Friends of the Queensland Police Museum Inc.
Update 2/13

FQPM President Absent

President Bob and wife Raylee will be away until about the 22 November 2013, travelling south to explore deepest Victoria.

Queensland Police Credit Union Day
17 October 2013-10-31

The Friends of the FQPM are grateful to the Queensland Police Credit Union (QPCU) for the opportunity to set up a table and participate at the QPCU Credit Union Day on Thursday 17 October 2013 held on the ground floor of the Credit Union Building on North Quay.

The event provided attendees with access to QPCU products and services, together with a free sausage sizzle and barista coffee, a live band and giveaways. Other organisations that have been in receipt of QPCU generosity were also represented such as, the Blue Dragon Boat Team and the Queensland Police Pipes and Drums.

Significant interest was shown towards the FQPM and our activities and it is hopeful that some memberships may result from the day. Bob Burns and Ian Townsley were also afforded the opportunity to make new acquaintances and contacts and to meet with old friends and former work colleagues.

Next years QPCU Credit Union Day will be placed in our diary of events/activities.

Stubby Holders

The artwork images for the six stubby holders bearing the historic police stations have been signed off and an order placed for 600 units (100 of each image). The image will extend around the entire cooler with the FQPM badge and website address placed in a prominent position.

The stubby holders will be supplied through Promogear at Woolloongabba and manufactured overseas. Although the delivery time will be extended to about eight to ten weeks (mid December) the price has been significantly been reduced.

The police stations that were selected were - Camooweal; Ewan; Jackson; Roma Street; Thornborough and Fortitude Valley.

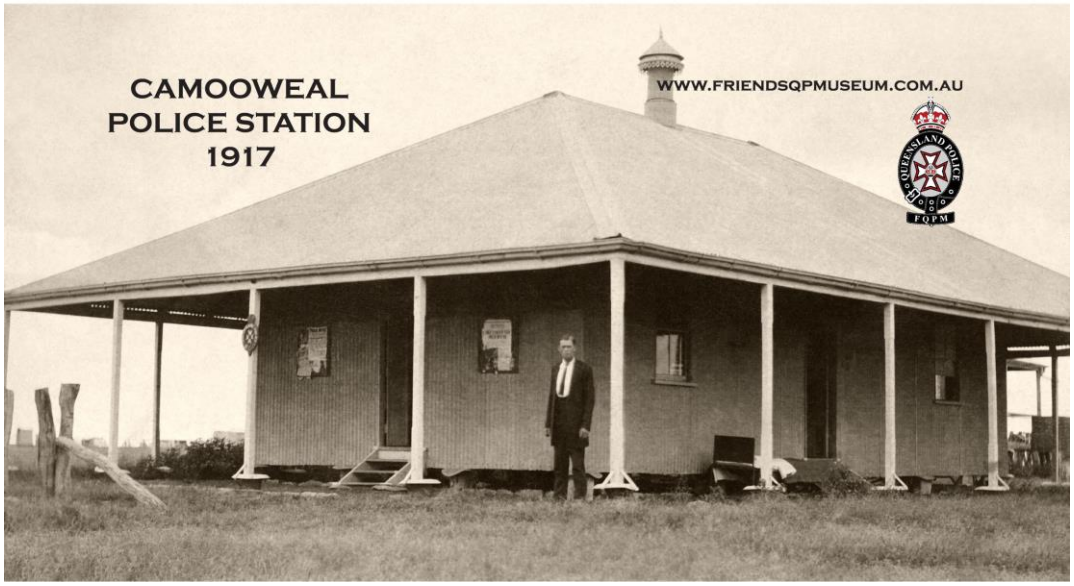


Image of Camooweal Station 1917 (stubby cooler sample photo)

Should you wish to view the other selected station photos, please let me know and I will forward them by email.

Sword Project

The Expression of Interest (EOI) concerning the proposed QP150 commemorative sword is to be released through the QPS internal email network by the end of the week or early next week. It is expected that the EOI will also be forwarded to the Queensland Retired Police Association, International Police Association and the QP Unions.

Polo Shirt Concept

The issue of a FQPM polo shirt has been raised for discussion on a number of occasions but no firm decision has been reached.

There have been a number of occasions of recent times where the wearing of a polo shirt with the FQPM logo would have enhanced the ability to sell our organisation i.e. meetings with like minded organisations, QPCU Day and meetings with QPS representatives. Polo shirts with a discreet logo would also be popular as a sale item.

It has been suggested that quotes be obtained for shirts from a range of suppliers for the production of a selection of colours with our organisation badge and the letters FQPM immediately below.

Your comments would be appreciated.

David Thompson Seymour Project

Bob Burns has been following up on the location of the grave of former Commissioner David Thompson Seymour who passed away in England and is believed buried in Hither Green Cemetery in Lewisham. Below is an extract of an email from Bob concerning progress to date.

"I thought I had better bring you up to speed on our search for the David Thompson SEYMOUR grave.

We have located him in the Hither Green Cemetery, Lewisham London SW where he is buried with his second wife Sara. (Information at this stage indicates that they are the only two people in a four people plot)

We have located Caroline Matilda Seymour, his first wife, in Toowong Cemetery. Portion 13, Section 37, Grave 12. Caroline and David were married in Brisbane in 1864, the year he was appointed the Police Commissioner.

Also located in this grave is Caroline's last child Vera Grace who died aged five months about twelve months before Caroline died in 1884. (I should point out that the dates on the headstone don't add up)

Another daughter, Violet Manfred who died in 1972 aged 94 is on the headstone and the Brisbane City Council cemetery records indicate she is also buried there, although it is not clear with the detail on the headstone.

The fourth person on the headstone is John De Burgh Seymour aged twelve months who is the first born child of Sara and David Thompson Seymour. They were married in Melbourne in 1888 and lived on in Brisbane after his retirement in 1896. Still doing the record search as to when and why he ended up in London.

I will send you the email I received from Siobhan Clarke of the Friends of the Metropolitan Police History group who is doing some leg work for us at Hither Green. This will tie in with your observations about the addresses on the various certificates etc.

Also the headstones reference in the form of a memorial to David Thompson Seymour has Hither Green located in the county of Kent. My map reading and the records say it is in Lewisham, formerly the county of Lee. There is a village of Leigh in Kent so I suggest the colonial stonemason was a bit mixed up.

Also the name Violet Manfred is interesting???? Not sure if it is a given name or a married name. We have a record of her marriage in Hobart to a Mr Dobson in 1898.

The grave generally is in a not too bad shape. Photos enclosed. I will put a proposal to the Commissioner when I get the full story about the condition of the Hither Green grave".

Seymour grave at Toowong Cemetery

On the 24 October 2013, Ian Townsley and Ed Thring met with Mandy Cotman from Brisbane Memorial Repairs, who undertook an assessment of what needed to be done to bring this grave up to an acceptable standard. A quote outlining a number of refurbishment options is expected week ending 3 October 2013.

Latest News on Seymour Grave

Bob Burns received a reply from London concerning the location of David Thompson Seymour's grave. The following email was received on the 31 October 2013:

31 October 2013

Dear Bob

My colleague at the Metropolitan Police Historical Collection Phill Barnes-Warden went grave hunting in Hither Green cemetery on Tuesday and found the grave. I went with him this morning to see it; I have attached a couple of photos. The main thing is it is still up standing, Phill had taken back a lot of grass etc. from the landing. The inscription could not be seen initially until I used some water and a brush, the leading has gone so it was hard to read but I think we got there –

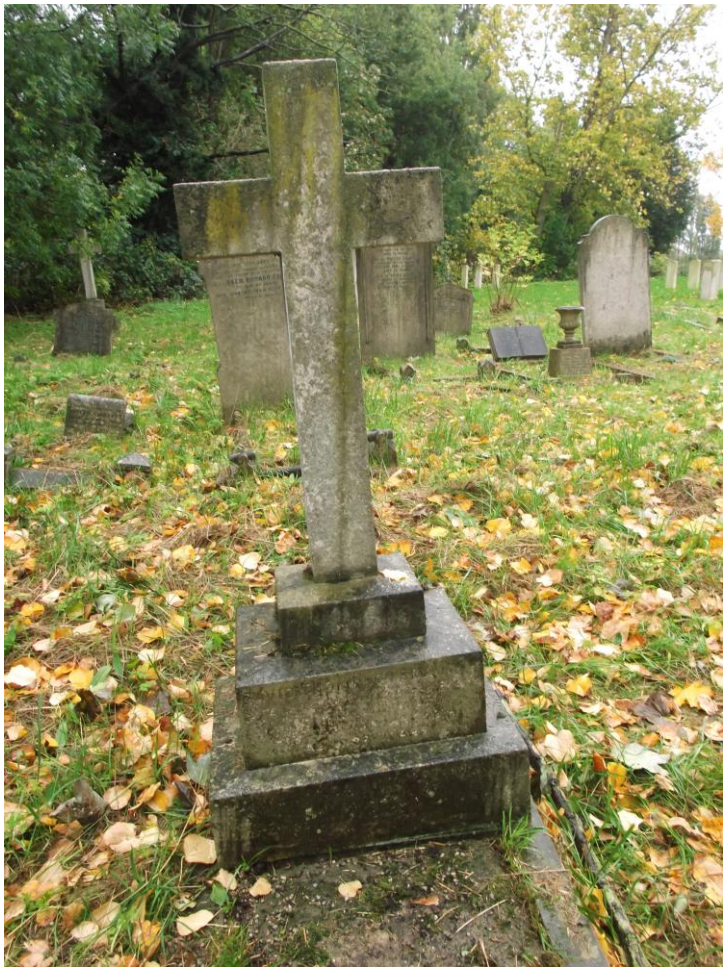
David Thompson Seymour
Late Chief Commissioner of Police
of Queensland (we think)
Died 31 January 1916 (we think)
Aged 82 years

I didn't have enough water to clean up Sara's inscription or the cross. You will see it has a lot of green mould and moss but I will go back better armed, unfortunately it was raining again.

I hope you got my last email with the information found, has anyone managed to make contact with the family yet?

Best wishes
Sioban

The restoration of the grave of David Seymour may become a project of the future as Commissioner Ian Stewart has expressed some interest in acknowledging the first Commissioner of the QP during the QP150 programme.



Seymour family grave at Hither Green Cemetery

Grave Maintenance

Joseph Kelly Grave

The grave of Constable Joseph Kelly was recently refurbished *pro bono* by Mandy Cotman of Brisbane Memorial Repair; however a camphor laurel tree which has sprouted up in the grave next to the Kelly grave is causing the stone work to move sideways.

I have spoken with the Sexton of Toowong Cemetery who has agreed to have this tree removed. There may be a need for FQPM to supply some poison to treat the stump and prevent the tree from re-generating.

Constable Joseph Kelly grave is the single stone in the centre of the photograph. The camphor laurel tree is located in the grave to the right and is causing the stone work to move.

John Ahern Grave

The grave of Inspector John Ahern which is located in Portion 7, Section 51 Grave 4 is in need of some prompt maintenance. An umbrella tree has grown between the rear of the Ahern grave and the one behind, the roots a causing the marble blocks to move off alignment. Small suckers are also sprouting and need to be removed and/or poisoned.

Umbrella tree growth at the rear of the Inspector John Ahern grave.

The Sexton has welcomed our input into the removal and poisoning of the umbrella tree growth.

Next FQPM Committee Meeting

The next FQPM Management Committee meeting is to be held at 1000 hr on Thursday 5 December 2013. Agenda and minutes of the previous meeting will be circulated prior to the meeting.

Should you wish to raise any specific issues at this meeting, please let me know and I will place them on the agenda.

Regards

Ian Townsley
FQPM Secretary
1 November 2013