THE FRIENDS' GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum
2nd Quarter 2019 Edition

FQPM President's Message

Last year, a former curator of the Queensland Police Museum, Ms Gabriel Flynn passed away. Gabriel would be remembered by many members of the QPS family for her work in establishing the current iteration of the Police Museum at 100 Roma Street. The FQPM has offered our curator Lisa Jones any assistance she may need to identify a suitable memorial for Gabriel.

The Mackay-Whitsunday Branch of the Queensland Retired Police Association (QRPA) has been diligently working through the Queensland Heritage requirements to progress the work on the grave of Sergeant David Johnston in the Mackay General Cemetery. I recently returned from a road trip to Central Queensland and was able to inspect the progress on this project as well as identifying other sites pertaining to our deceased members who lost their lives while on duty.

The Vice President of the FQPM, Superintendent Mark Plath is about to retire from the QPS and I will take the opportunity on behalf of all members to wish him well in retirement. I look forward to his ongoing support in progressing the aims and objectives of the FQPM.

Bob Burns APM, President FQPM

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

Acting Sergeant David Johnston was killed whilst performing his duty as the Superintendent of the Mackay Gaol. Johnston had been appointed to the role about three years prior to Sunday 29th 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 fatal blow to his head.

Acting Sergeant David Johnston was buried in the Mackay General Cemetery in West Mackay and his grave has been identified as in need of some maintenance and repair. The metal fence surrounding the grave requires replacement in parts and the general concrete structure is crumbling. The significant marble headstone is still upright and in good condition with some lettering to be replace together with an overall clean.

The Mackay Regional Council advised that the cemetery is listed on the Queensland Heritage Register and any work carried out on any grave is to be approved by the Department of Environment and Science.

In collaboration with the Queensland Retired Police Association, Mackay-Whitsunday Branch, the necessary approvals were sought and a notification to allow work to commence has been granted. The scope of works provided by a local stonemason is approved and the FQPM has advised project manager Dennis Hansen (QRPA) to proceed. It is the intention of the QRPA to have the work completed in time for a dedication service on Police Remembrance Day in September 2019. A plaque outlining the circumstances of this tragic incident is being prepared and will be placed adjacent to the grave site as a reminder of the sacrifice paid by Acting Sergeant David Johnston.

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 – Crumbling base and fence has been removed.

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.

Dennis Hansen reports, *"Fence to the repairer to-morrow. Dave Gray has been able to have half metre of concrete donated. Might just have to pay delivery, depending if they are busy when we want delivery. Meeting with Council on 19th, hopefully we can get some assistance there also. Nothing from QPS yet. Besides getting rid of old concrete and preparing a good solid base, can't do anything until fence returned."*

Old Forsayth Police Station Lockup

The old Forsayth lockup has now been converted into a repository to house collections of historic photographs and memorabilia to showcase the local farming, mining and police history. The concept was developed by Senior Constable Ian Carroll and his wife Kelly, who arrived in Forsayth in 2014.

With the support of recently retired Inspector Rolf Straatemeier (FQPM Life Member), the cells were gifted to the Etheridge Shire Council and subsequently restored in 2016.

History of the Forsayth Police Station

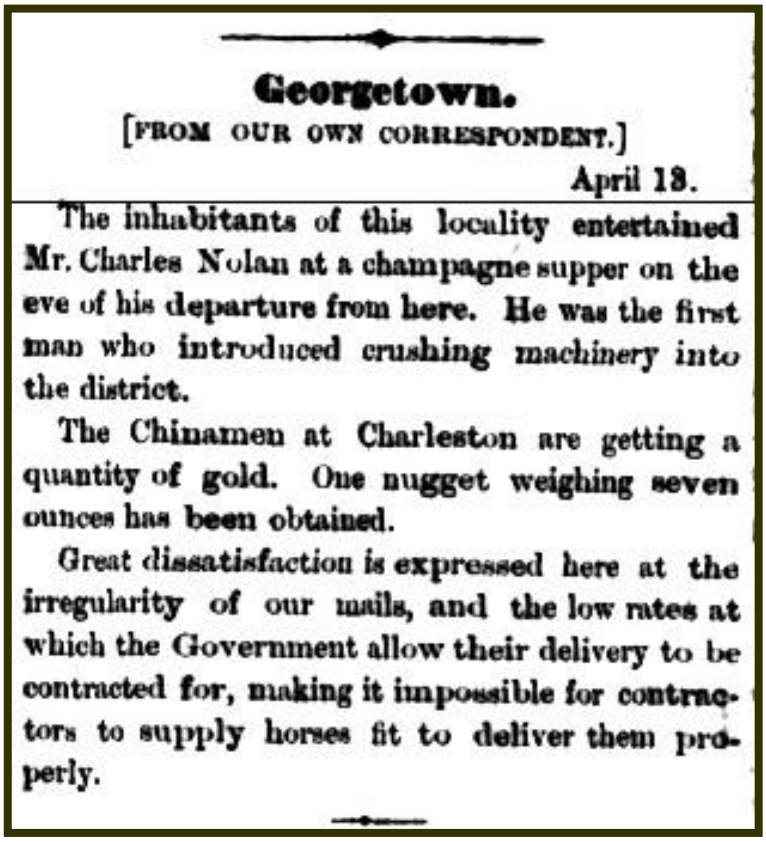
Forsayth, formally called Charleston/New Charleston, is located on the Etheridge Gold Field, where this precious metal was discovered in 1871. A report on the Etheridge area appeared in The Brisbane Courier of December 8, 1875 and described the area as:

'…situated about twenty-seven miles S.S.E. of Georgetown, at the head of Delaney's Creek, and surrounded by conglomerate ranges, with numerous sugar-loaf hills and pinnacles..... Great hardships and difficulty were encountered by Messrs. Baker, Harman, Gordon, and O'Donoghue, who took up the first reef, the Nil Desperandum, about two years and nine months ago. The party had to work the reef for seventeen months before they could get any trial of the stone at the crushing machine. The dividends received enabled them to purchase a crushing machine of their own'.

The Report from the Acting Commissioner of Police for the year 1872, notes that, *'during the past year, the Gold Escorts have been running without the slightest accident. The Gilbert and Etheridge commenced running in the month of April, the gold being carried on pack-horses, there being a bridle track from the Etheridge to Cardwell'.*

One of the earliest references to Charleston appeared in The Brisbane Courier on Monday 20 October 1873, indicating Charleston in the electorate of Burke to be a polling place.

The first reference to Charleston in the Queensland Police Gazette of 1874, concerned a dark-brown gelding stolen from William O'Donohue of Charleston on 20 December 1873.



Georgetown.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

April 18.

The inhabitants of this locality entertained Mr. Charles Nolan at a champagne supper on the eve of his departure from here. He was the first man who introduced crushing machinery into the district.

The Chinamen at Charleston are getting a quantity of gold. One nugget weighing seven ounces has been obtained.

Great dissatisfaction is expressed here at the irregularity of our mails, and the low rates at which the Government allow their delivery to be contracted for, making it impossible for contractors to supply horses fit to deliver them properly.

On 15 April 1874, The Brisbane Courier, reported that *'The Chinamen at Charleston are getting a quantity of gold. One nugget weighing seven ounces has been obtained'.*

The Queensland Police Gazette of 1876 reported that about 50 ounces of gold in a state of amalgam was stolen from Joshua George Harman between 13 – 17 March. Suspicion was attached to James Brown Orr, and a reward of £40 was offered for the conviction of the offender.

Crime appeared to be on the increase, and Charleston in the Police District of Etheridge was appointed to be a place for holding Courts of Petty Sessions on 11 October 1876. On 26 October, Senior Constable Thomas Lonergan was appointed to be the Clerk of Petty Sessions. A much later report made by Acting Sergeant Thomas Hawley indicated that the Charleston Police Station was built in 1875.

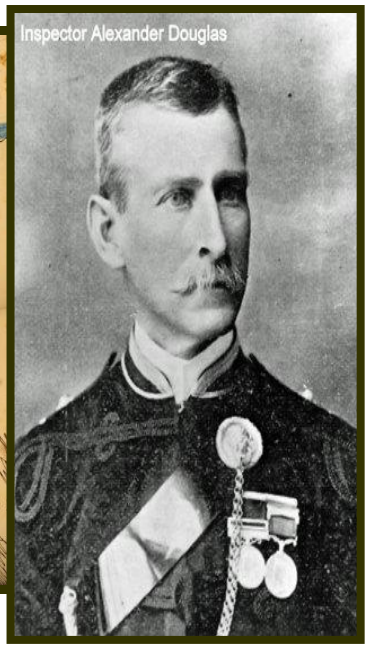
The Brisbane Courier of 27 August 1879, reported from information received from their Georgetown correspondent on August 26.

'Two miners from the Marquis of Lorne reef, four miles west of Charleston, report that four aboriginals visited them yesterday, dressed in clothing answering to the description of that lately stolen from the miners at Goldsmith's Creek. The blacks said they would bring a mob from their camp next day. Sub-Inspector Thompson is patrolling in the neighbourhood of Junction Creek, and an immediate report was made to Sub-Inspector Kiernan, who despatched men to assist the Charleston staff and to patrol the surrounding district'.

On 11 August 1881, Sub-Inspector 1/c Ferdinand Macquarie Tompson inspected the Charleston Police Station. *'The Books at this Station were correct and neatly kept, Government Property in good condition, and the men attentive to their duties. The Quarters (which are also used as a Court House) besides being small and inconvenient, are in a ruinous state, and only kept from falling by timber props. An expenditure of £150 would I think suffice for the erection of suitable Quarters here, and I trust you*

will authorise me to expend that amount in time to get these men properly housed before the next rainy season'.

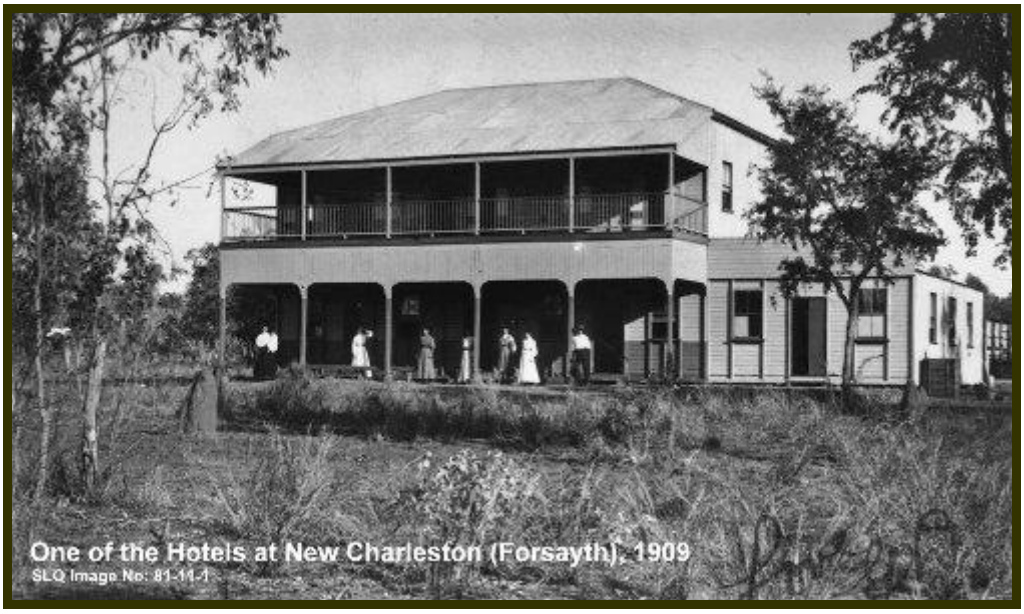
The expenditure was approved, and in December 1881, a new police building was constructed at a cost of £156.



In June 1886, Inspector Alexander Douglas, recommended that the Charleston Police Station be broken up, due to several crushing mills having been moved some miles from Charleston. These included O'Donoghue's Reef which was about four miles south-west of Charleston and Marquis Hill about five miles west of Charleston which had two crushing mills. At Goldsmith's Creek with its two crushing mills, a large mining camp was forming with hotels and stores and with miners scattered about the field.

This movement of miners out of Charleston resulted in a reduced population with the Constable having little to do. It was suggested that Constable James McGrath be transferred to Georgetown to perform escort and other duties. The Commissioner of Police, David Seymour, was prepared to leave the Constable at Charleston for a while longer as there was no accommodation at Goldsmith's Creek and due to new fields opening the situation could change.

On 18 October 1886, Inspector Alexander Douglas, again recommended that the Charleston Police Station be closed, saying that the cost of the Constable and Tracker was over £200 per year, especially if they were not fully occupied. The Commissioner of Police did not agree with this proposal.
By 1894 the population of Charleston had grown. On 19 June 1894, Senior Constable Thomas Hawley applied for a second Constable to be sent to the town for general duty.



'There is two Hotels at Charleston at present and three in the course of erection and is expected to be licensed in July next. There is two at Castleton seven miles away and one Queenslander Reef one mile or so away from Charleston.

The Senior Const made a rough count of the population a week ago and he found there was 280 people, men, women and children in the Sub District.....

Works are starting again at Goldsmith's Creek, 12 miles away, and there is bound to be a Hotel here also in a short time'.

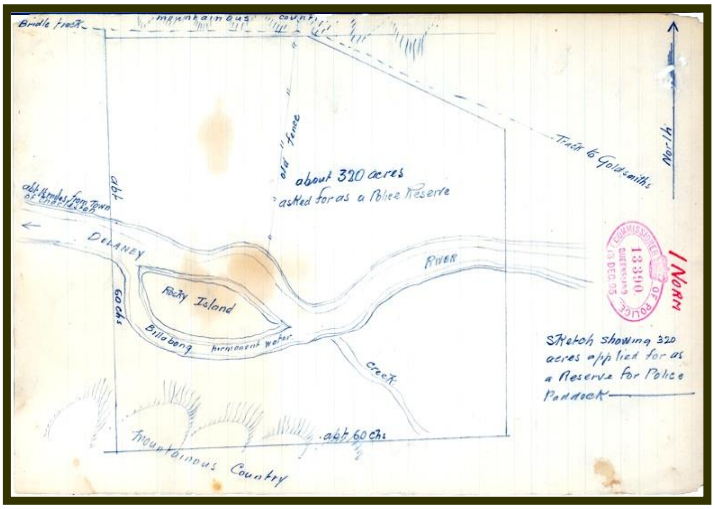
In November 1894, Charleston was reinstated as a place for holding Courts of Petty Sessions, after having been cancelled four years before. Inspector 2/c David Graham on 21 November 1894 reported that *'the present Police buildings at Charleston have not sufficient accommodation for the purpose. It is a small slabbed building with iron roof, ground floor, and without any windows, hardly room enough for the Constables quarters, with a small skillion harness room at the end, and a miserable tumble down kitchen at the rear. There are no cells at this Police Station and no security for prisoners.*

Charleston is the centre of a large and important mining district and increasing everyday. I therefore recommend that a new Barrack and Courtroom, also two cells be erected at Charleston'.

The Commissioner of Police, on 6 February 1895, in a report to the Colonial Secretary, further described the police barracks as consisting of a three roomed building of slabs with iron roof and earthen floor, and recommended the construction of new barracks with courtroom and two cells.

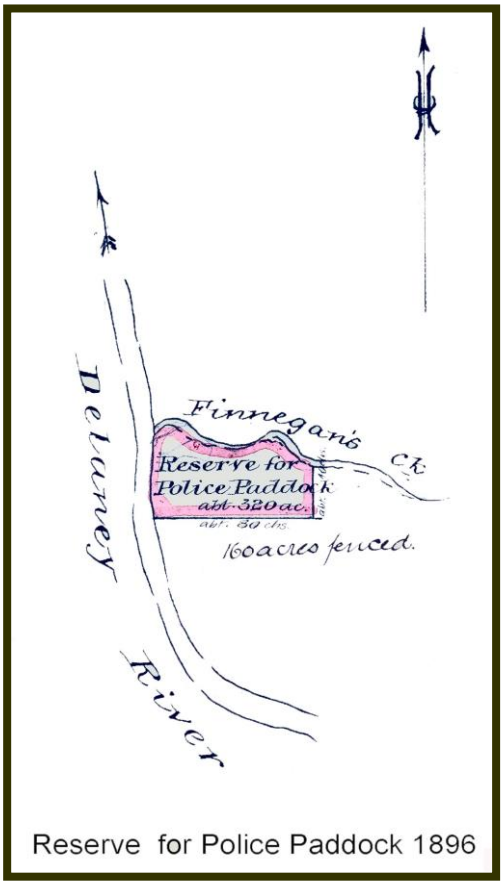
On 19 November 1895, Senior Constable Thomas Hawley, reported that Mr Geraghty (Surveyor) had consented to prepare a pencil sketch of the proposed police paddock and proposed fencing.

Senior Constable Hawley submitted a plan of another more suitable site on 2 December 1895.



'The Sen Const attached a plan or sketch of another site for Paddock which is a thousand times a better and more convenient place. The land is good and it would be convenient and easy of access in all weathers. As shown on plan there is springs four or five months of the year, and a well could be sunk for a very nominal sum at far end as shown on plan. What good is a Paddock where there is no good grass for the horses to feed on.'

Senior Constable Hawley reported on the necessity for a cell for prisoners on 29 June 1896.



Reserve for Police Paddock 1896

'…..during the past twelve months twenty prisoners had been locked up at this station for various offences.

On all these occasions, except prisoner Elizabeth McAlpine, the Senior Const. was forced to secure them at Station by chaining them up to a ring secured in Const. Hornibrooks quarters and to verandah post.

On 21st May 1896, Prisoner Richard Plummer, 'a big burly blacksmith' was locked up for disorderly conduct and obscenity, he was so violent and bad in language that the Senior Const. and Const. Hornibrook had to drag him out and chain him to a tree in Police reserve, and watch him until he got sober, and then brought him back under roof of Barracks. On two occasions the handcuffs were broken by prisoners and they would have escaped only they were well watched'.

On 11 July 1896, the reserve for police paddock at Charleston was gazetted. The area being about 320 acres.

An adequate supply of water for the police station was also necessary. Acting Sergeant Hawley requested a second water tank on 26 June 1897, explaining that the water in the creek was poisoned by the Battery crushing mundic stone or quartz. In January 1898, approval was given for the purchase of a new rum cask for water storage at a cost of 10 shillings. The Acting Sergeant now had five children and the provision of adequate water had become a serious matter.

After Inspector Graham's critical remarks concerning his inspection of the police station in June 1897, Acting Sergeant Hawley elaborated on improvements he had made.

'The Acting Sergeant at some expense to himself built a neat little kitchen with an ant bed fireplace and chimney. The timber for this the Acting Sergeant, Constable Hornibrook and Tracker had to carry on their shoulders for about two miles. The iron was purchased by Acting Sergeant out of his own money. The old kitchen was left standing and was used by the Acting Sergeant's wife to wash and boil clothes in. In dry calm weather she cooks there still, it being nearer than the new one. The Acting Sergeant being absent on 17th, probably Inspector did not see this, it being one side in line with Tracker's hut…..When the Acting sergeant took over this station in [18]*92 there was no water closet except a frame of four slabs with a shade of calico. Since then the Acting sergeant built two water closets, one for the constable and strangers, and one for the Acting Sergeant and his little family. One was built of slabs and round timber and pieces of iron on top, the second was built of round timber frame cover in sides and top with bark got by the Acting Sergeant and Tracker a long distance in bush. These are as good as could be expected from the material'.*

Inspector Lamond

In August 1898, the Department of Public Works authorised the expenditure of £150 for the erection of a small building at Charleston for police purposes. In October 1898, the Police Carpenter, Constable Hansen, was left at Charleston by Inspector Graham, to erect the new building with hardwood and galvanised iron sent from Normanton. The police dray from Georgetown was used to cart the stumps for the new building and fence posts for the police paddock. The building consisted of two rooms,

and one prison cell, with a detached kitchen. Just before completion on 27 December 1898, Inspector Graham suggested that an additional room be added and the back verandah be boarded to provide additional accommodation for Acting Sergeant Hawley and his family at a cost of £60.

Inspector James Lamond inspected Charleston Police Station on 19 February 1899. The strength of the Station was reported as consisting of Acting Sergeant Hawley, Constable Irwin, Tracker Billy and five horses.

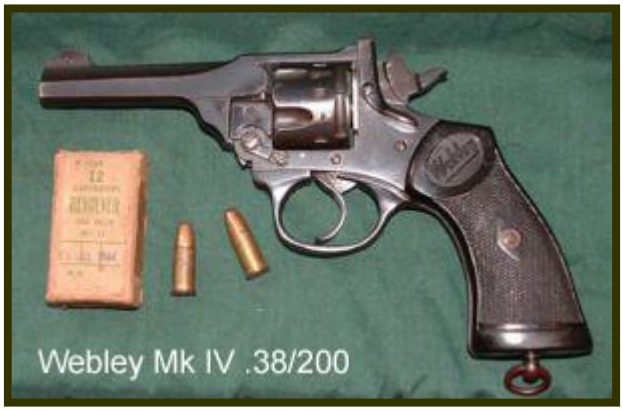
'The Acting Sergeant has nearly 20 years Gulf service and I would recommend he get a transfer south, such transfer would be for the benefit of him, his family, and the Police Department.

A new building for the use of the Acting Sergeant has lately been completed, a partition dividing the police cell from the Acting Sergeant's, wife's, children's bedroom. I strongly recommend that cell be used as a bed or other room by the Sergeant's family as it must be most uncomfortable and demoralising for a mother and children to have to hear the filthy language etc made use of by "drunks" and others. Please approve of this, there is plenty accommodation for prisoners in the old building.

A horse paddock fence is being erected by the Police, will report on it when it is finished'.

By Inspector Lamond's next inspection in June 1899, Acting Sergeant Hawley was about to be transferred to Rockhampton and Constable Myles McCabe was to be in charge. The horse paddock fence was still in the course of erection and the Georgetown police had been instructed to assist until it was completed.

'Everything about Charleston is very dull. The crushing machine was being hung up for want of stone so that until a return of prosperity to the place I consider one constable and tracker sufficient for the work in that district. Georgetown, Percyville, and Cumberland are within easy distances of Charleston should assistance be required in this direction'.



The next inspection in August 1904 by Chief Inspector Alexander Douglas found the Arms consisted of two Martini Henry carbines, one Snyder, two sword bayonets, and two Webley revolvers, one of which was useless. It was also found that crime was deceasing along with the population. Only one of the three Batterys was working continuously.

On 17 December 1905, a cyclone passed through Charleston damaging five panes of glass in the windows of the police buildings, and fencing of the police paddock of which 160 acres was fenced.

An inspection of Charleston Police Station by Inspector Lamond on 30 July 1906, revealed that Constable John William Johnson, *'was and had been absent for over a week after cattle thieves'*. The nature of crimes in the district was principally cattle stealing.

'I believe Constable Johnson will do his best to put down the alleged cattle stealing that is said to be going on in the district'.

In May 1907, Constable Johnson requested the appointment of an Aboriginal called Willie as a Tracker for Charleston in order to maintain a check on cattle stealing. In December, funding became available, and a Tracker was appointed.

Inspector John Quilter, in September 1909, remarked that, *'the train is now running to Reedy Springs which is 19 miles from Charleston. The rails are laid to within 13 miles of new Charleston which is one mile from the old Charleston. The Company dismissed 100 men that were working on the line about the 16th ultimo. The population of Charleston is now about 250, within a radius of five miles'.*

Charleston Police station was again inspected on 23 October 1910 by Inspector John Quilter.

'Since my last inspection on 27th August 1909, a railway station has been erected at New Charleston and the train is now running in there for several months from Cairns. Two large, two-storied hotels, one railway station, one bank, one post office, one butcher's shop, station master's quarters, and several private residences have also been erected. The coaches arriving to and from Georgetown depart from New Charlestown. The population is about 300. Old Charleston which is a little over one mile from New Charleston, is constituted of two hotels, one school, one store, and a Police station and other residences. The population is about 200. I am almost convinced that in a very short time the whole of the residents there will remove to New Charleston with the exception of the hotel-keepers and the store-keeper.

I find that it is very inconvenient for the police to meet the arrival and departure of coaches at New Charleston owing to the quarters being so far away. As we have an area of about 5 acres for building purposes about 200 yards south of the two new hotels at New Charleston, I would strongly recommend that the Police Barracks be removed there'.

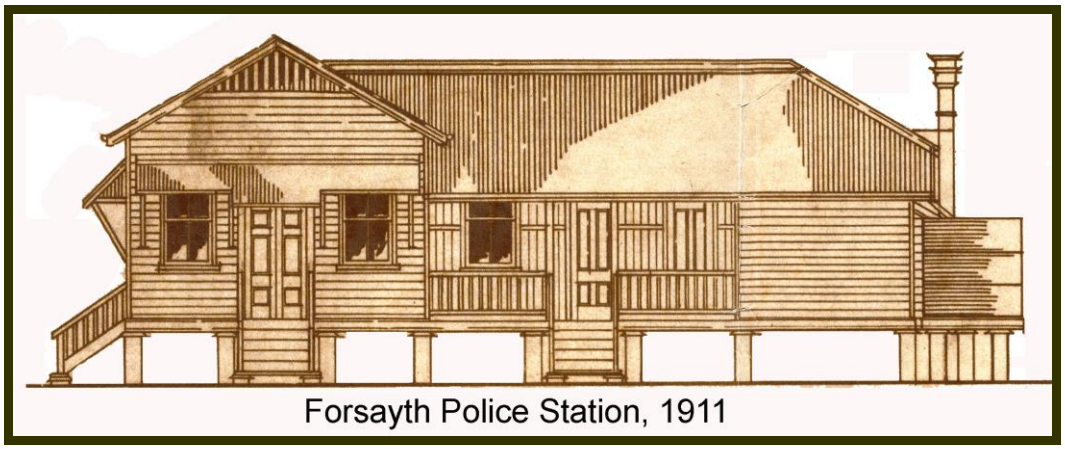
Inspector Quilter also noted that the police barracks built in 1881 were not worth moving except for the iron from the roof.

On 1 November 1910, the Charleston District Progress Association wrote to the Commissioner of Police, William Cahill, asking for a police station and lock up to be erected at the New Charleston site which was about one

and a quarter miles from Old Charleston. The population of the district was expected to grow, especially since the railway terminus had arrived at New Charleston and the discovery of good mineral lodes.

In early 1911, New Charleston became Forsayth. The Bank Manager and Mining Officials have complained of the need for police protection, due to the large numbers of miners and the great amount of money kept at the Bank. Inspector Edward John Sweetman arranged for one of the two constables at Old Charleston to camp in a tent at Forsayth until new quarters were erected. The constable was supplied with a tent from Georgetown Station.

A tender for the erection of the Forsayth Police Station by Mr A. May was accepted on 25 August 1911. The cost would be £1187. A reserve for police purposes to build the police barracks on was selected a few days earlier. The reserve was surveyed by Mr Richard Unsworth and it was gazetted on 15 June 1912. The area of the police reserve was 3 acres and 6.8 perches.



Forsayth Police Station, 1911

The Charleston Police Station was closed on 3 May 1912 and the Forsayth Police Station was opened on the same day.

Mr E. Grimstone, the local school teacher, rented the old police barracks at Charleston at a cost of 7 shillings and 6 pence per week. One water tank was moved to the new police station at Forsayth from the old quarters, as well as sufficient iron to build quarters for the Tracker.

In January 1916, the Department of Public Works called for tenders to remove the old Charleston Police Station and re-erect with improvements as a Teacher's residence for the State School at Forsayth.

On 1 March 1920, Tracker Pluto, attached to the Forsayth Police Station, died in the humpy provided as his quarters. Constable Albert Baynton Colefax applied for another Tracker, and on 2 September 1920, Tracker Burke arrived at Forsayth. On finding out from Constable Colefax that the previous Tracker had died in the humpy he would not go into it. A new humpy would have to be built. The humpy was originally built of old and rusty galvanised iron which had also been damaged in a cyclone on 5

January 1919. Mr Kenwood Johns offered to sell Constable Colefax eight sheets of good second hand iron which was accepted and built Tracker Burke a new humpy.

In 1923, water pipes were installed to connect the Forsayth Police Station with the Railway water supply. The water was utilised for watering the police horses, cleansing the police premises, and for the use of the Tracker and his wife. Constable Colefax purchased his own water.

An inspection of the police paddock in 1931, revealed that four troop horses were kept there. They were called Regent, Barge, Bill, and Larrikin. There was no water in the paddock and the horses had to be brought to a dam at the township every day.

In June 1934, the Forsayth Police buildings consisted of a dwelling with six rooms, being front verandah room, front bedroom, living room, spare bedroom, kitchen and bathroom, with the front and back verandah partly latticed in. The single men's quarters consisted of one room adjoining the kitchen of the dwelling at the eastern end, with a verandah attached. The Police Station office was attached to the dwelling on the north-eastern corner. The Court House was attached to the dwelling on the north-western corner.

The Tracker's quarters consisted of a one roomed iron hut situated about 30 yards from the dwelling on the northern side.

There were three water closets for the use of the Tracker and prisoners, the police officer in charge and his family and the single constable when Forsayth was a two man station.

A two stalled stable and saddle room was situated about 20 yards from the station dwelling on the eastern side under one roof.

The two cells with a small verandah were situated about 15 yards on the eastern side of the station dwelling. There were five water tanks at the station. Fences consisted of one right around the Police Reserve, and the

other enclosing the station dwelling, Court House, Police Station office, single men's quarters, and cells.

On 23 November 1935 at about 12 noon, a whirlwind damaged the Tracker's quarters. The roof was blown away about 50 or 60 yards, the back wall was blown off, and all rafters broken. The iron was all twisted, full of holes, and of no further use. Constable Heinrich Nuss reported that the Tracker had to be accommodated in the saddle room, and that a new building was required. The new Tracker's quarters were built in the latter half of 1936. It was a one room, wood and iron building.

On 9 January 1940, Constable Norman Reeves, requested permission to keep his private horse in the police paddock. He had been using his own horse for police work as there was no troop horse attached to the Forsayth Police Station. His request was approved and he was also able to shoe his horse at Departmental expense.

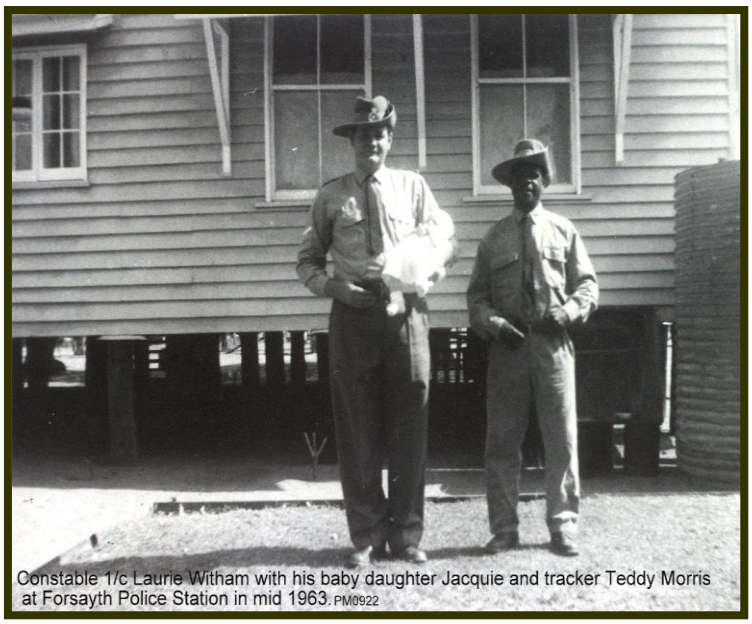
A new wash house with set in tubs was built at the end of 1940 to replace the existing one which comprised of a trellis with a creeper growing over the rotten timber. It was situated five yards east of the dwelling.

In March 1942, Constable Reeves applied to house a motor car in the stables which had not been used for some considerable time. His own private horses that he used for police work were not kept in the stable. His application was granted.

During August 1942, Constable Reeves and the Tracker were permitted to sink a well in the Police Paddock for the watering of the horses.

In September 1959, a new septic system had been installed with two conveniences connected to the system. The pan sanitary service provided by McNamara Henry Curley was cancelled.

In July 1961, the Department of Health and Home Affairs was considering the *'provision of accommodation for transient natives at Forsayth'* and asked the Commissioner of Police, Francis Bischof, if a building could be erected on the Police Reserve. Constable Colin Kellermeier reported that there was ample room on the Police Reserve, and suggested that the Officer in Charge would have more control over the temporary occupants.



Constable 1/c Laurie Witham with his baby daughter Jacquie and tracker Teddy Morris at Forsayth Police Station in mid 1963. PM0922

The accommodation was erected in March 1964 and it was situated 40 feet from the residence and station.

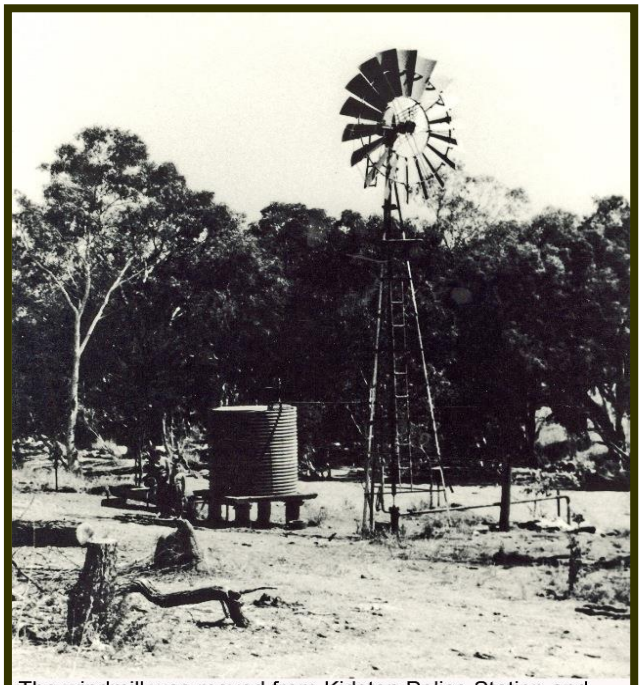
Forsayth Police Station was inspected in May 1962, and Inspector Frederick Pflugradt made the following general remarks.

'Grazing is the principal industry at Forsayth with several fossickers in the area fossicking for gold, silver and tin. Population 67 persons. Town consists of one Hotel, railway station, Hospital, nine private houses with five homesteads in area. Forsayth is the rail terminus and a large number of cattle are trucked from this centre. This is the main duty of the Constable in checking all cattle. Apart from this there is not much Police work otherwise. Constable 1/c Witham only took over this Station on 29.4.62. He seems to be the type who should settle in at Forsayth'.

In 1963, a lighting plant was installed which replaced the use of kerosene lamps and other kerosene fuelled appliances.

In January 1964, Constable Lawrie Witham, applied to keep a milking cow for the domestic use of his family. The nearest supply of fresh milk to Forsayth was Mareeba, which was approximately 20 hours train travel from Forsayth. The Queensland Government Railways did not use refrigerated wagons on the Mareeba to Forsayth rail line which would mean the milk would sour before arrival. His intention was to graze the cow on the Forsayth Town Common and milk it at the rear of the Police Station. His application was approved.

Constable Witham also successfully applied to house his privately owned motor vehicle in the recently built garage erected between the cell block and the stables.



The windmill was moved from Kidston Police Station and re-erected at Forsayth Police Station in 1964.
PM0923

In December 1964, Constable Witham applied for a wind mill to be erected in the Forsayth Police Paddock for the purpose of watering the five troophorses attached to the Station. It was suggested that the wind mill would pump water from the existing well sunk in 1942, instead of using the antiquated and time wasting method of bailing from the well by means of a bucket and rope. With the imminent closure of the Kidston Police Station, that windmill was dismantled and installed at Forsayth.

In June 1967, consideration was given to the closing of the

Forsayth Police Station, especially since the construction of the new beef road from Mount Garnet to Georgetown would bypass Forsayth. An inspection of the police station and town, and an interview with Mr Stanley Collins, the Chairman of the Etheridge Shire Council, helped to confirm that the presence of police was required to provide a variety of agency services, apart from general police duties, and the control of stock stealing.

It was noted that the police division covered 11,000 square miles, and contained 34 cattle stations. Senior Constable Cecil Bowman, also had charge of 10 troop horses and that three (ten day) mounted patrols were undertaken annually. The Police paddock reserve of approximately 9 square miles, was 5 miles out of town, and newly fenced by steel posts, plain and barbed wire. Finnegan's Creek ran through the property which contained a windmill, well and trough. The paddock was well grassed with a quarter of it containing 'Townsville Lucerne', regarded as a very good stock feed.

The combined police station and residence consisted of a police office in the front of the building, four bedrooms, dining room, lounge, kitchen, storeroom, sewing room, bath room and with a septic system provided. A slow combustion stove was fitted in the kitchen. The building was in good condition and had two large Silky Oak trees growing in the front of the police yard.

The Trackers quarters of wood and iron comprised one room. The quarters were too small for Tracker Noel Lacey, his wife, and three children, and so they occupied three of the four rooms of the transient quarters, owned by the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs, situated on the police station reserve. Both buildings were in good condition and the transient quarters had a septic system provided.

The police station reserve was fenced with steel posts and 'K' wire netting. There were seven rain water tanks and two Reef water tanks from the Dam.

Apart from grazing, agate mining was extensive, and prospecting for gold, silver and tin was also carried on. There were a number of reputed cattle thieves residing in the police division, and mounted patrols were maintained.

It was also noted that 12 tourist buses containing 12 to 33 passengers called at Forsayth for an overnight stay each year. The *'Goldfields Hotel'* was the only hotel in Forsayth. It was also a big cattle trucking centre and in the previous 3½ years, 28,404 head of cattle had been railed from Forsayth.

There was a hospital containing eight beds with a matron in charge. The school had 21 pupils and one teacher, although arrangements were in hand for some school children to board at Georgetown, and possibly for others to bus to Georgetown. The reason for this was that the school

buildings were in poor condition, and a lot of money would be required to replace the existing buildings.

In September 1968, another garage was erected, to especially house the police departmental vehicle, a Willy's Jeep. This building was completed on 9 December 1968.

In February 1970 the police paddock was empty as all the police horses had been sold to a Mareeba resident. The Police Paddock Reserve with an area of 320 acres was no longer required by the Police Department, and its proclamation cancelled in the Government Gazette of November 6, 1971.

In December 1973, Constable 1/c Walter Toovey applied to keep his privately owned horses on the police reserve and also indicated he would use them as necessary for police duties. Out of his five stock horses, he only intended to run two horses on the reserve at any one time. His application was successful.

In June 1979, Constable Robert Goad, built an internal toilet in the police residence with material supplied by the Department of Works after his wife complained about the proximity of snakes to the outside convenience.

Forsayth Police Station is still located in the old courtroom of the old police station building. Cattle thieves, brawling miners, gold escorts, and raiding Aboriginal warriors kept the early divisional police officers in constant work, with many days and nights spent in the saddle. This is a huge contrast to the peaceful law-abiding community today.

Forsayth station and house

There is only one local hotel which poses exceptionally few problems and is usually closed by 10pm except for Thursday and Friday nights when it may operate until midnight during the autumn and winter months of the tourist season.

The current police vehicle is a five-seater turbo diesel Toyota Landcruiser Troop Carrier with winch and basic recovery equipment which is robust enough to tackle the tough tracks in the division.

Many old mining relics such as ore carts, railway lines, and mine machine components have been recovered by the locals and some of these are displayed by the council in the park opposite the Goldfields Hotel and in private yards.

Gold nuggets of varying sizes are still being located by local and visiting prospectors armed with the latest state-of-the-art metal detector.

Article compliments of the Queensland Police Museum.

Congratulations to FQPM Associates

The FQPM President and Committee extend congratulations to the following FQPM associates:

- Former Commissioner, Patron and current FQPM Life Member, Mr Bob Atkinson AO, APM on the announcement of the Queensland Greats Awards.

  The Queensland Greats Awards recognise outstanding Queenslanders for their years of dedication and contribution to the development of the State and their role in strengthening and shaping the community in Queensland, Australia. The awards are presented as part of the Queensland Day celebrations. Each award is commemorated with a plaque on a wall in the Roma Street Parkland.

- Former Assistant Commissioner and FQPM Life Member Gregory Lance Early awarded the Member of the Order of Australia (AM). For significant service to the community, particularly to former law enforcement officers.

- Senior Sergeant Melanie Ann Wilkins, Manager, Queensland Police Service Honours and Awards on the award of the Australian Police Medal (APM). Mel is currently the Commissioner's Representative to the FQPM.

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.

$7 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

FQPM Members – when purchasing FQPM merchandising, please ask for your "Member's discount"!

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:

Michael O'Donnell – Camp Hill
Gerry Stevens – Shailer Park

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 by the FQPM Website Administrator.

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 meet 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 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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7 January 2019