

THE FRIENDS' GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum
Third Quarter 2015 Edition



FQPM President's Message

The month of September means the Annual General Meeting of the FQPM is just around the corner. The 29 September 2015 is National Police Remembrance Day and this year we will be at Longreach Police District to attend the annual service at the Stockman's Hall of Fame. Earlier in the day, the FQPM will host a Dedication Service at the grave of police tracker Corporal Sam Johnson. The Dedication will involve the local aboriginal people who will *welcome us to country* and the service will be conducted by the Police Chaplain Father Robert Hollow. This integrated service is a first for our organisation but I know that there is a reasonable chance of similar services in the future.

The QP150 Commemorative Sword project is now concluded and I place on record our appreciation for the involvement of Inspector Brian Rogers and Senior Sergeant Richard Batty who managed this important activity over the last two years. A Commemorative Sword will be presented by the FQPM to the Curator of the Queensland Police Museum, Ms Lisa Jones at the AGM this year.

I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and hope to see as many of you as possible at our AGM at 10.00 am on the 30 September 2015.

Bob Burns, President FQPM

Proposed project -Thomas James Heaney & Benjamin Ebbitt

Former Queensland Police Officers, Sergeant Thomas James Heaney and Constable Benjamin Ebbitt both died of injuries sustained whilst on duty. Heaney in 1906 and Ebbitt in 1894. Queensland Police Service, Honours and Awards Unit are currently researching their service with a view of having their names included on the Honour Roll.

Sergeant Thomas Heaney died on the 27 September 1906 (40 years) after being superannuated out of the Queensland Police on the 1 January 1906, owing to the horrific injuries he received in the courageous discharge of his duty some sixteen months earlier. In late 1906, he was posthumously awarded the first Queensland Police Medal of Merit.

Constable Benjamin Ebbitt died on the 10 May 1894 (24 years) in South Brisbane. He have been suffering the ill effects of a brutal assault when he had occasion to interfere between two men fighting, whilst he was

stationed in Croydon. The men ceased their own quarrel and turned on the Constable and seriously assaulted him. One of the men picked up a stone and struck him in the ear, rupturing his eardrum. He also sustained internal injuries. After being ill for some time in Croydon, he came to Brisbane for medical treatment. His health improved marginally, only to develop consumption, from which he subsequently died.

The FQPM were requested to assist initially in locating the graves of both former members at the Toowong Cemetery. It may be appropriate that some restoration work will be applied to both the graves, when located.

The project will attract the following objectives:

- Provide any assistance requested from QPS to ensure that the former members are included on the Honour Roll;
- Assist in locating both graves at Toowong Cemetery;
- Establish if there are any direct family members (before any restoration can take place); and
- Obtain an assessment and estimate to restore the graves.



Grave of Thomas James Heaney at Toowong Cemetery

Recognition of Generous Donations

The FQPM are indeed fortunate to have been recently bestowed with substantial donation from Mr Don Todorovic. Don is an avid collector of police memorabilia. As you are aware, the FQPM does not receive any Government funding but relies solely on memberships, donations and

merchandising income to acquire the necessary revenue to achieve our objectives.



Don Todorovic (right) presents a monetary donation to Bob Burns, President of the FQPM.

Progress of the Sam Johnson Project

Project Background

Police Tracker Sam Johnson died in Longreach in 1919. Today Sam's last resting place at the Longreach Cemetery was 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.

Progress to date

A great deal of detailed planning has taken place since the last Friends' Gazette. The Service for the unveiling/dedication of Sam Johnson's grave is to be held at 9.00 am on Tuesday 29 September 2015 at the Longreach Cemetery.

Invitations were extended to a wide range of interested parties including the Member for Gregory, Mr Lachlan Millar MLA, Longreach Regional

Council, the Central Queensland Indigenous Development, Longreach, Bidjara people representatives (Sam's people) and members of the Longreach Archival & Historical Research Group.

The Service will be conducted by QPS Chaplain Father Robert Hollow. Mr Gerry Fogarty of Barcaldine and a member of the Bidjara people will provide the *Welcome to Country* at the commencement of the Service. Musical bagpipe support will be provided by Angus McPhee, son of Sergeant Alistair McPhee, Longreach Police and the grandson of former member of the QPS Pipes and Drums Bob McPhee. The Recessional at the conclusion of the Service will be played on a didgeridoo by Bo Nelson, a member of the Iningai people.



The completed Sam Johnson grave at Longreach Cemetery (September 2015)

The grave and headstone have now been completed by our Longreach contractors John & Kaye Kuhn. The headstone was constructed out of local sandstone with the base of the grave being concrete. A plaque was fitted to the headstone providing Sam's details. A further plaque is attached to the foot of the grave indicating the organisations who contributed to the project.



Brass plaque situated at the base of Sam's grave (September 2015)

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 is therefore seeking volunteer/s who would be prepared to continue the research and record Sam's biography, although quite an amount of material has already been gathered. 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 now taken a step forward with the appointment of our Historical Objects Purchasing Officer (HOPO) Geoffrey Sheldon. Geoff has been very energetic in searching for and acquiring items for the Queensland Police Museum.

The HOPO closely pursued a desirable QP khaki slouch hat, however the price extended out beyond our means. Better luck next time!



QP khaki slouch hat

Should you become aware of any items of significant Queensland Police history, please advise the HOPO on 0423 206 838 or sheldon.geoff@police.qld.gov.au.

DO YOU HAVE ITEMS OF QUEENSLAND POLICE SIGNIFICANCE TO DONATE?

The Friends of the Queensland Police Museum (FQPM) is always interested in obtaining items of Queensland Police historical significance. Should you have any item/s that you believe may be of interest, please contact the FQPM on secretary@friendsqpmuseum.com.au.

Should you wish some advice concerning the disposal of police uniforms or equipment, the matter can be discussed with the Secretary, the HOPO or any member of the FQPM Management Committee? We would also be delighted to discuss any donation you may wish to make.

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 Rob McCall on 0439 794 000. 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.

This 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.

Volunteers for Current Projects

The FQPM is 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 on secretary@friendsqpmuseum.com.au.

Current Project – Research and Compile a list of Queensland Police recipients of the Kings Police Medal (KPM), Queen’s Police Medal (QPM) and the Australian Police Medal (APM)

At a recent FQPM Management Committee Meeting, it was raised that there is no single point of reference where a researcher could interrogate to find the Queensland Police recipients of the King’s Police Medal (KPM), the Queen’s Police Medal (QPM) or the Australian Police Medal (APM).

It was agreed that a list of recipients should be developed together with information where the medal was awarded under significant circumstances.

Should you have any information that may assist in the compilation of this comprehensive research document, please contact the FQPM Secretary.

Membership

Renewal of your membership will assist FQPM 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

FQPM Website

The FQPM website is updated regularly, please take the opportunity to take a look.

www.friendsqpmuseum.com.au

New FQPM Members

The President and Management Committee of the FQPM extend a warm welcome to the new members who joined us since the last *Gazette*:

Haidi Beard – Alligator Creek
Allison Hoad – Burpengary
Dr Chris Burrell – Willoughby NSW

Management Committee Meetings

Due to an administrative issue the FQPM Management Committee meetings will be held on the first Wednesday every two months. The following are the scheduled Management Committee meetings for the remainder of 2015:

30 September 2015	0900 hours	Media Conf. Room
30 September 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 an appropriately sized venue can be booked, if necessary.

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 the meeting.

Ian Townsley
Secretary FQPM
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22 September 2015