THE FRIENDS' GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum
1st Quarter 2019 Edition

FQPM President's Message

The FQPM has just completed a very busy year that has now rolled into what also looks to be just as eventful, as some new projects are already in the planning stage. In collaboration with the Mackay-Whitsunday Branch of the Queensland Retired Police Association, a grave restoration project is now under way. Acting Sergeant David Johnston was killed by a prisoner in the Mackay Gaol in 1903 and is buried in the Mackay General Cemetery (See article on this event in this bulletin).

The success of the International Police Museum Conference in late 2018 continues to gain momentum as the establishment of an international police museum forum has attracted a number of participants in the sharing of ideas and experiences.

The Management Committee of the FQPM look forward to the challenges in the year ahead in the knowledge that we have wonderful support from our members and other police orientated agencies.

Bob Burns APM, President FQPM

Current Grave Restoration Project
Acting Sergeant David Johnston. Killed on duty 29 March 1903 at Mackay

The FQPM Management Committee have approved a project plan to support the proposal to refurbish the grave of Acting Sergeant David Johnston in the Mackay General Cemetery. The Mackay-Whitsunday Branch of the Queensland Retired Police Association have agreed to collaborate in this project and have taken the initiative to manage the works and propose to have the grave refurbished in time for Police Remembrance Day in September 2019.

Acting Sergeant Johnston appears on all memorials for police officers killed on duty at local, state and national level. This project is undertaken in order to ensure the maintenance of this grave in line with the FQPM commitment to honour our people.

The background to this project is that Acting Sergeant David Johnston was killed while performing his duty as the Superintendent of the Mackay Gaol.

Johnston had been appointed to the role about three years prior to Sunday 29 March 1903, when he intervened following a fatal axe attack by a prisoner Sow-Too-Low on another prisoner, John Martin. When Johnston entered the compound and leaned over the body of Martin, Sow-Too-Low attacked him with the axe and delivered a blow to his head. He died instantly.

Sow-Too-Low was on remand for the murder of twelve year old Alice Gunning at Habana, near Mackay in October 1902. He was subsequently charged with the murder of David Johnston and John Martin and convicted in Mackay Circuit Court. Sentenced to death, he was transported to Boggo Road Gaol in Brisbane and hanged in June 1903.

Headstone - David Johnston Grave Mackay

Acting Sergeant David Johnston aged 55, was survived by his wife Florinda and three children. His police colleagues funded his burial in the Mackay General Cemetery and his wife and family later erected the headstone together with a cast iron fence surround. It will be noted that the headstone inscription does not advise of his police connection or detail the circumstances of his death.

An assessment of the grave indicated the condition of the marble headstone as stable and is in a solid upright position, however it needs a clean and the lettering does require some refurbishment and replacements. The concrete floor and metal surrounds have been identified as requiring some attention, replacement and refurbishment.

The Mackay General Cemetery in West Mackay is listed on the Queensland Heritage Register, consequently any work on any grave or buildings requires the approval of the Department of Environment and Science.

Additionally, any proposal to work on any grave must also be with the authority of family of the deceased. The QPS Honours & Awards Unit have been able to identify three great grandchildren of David Johnston and all have given enthusiastic support for the proposed refurbishment. The Arts and Heritage officer has provided some guidelines for the team to take this project forward to enable some costings to be identified. The project will include a plaque to be appropriately attached to the grave outlining the story of Johnston's death.

David Johnston grave, showing the iron fencing. Mackay General Cemetery.

I acknowledge the research and subsequent article written by former police officer Phil Hocken and published in the Queensland Police Union Journal, March 1999 as part of his series on Police History.

Article submitted by Bob Burns, President FQPM.

Official Opening of the Queensland Mounted Police Unit Complex at Moggill 1982

The 7 February 2019 marked twenty two years since the stable complex at Moggill was officially opened following the relocation of the Queensland Police Mounted Unit from the old stable complex at Oxley, adjacent the Queensland Police Academy.

The new complex is set on nine hectares in rural Moggill, at 122 Hawkesbury Road and comprises of eighteen stables, outdoor and covered training arenas, offices and storage facilities. There are sixteen troop horses in residence, in various stages of training.

Entrance to the Moggill Complex.

During the opening, the then Officer in Charge, Senior Sergeant Ian Johnston, arranged for a photograph to be taken of the former Officers in Charge who were present on the day.

Former Officers in Charge of the Queensland Police Mounted Unit: Andy Coyne, Gordon Close, Ian Johnston, Dave Bown and Merv Prove.
At the Official Opening of the Moggill Complex 1997

Following the retirement of Sergeant 2/c Andy Coyne in June 1980, the position was occupied by Sergeant 2/c Des Goan until, in the build-up to the 1982 Commonwealth Games, the position was upgraded to Senior Sergeant.

Senior Sergeant Gordon Close took charge and led the Unit through the Games and the Royal Visit that accompanied the event. He was followed in turn by Senior Sergeant Merv Prove and Senior Sergeant Dave Bown and finally by Senior Sergeant Ian Johnston.

Also present on the Opening Day was Senior Sergeant Don Eyb, then the Officer in Charge of the New South Wales Mounted Police Unit.

The current Officer in Charge, Senior Sergeant Mark Paroz, was a member of the Unit during the 1982 Commonwealth Games.

Unfortunately, time has passed and we have lost a number of these officers, but the traditions of the Unit continues to give valuable service to the QPS in operational and ceremonial roles.

Article contributed by FQPM Committee Member Wayne Coyne

The International Police Museum Conference Speaker Notes

IPMC
INTERNATIONAL POLICE MUSEUM CONFERENCE
2018 QUEENSLAND

Once again, hello fellow PM colleagues from around the world.

Many of you have requested to be sent the Conference Speaker Presentation Notes from the 2018 IPMC.

Please email me if you did NOT attend the IPMC but would like a copy of this document.

Note that the attachment is 19 MB. If the size is an issue, advise me and I will send the file in two parts.

I will be emailing the Speaker Notes to all conference attendees later this week.

If you have not yet joined the Global Association of Police Museums Facebook Group, you are encouraged to do so, we would love to have you onboard. There are currently 35 members contributing to the chat.

For now, all the very best to you all.

Regards

Tiana

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"Graduation Day"

This is the latest release from John Schumann (formerly of Redgum) titled 'Graduation Day'.

This song is promoted by the Police Federation of Australia and every police association and union across Australia.

The release of 'Graduation Day' is important as it raises awareness of mental health issues that are becoming more prevalent for police officers across Australia. The song has a very clear message that you're not alone and will give the broader Australian community an empathetic insight into the lives of the men and women who serve and protect the community.

Turn the volume up and watch the video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqK3dT_5rEg

The song is also available to be purchased via https://www.fineprint.net.au/graduation-day with sales going towards supporting police officers (serving and retired) and their families who are in need.

Hope it's a massive hit.

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BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR!

The FQPM are still seeking copies of the following books and publications for the Queensland Police Museum Library:

Two publications written by former Commissioner Frederic Charles Urquhart (1858 – 1935):

Camp Canzonettes (1891); and

Blood Stains (1919).

The FQPM is prepared to pay any reasonable cost to obtain these publications, however donations are always acceptable.

Volunteers for Current Projects

Sam Johnson Biography – Volunteer/s

We are still seeking a keen volunteer to undertake the task of researching and documenting the biography of Police Tracker, Sam Johnson. Sam had

quite a long career with the Queensland Police, yet his known biographical details are somewhat fragmented and to be found in a number of repositories.

The FQPM is committed to documenting a detailed biography of Sam Johnson's life following the work undertaken by the Friends' 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 is 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 FQPM Secretary.

FQPM Merchandising

FQPM Challenge Coin

The FQPM has produced a standard 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 coin is 43mm across and housed in a plastic container.

The challenge coin is available for sale now and will sell for $15.00 each. As usual, all proceeds will go towards the purchase of collectable items for the Queensland Police Museum.

The obverse of FQPM Challenge Coins and reverse of the standard coin

FQPM 'Women in Policing' Challenge Coin

Additionally, the FQPM have developed a challenge coin commemorating 'Women in Policing' in the Queensland Police. The dimensions are the same as the standard challenge coin. The obverse image is that of the FQPM badge and the reverse is a police woman working a traffic point.

The price is $15.00 and can be obtained under the same arrangements as the other FQPM merchandise.

Reverse of Women in Policing challenge coin

See below for ordering details for all FQPM products.

Note:

A member discount on challenge coins applies for members of the FQPM. Contact the FQPM Secretary or Melissa Kirkpatrick for details.

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 polo shirts are priced at $40.00 each plus postage if required.

NEW FQPM QPS BADGE STUBBY COOLERS!

These stubby coolers depict the five (5) types of Queensland Police hat badge that have been issued since 1884.

$5 each

All proceeds from the sale of these items will assist the FQPM to preserve the Queensland Police history for future generations.

FQPM merchandise and a range of other Queensland Police Service memorabilia can be purchased directly from QSHOP which is conveniently located next to the Queensland Police Museum on the ground floor of QPS headquarters, 200 Roma Street, Brisbane.

QSHOP is open to the public each Wednesday and Thursday from 10 am – 2 pm.

QSHOP can be contacted at hello@qphra.com

Or alternatively

Orders for all FQPM merchandise can also be placed by contacting Melissa Kirkpatrick. Orders can be posted or picked up from Queensland Police

Headquarters, 200 Roma Street, Brisbane 4000. Ph.one: +61 7 3364 4464 Fax: +61 7 3364 4053
Email: Kirkpatrick.MelissaA@police.qld.gov.au

Any queries regarding FQPM merchandise can be made to secretary@friendsqpmuseum.com.au

Membership

Membership to the FQPM assists the Association 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; and
- Junior Membership (under 18 years of age): $15.00 one out payment until they attain the age of 18 years.

New Members

The President and Management Committee extend congratulations to the following new FQPM members:

Bob Fitzsimmons - Longreach
Gary Hiles – Wondai.

Newsletter (Gazette) Articles

We endeavour to keep the newsletter (the Friends' Gazette) interesting and relevant to our members and in doing so, we require (preferably) unpublished short stories, articles relating to former QP officers or staff members, incident or events of historical police significance.

Should you feel that you could contribute, please contact the Secretary FQPM.

Anomalies/corrections in the FQPM Website – www.friendsqpmuseum.com.au

The Secretary would appreciate any members who, during the course of scanning the FQPM website may detect any anomalies or incorrect information. Please pass this information on so that corrections can be made.

It's important that we ensure that our website is up to date and accurate.

www.friendsqpmuseum.com.au

Management Committee Meetings 2019

The FQPM Management Committee meets every two months on a Wednesday, commencing with the first Wednesday in February of each year. The meeting place, unless advised differently, is the Media Conference Room, ground floor, PHQ.

The meeting dates for this year (2019) are as follows:

Wednesday 5 June 2019 - 1000 hours
Wednesday 7 August 2019 -1000 hours
Wednesday 2 October 2019 - 0900 hours (AGM at 1000 hours)
Wednesday 4 December 2019 – 1000 hours

Ian Townsley
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