

THE FRIENDS' GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum
1st Quarter 2016 Edition



FQPM President's Message

Another year off to a good start for the FQPM as a number of new projects are in the planning stage as well as some fine tuning to others we thought were completed. Of particular interest is the headstone found during a dig at Toowong by the Friends of Toowong Cemetery. A number of relocated headstones from the old Paddington Cemetery (Lang Park) included one for Commissioner Seymour's son, Thomas. Work is currently being undertaken to locate it on the family grave, restored by the FQPM during 2014. The QPS are considering a number of very early deaths of former police officers who should be on the Honour Roll as having been killed on duty. There are four officers being considered and should they get the approval to be added to the list we at the FQPM will proceed with some work on identifying their resting place and marking the place with appropriate memorial plaques.

This year will also bring some significant milestones for the QPS story including recognition of the first women police who were appointed eighty-five years ago. The Queensland Police Museum will honour the two women with a visit to their respective resting places at Nudgee and Mt Thompson.

A welcome to our new members and a thank you to all for your continued support of the FQPM.

Bob Burns, President FQPM

Update on Thomas Heaney and Benjamin Ebbitt Grave Restoration Project

Thomas James Heaney and Benjamin Ebbitt were both superannuated from the Queensland Police due to injuries sustained during the execution of their duty.

Both former member's names are to go forward for consideration by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) Honours and Awards Committee to be included on the QPS Honour Board. Additionally, former Sub Inspector Cecil Hill, who is buried in an unmarked grave somewhere in the Dawson Valley (further inquiries are continuing with a view to locating his grave) and Henry James Fetherston who is buried in Maryborough are to be considered.

The FQPM have commenced preliminary arrangements by obtaining quotations for the restoration of Benjamin Ebbitt's grave and the establishment of a slab and headstone for Thomas James Heaney (where none exists at this time).

A number of options are currently being examined to fund these very worthwhile projects.



Benjamin Ebbitt's grave at Toowong Cemetery. Thomas James Heaney's resting place is an unmarked grave immediately behind Ebbitt's.

Anniversary of the Appointment of the First Policewomen – 85 years

On 16 March 1931 Eileen O'Donnell 35, and Zara Dare 45, became the first female police officers in Queensland. Although they were appointed Policewomen, they were not actually sworn and had no uniform or powers of arrest. Both women were single, a criterion consistent with the marriage bar in the public service.

Miss O'Donnell and Miss Dare worked under the supervision of the Inspector, Metropolitan Division. They worked regular hours, but with one of them remaining on-call outside business hours. They do not appear to have received any formal training. One task the women had was escorting female prisoners, sometimes on long train journeys. On occasions, they were required to conduct the body search of female prisoners.

Prior to joining the Queensland Police Miss Dare was an organiser in the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) and served with the Salvation Army in China where her work included rescuing women from the white slave trade. Zara left the Queensland Police in 1940 in order to marry. She spoke glowingly of her time in the job and passed away in 1965 just before her eightieth birthday. Her replacement was a former confidential secretary, Miss Elizabeth Boyle, who was appointed 'Supervisor, Women Police' in June 1940.

Miss O'Donnell kept house for her brother in Gympie prior to her employment with the Queensland Police. Eileen spent 31 years as a

Policewoman and retired in 1962 but passed away less than eight months later at the age of 67.

Changes to the Police Acts brought women police in Queensland into line with their counterparts in other States, most of whom who had enjoyed equal powers, pension rights and more substantial staff allocations since the time they were first appointed or soon after. The outstanding difference remaining for the Queenslanders was lack of equal pay. On the 1 September 1970, thirty-nine years after the first policewomen were appointed and on the same day Ray Whitrod became Police Commissioner, equal pay was finally achieved.

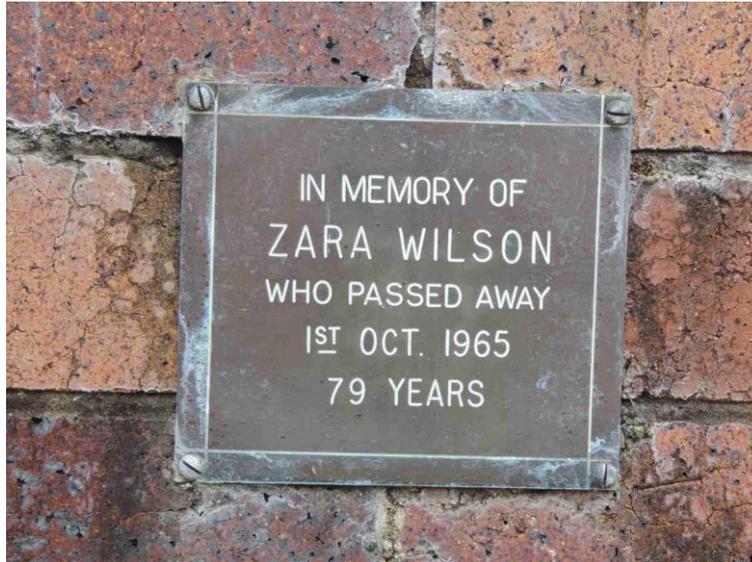
This information has been supplied by the Queensland Police Museum from the best resources available at the time of writing.

On Friday the 18 March 2016, the President FQPM Bob Burns and his wife Raylee, together with the Curator of the QPM, Lisa Jones and staff attended a low key gathering at the Nudgee Cemetery at the grave of Ellen O'Donnell to commemorate the 85th anniversary of the appointment of Policewomen to the Queensland Police.

Eileen O'Donnell was interred at the Nudgee Cemetery and Zara Wilson (Dare) is commemorated at the Mt Thompson Crematorium.



Eileen O'Donnell's grave at the Nudgee Cemetery



Zara Wilson's plaque at Mt Thompson Crematorium

Update on the Installation of additional headstone to the Seymour Family Grave

The Seymour family grave at Toowong Cemetery was totally refurbished during 2014 which involved a complex restructure of the supports for the monument and the restoration of the headstone and the stone work surrounding the grave. This work was undertaken by Brisbane Memorial Care + Repair. The rededication ceremony was held on the 5 December 2015.

The Friends of the Toowong Cemetery contacted the FQPM during 2014 advising that during one of their combined archaeological 'digs' with the students from the Queensland University, a headstone from the Paddington Cemetery commemorating the former Sheriff of Queensland, William Anthony Brown and his grand-son Thomas Seymour (son of Commissioner David Thompson Seymour) was located.

The FQPM decided to reunite the damaged headstone in the Seymour family plot at Toowong Cemetery. Brisbane Memorial Care + Repair was engaged to complete the repair and installation in the present site, principally because they were familiar with the existing footing supporting the monument.

The existing headstone is to be pinned to a new 'ghost' base and this will be installed into a new footing connecting to the existing underpinned concrete footing.

Preparatory work has commenced and it is expected that the project will be finalised by mid-April 2016.

The FQPM extend our sincere gratitude to the Queensland Police Credit Union (QPCU) who contributed substantially to the funding of this project



Drawing of proposed headstone and location in regards to existing Seymour Family Grave at Toowong Cemetery.

Retirement of QPS Chaplain Graeme Ramsden OAM

The President and Management Committee of the FQPM wish Graeme Ramsden a long and happy retirement from his position as Chaplain to the QPS. Graeme has been a great supporter of the FQPM and assisted with the development of our Order of Service for the conduct of dedication ceremonies and officiated at many of those ceremonies.

Graeme Ramsden will retire after almost 47 years in uniform after serving almost 20 years of that time as an army chaplain, having been the first deacon ordained for military chaplaincy worldwide and commencing a tradition that has expanded into other Defence Forces as well as flourishing in Australia.

Whilst Graeme has walked proudly in the footsteps of many wonderful priests and chaplains of other denominations, reaching right back to the Boer War, he brought into chaplaincy, the experience of 27 years as a soldier and officer in the infantry and Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers as well.

Moreover, Graeme came into chaplaincy with the experience of being a war veteran himself, having spent a year serving in Vietnam. With this extensive background he has been keenly sought out by soldiers for advice and assistance, as well as tending to sacramental ministries in baptisms, marriages and funerals, and preaching and teaching in many contexts.

Concurrent with all this, Graeme has lived out his own sacrament of marriage to his wife Dianne, celebrating 40 years of marriage last year. Together they raised and nurtured Michael, Christopher, Megan and Patrick.



Graeme's service embraced two generations of soldiers and two eras of conflict when he was deployed into East Timor in September 1999 with the first elements of the International Force that rescued the Timorese from the militias that were destroying the country.

Chaplain Graeme Ramsden OAM officiating at the dedication of the Seymour Family grave on 5 December 2014 at Toowong Cemetery.

Like many chaplains before him, Graeme found himself ministering to distressed locals, as well as his own soldiers, shocked by the barbarity and senseless destruction by the retreating Indonesian forces. He had the unpleasant task of interring the bodies

of many deceased Timorese. For his selfless service he was invested with the Medal of the Order of Australia.

In recent years, Graeme has also been called into ministry with the Queensland Police Service as well as assisting in Cleveland parish, in Brisbane archdiocese.

The chaplain's ministry is very much an incarnational one - being truly present with people in their times of trial and hardship, as well as moments of joy and mateship.

(This extract is courtesy of The Catholic Leader, Brisbane)

Graeme's Farewell function is being held at the Jim O'Sullivan Recreation Club, Queensland Police Service Academy, 72 Rudd Street Oxley

5.30pm start with 11pm finish on Friday 8 April 2016.

Due to the new security measures at the Academy, all QPS personnel must show their ID. All non-QPS personnel, must provide photo identification (Driver's License) on entry and their names and Vehicle Rego Details must be provided to organisers prior to the function (e.g. with their RSVP).

Cost: \$20 (covers food and present). Payment to be made as follows:

If you are a QPCU member, account 1024973 into S1.2 account - **account name PROVE** with your surname as the reference.

If you are NOT a QPCU member, BSB 704052 into account 100172144 with your surname as the reference - **No changes**

If you have already RSVP'd and will be attending with any non-QPS please respond with the visitor names, so they can be added to the guest list and security staff.

RSVP to: Lisa DUNCAN, Al McSWEENEY or Graeme RAMSDEN. Phone: (07) 32596240 email: mcsweeney.alj@police.qld.gov.au.

Award to FQPM Committee Member Dennis Peters

The FQPM President and Management Committee extend our congratulations to Committee Member Senior Sergeant Dennis Peters on the award of the National Emergency Medal.

The National Emergency Medal is an operational service medal that recognises significant or sustained service to others in a nationally significant emergency. In Dennis' case, for the floods and cyclone in Queensland in 2010 and 2011.



Commissioner Ian Stewart APM presenting FQPM Committee Member Senior Sergeant Dennis Peters with his National Emergency Medal

Sam Johnson Biography - Volunteer

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 were instrumental in erecting a headstone and slab on Sam Johnson's grave site at the Longreach Cemetery and re-dedicated the site on the 29 September 2015.

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.

QPS Memorial Project

The QPS will be running a number of media articles drawing attention to the work being done on decommissioning the current memorial (adjacent the Executive Building in George Street) and also discussing the design and construction of a new memorial.

When a suitable site has been identified, Deputy Commissioner Brett Pointing will gather all the interested parties together for an exchange of views. Currently, the discussions are at a high level with Government with a view to identifying a new site. The QPS are working in the background getting other important issues underway, such as family engagement and setting up an appropriate webpage that all parties can link into.

Should you wish to contribute your thoughts concerning the project to the QPS, the following email address has been made available for that purpose:

QPS.MemorialProject@police.qld.gov.au

The following article will appear in the April issue of the QPS Bulletin and other publications:

Seeking relatives of fallen officers

The Queensland Police Memorial is to be moved from its current site at 80 George Street, Brisbane, later this year and the search is on to locate relatives of many of the officers named on the touch stones.

With the area to be subsumed into the new Queen's Wharf precinct, the memorial will be decommissioned and a new one designed and built. Commissioner Stewart said it was important the project was done in consultation with the relatives.

"The officers named on the memorial have paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities and the decommissioning process needs to be carried out with the utmost sensitivity and respect," Commissioner Stewart said.

"Of the 140 names engraved on the plaques, we are in contact with only about 40 of the families. We are calling on the assistance of current or retired police officers to help trace any relatives for the remaining officers."

High level talks are currently underway between the QPS and local and state governments to determine a suitable location to establish a new memorial, and a design competition and a fundraising campaign will be launched in the coming months.

Commissioner Stewart said the project would progress in full consultation with all stakeholders.

"Engagement has already begun with the families we know and both the Police Union of Employees and the Commissioned Officers Union are on board." he said.

"A project committee has been formed which is chaired by Deputy Commissioner Pointing and includes members of Police Legacy, both unions, chaplains, QPS protocol, Friends of the Queensland Police Museum and the Queensland Retired Police Association."

The names of the officers on the memorial can be found on the QPS website at www.police.qld.gov.au/aboutUs/commemoration/ under the three categories of Roll of Honour, In Remembrance, and Died on Active Service.

Any QPS/FQPM members who know of a relative connected with the officers on the wall, are encouraged to contact the project committee by email at QPS.memorialproject@police.qld.gov.au

Acquisitions for Queensland Police Museum

Acquisitions for the QPM have been a little slow over the Christmas/New Year break however the HOPO has been feverishly beavering away and has come across a pair of Queensland Police Golf Club badges which is be presented to the Curator in due course.



Queensland Police Golf Club badges

FQPM Challenge Coin

The FQPM have produced a challenge coin which is available for general sale. The obverse of the coin displays the badge of the FQPM and the reverse the badge of the QPS (necessary QPS approval obtained). The coins are 43mm across and housed in a plastic container.

The challenge coin is available for sale now and will sell for \$12.00 each. As usual, all proceeds will go towards the purchase of collectable items for the Queensland Police Museum.



Any early interest in purchasing one of these collectable coins can be directed to the FQPM website on secretary@friendsqpmuseum.com.au.

Orders can be placed for pick up at Queensland Police Headquarters with Melissa Kirkpatrick, Executive Assistant, Office of the Deputy Commissioner - Strategy, Policy and Performance Level 7, Police HQ, 200 Roma Street BRISBANE QLD 4000.

Phone: +61 7 3364 4464 Fax: +61 7 3364 4053

Email: Kirkpatrick.MelissaA@police.qld.gov.au

Stubby Coolers

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

Set of 6 are now \$24.00 per set (postage is \$9.00 anywhere in Australia).

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 Melissa Kirkpatrick on 3364 4464. 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

Management Committee Meetings

The following are the scheduled Management Committee meetings for 2016:

Wednesday 6 April 2016	1000 hours	Media Conf. Room
Wednesday 15 June 2016	1000 hours	Media Conf. Room
Wednesday 3 August 2016	1000 hours	Media Conf. Room
Wednesday 5 October 2016	0900 hours	Media Conf. Room
5 October 2016 (AGM)	1000 hours	Museum Court Room
Wednesday 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 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 provide a submission, please forward to the Secretary by the Close of Business on the Monday prior to each meeting.

Ian Townsley
 Secretary FQPM
 (07) 3351 2797
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 23 March 2016