved.

I thank you all again for your interest and support for what has been achieved in our short history as we work to ensure the Queensland Police Museum continues its role of interpreting and communicating the history of policing in Queensland.

Bob Burns, President FQPM

David Thompson Seymour Grave Restoration and Dedication Project Hither Green Cemetery Lewisham London UK

The ceremony dedicating the restored grave of the first Commissioner of the Queensland Police, David Thompson Seymour was, after much communication, organisation and coordination between Queensland and the UK, eventually held on Saturday the 31 January 2015.



Grave of First Commissioner David Thompson Seymour showing the dedication plaque.

Before I provide some detail concerning the conduct of the dedication ceremony and the function following, it is necessary to firstly extend our most sincere gratitude to Sioban Clark, Chair of the Friends of the Metropolitan Police Historical Collection and her Committee for the extraordinary support and organisation they provided at the local level in the UK. The description of the events of the day will be a précis of the detailed report provided to us by Sioban Clark, the day after the event.

The morning of the occasion was heralded with a fine cold English morning. All the guests met at the old Hither Green Cemetery as arranged. It was somewhat of a family reunion for

some of the ancestors of David Thompson Seymour. Several of the family meeting again after an absence.



From left: Mr Michael Proudlock, Chaplain Jonathon Osbourne, Commander Simon Letchford, Agent General for Queensland Ken Smith.

The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police was represented by Commander Simon Letchford, who arrived with Police Chaplain Jonathon Osbourne and two local Neighbourhood Watch officers in uniform (Inspector Chatterton and Sergeant Berry).



Commander Simon Letchford, Sergeant Berry, Inspector Chatterton and Sioban Clark at Hither Green Cemetery 31 January 2015.

Ken Smith, the Agent General for Queensland arrived with his wife and was charming and friendly and immediately chatted informally with the families. Regrettably, the family member who added stimulus to this project, great-great-granddaughter Lucy Proudlock was away overseas and unavailable.

The Cemetery management and ground staff had arranged green matting to surround the grave site area as some of the grass was likely to be wet.

The Irish Piper Joe Morgan led the guests to the graveside and the Agent General welcomed everyone with a short introduction. Wreaths were laid and the Piper played the *Peeler's Lament*. The Chaplain finished off with the Irish Blessing.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the guests took the opportunity to chat and take photographs. They were then ushered away to a nearby hotel for a welcomed hot drink and pastries.

Agent General Ken Smith then welcomed everybody and delivered a message from the Commissioner of the Queensland Police Service, Mr Ian Stewart. The great-grandson of David Thompson Seymour, Michael Proudlock spoke on behalf of the family. He stated how proud he was that three generations were present to pay due respects to their ancestor, although, in the main they had very little knowledge of his life until information was provided from the FQPM and local research by the Friends of the Metropolitan Police Historical Collection on the days in England.

The family were thrilled to be able to come together and take part in the event. Many hadn't realised what a fascinating ancestor they had. The youngest guest was 2 years old. He was the 6th generation from David Thompson Seymour along with two young school girls who were allowed the time off school on the understanding they were to write all about the day's event and the history of their ancestor for the school newsletter.

The only disappointment expressed by the family was that there was no representation from Queensland present.



Michael Proudlock addressing the guests at the function 31 January 2015.

Sioban Clark managed to pin down Commander Simon Letchford to do a similar project on the Metropolitan Police first Commissioner, Sir Richard Mayne, another Irishman. It would seem that his grave is in need of some restoration.

This now concludes the FQPM David Thompson Seymour restoration projects during 2014/15. These projects included his family grave in Lewisham UK as well as the family plot at the Toowong Cemetery Brisbane. We extend our sincere gratitude to all who contributed to the success of these projects.

Police Tracker Sam Johnson Project

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. Although unmarked, it could be located with accuracy from cemetery burial records and in relationship to adjacent graves.

The FQPM has 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.

We have made contact with contractors at Longreach who have experience at restoration of grave sites and have requested approximate quotes to carrying out a number of restoration options so that appropriate funding can be sought.

Peter Keegan, FQPM member from Roma undertaking research into the Kenniff brothers discovered the grave of Sam Johnson and as a consequence the FQPM became involved. Peter is intending to trek up to Longreach in the near future to confirm the exact location of Sam's grave.



The grave site of Police Tracker Sam Johnson at Longreach Cemetery

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 commenced research on behalf of the FQPM on Sam Johnson, in particular, with a view of obtaining some detail of his wife, who in preliminary research is not referred to by her name.

The Committee would be happy to hear from any members who may have some ideas on how best to restore the grave and place a permanent marker outlining Sam's details.

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 research and record Sam's biography. 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 slowed down a little since the former Historical Objects Purchasing Officer (HOPO) Richard Batty stood down from the Committee.

At the FQPM Committee meeting on the 5 February 2015, the President Bob Burns sought nomination/s to fill the vacant HOPO position. I am delighted to report that Committee member Geoff Sheldon accepted the position. Geoff is a keen collector and has a good eye for a bargain. I'm sure he will source out some interesting and significant items of police memorabilia for the QPM.

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.

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

Treasurer FQPM & Committee Vacancy

The position of FQPM Treasurer has now been filled by Management Committee member Rob McCall.

Rob's progression to the position of Treasurer created a casual vacancy for a member on the Management Committee. A nomination was received from member Cameron Kirkpatrick. The Committee met on the 5 February 2015 and discussed the position and Cameron's nomination was accepted.

Congratulations to Rob and Cameron on your respective appointments from the FQPM President and Committee.

Management Committee Meetings

The following are the scheduled Management Committee meetings for 2015:

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 Management Committee 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
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9 March 2015