THE FRIENDS' GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum
3rd Quarter 2019 Edition

FQPM President's Message

This year the FQPM embarked on two projects relating to the graves of officers listed on the QPS Commemoration Roll. The major project relating to Acting Sergeant David Johnston buried in the heritage listed Mackay General Cemetery is nearing completion (see update in this issue).

A smaller project relates to the death of Constable Richard Roots who was killed at Coen on 25 September 1897 when a mine tunnel collapsed on him after entering to carry out an inspection. As his grave in the Coen Cemetery is not identified, a plaque supplied by the FQPM will be attached to the Coen Police Station building on National Police Remembrance Day. I thank Retired Inspector Jock MacDonald for his work in making this important project happen.

The work being carried out by the FQPM in locating and restoring graves of officers listed on the QPS Commemoration Roll received a boost recently when the QPS provided some surplus funds for this purpose following the completion of the new QPS Memorial in the Botanical Gardens. The Management Committee has commenced an audit of graves to identify the projects to be carried out in the coming year.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is set down for 10 am Wednesday 9 October 2019 in the Police Museum lecture room. Members will shortly receive advice regarding the AGM and I encourage all members who can attend to participate.

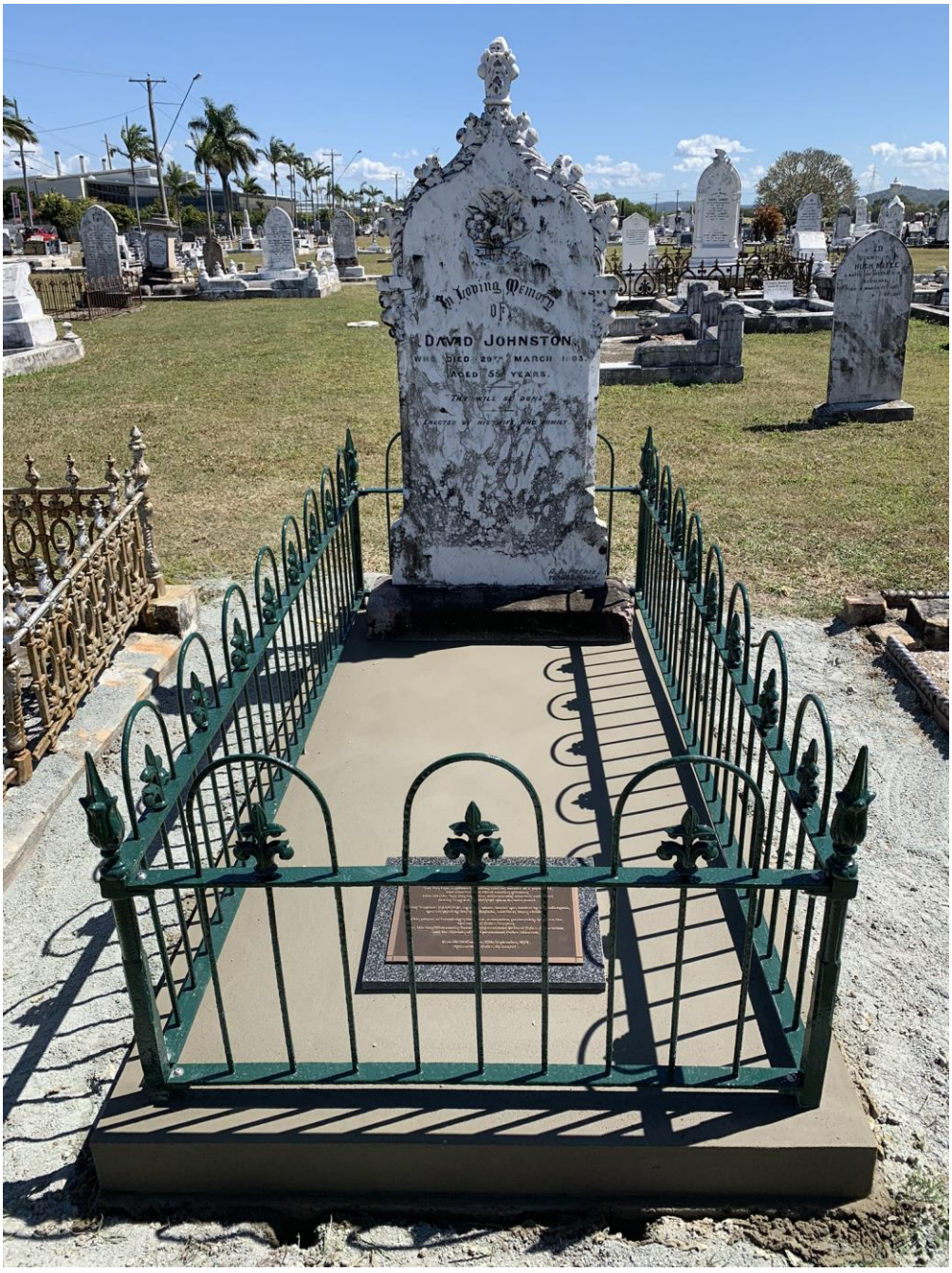
Bob Burns APM, President FQPM

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

Our major project for the year is nearing completion. The grave of Acting Sergeant David Johnston who died in 1903, is located in the Mackay General Cemetery. The grave was in much need of restoration particularly the iron fence and the concrete platform.

The project has been managed by the Mackay-Whitsunday Branch of the Queensland Retired Police Association who have been able to obtain great assistance from the Mackay Regional Council who own the cemetery. A number of local businesses have also offered their services.

The cemetery is listed on the Queensland Heritage Register and provided a range of advice that has ensured that the integrity of the original grave has been maintained. The QPS District Superintendent has included the rededication of the grave as part of the 2019 National Police Remembrance Day activity. This is intended to take the form of a Vigil Service on the 26 September 2019.



Acting David Johnston grave at Mackay Cemetery. Note the refurbished iron work and newly laid concrete. A suitable plague has been fitted to the slab.

Presentation to former Senior Constable Melissa Pierce.

On Wednesday 3 July 2019, FQPM President Bob Burns and Committee Member Wayne Coyne visited former Senior Constable Melissa Pierce at her home at Rothwell. Melissa suffered a catastrophic illness some years ago while serving in western Queensland.

A purpose-built home was constructed for Melissa and her children to enable her to receive the full time care she requires. FQPM Life Member Mick O'Brien had advised that Melissa was a near neighbour of his and that she would appreciate a visit from former colleagues.

The FQPM Management Committee agreed to confer Honorary Life Membership on Mellissa, thus enabling her to receive updates and newsletters regarding the activities of the FQPM.

The President presented a gift of the FQPM *Women in Policing* challenge coin in a presentation box to Melissa at a morning tea hosted by Melissa's mum Diane Cree and attended by Mick O'Brien and her carers.

FQPM Committee Member Wayne Coyne and President Bob Burns present FQPM challenge coins to former Senior Constable Melissa Pierce.

History of the Queensland Police Pipe Band

The Beginning:

Constable First Class Neville (Nev) Montgomery was getting frustrated. He was a keen musician with experience performing both in the Queensland Irish and Brisbane Caledonian Pipe Bands. Nev was getting nowhere fast.

Founder of the Queensland Police Pipe Band, Constable 1/c Neville Montgomery in 1962.

It was in May 1956, Nev was keen to approach Commissioner P Glynn at the then Police Headquarters at the Brisbane Treasury Building.

The keen young officer was told on both occasions he managed to inquire that he should apply in triplicate before he could even obtain an audience with such an important person.

After jumping through all the required hoops, audience with the Commissioner was finally obtained.

Nev enthusiastically revealed to Commissioner Glynn there was a number of sworn officers in and around the metropolitan area who were engaged in pipe band activities.

As a consequence of discussions had with some of these talented officers, it was considered there were reasonable prospects in forming a band with a view to representing the Queensland Police by performing at various Brisbane events and various pipe band contests.

The police jurisdictions in both New South Wales and Victoria were well represented by their successful and popular pipe bands.

Alas for Nev! The request was refused, without a reason being given.

He also made a similar approach to Commissioner Mr. T Harold in 1957, with the same result.

Nev didn't give up easily and in the early weeks of March 1958, he took it upon himself to travel to the Queensland Police Training Depot at Petrie Terrace, where the then Commissioner, Frank Bischoff had his office.

Stairway meeting

Upon entering the ground floor of the Depot, our intrepid Nev started to climb his way up the stairs to the Commissioner's office when who should he meet but the Commissioner who was on his way down.

Nev being a diligent officer, gave the customary salute and before the Commissioner could proceed any further Nev immediately asked him for an appointment to discuss the prospects of forming a Police Pipe Band.

The Commissioner looked at Nev and said, "A pipe band eh?"

It became apparent to an astute Nev that Mr. Bischoff was immediately attracted to the suggestion for he saw fit to lengthen their stairway discussion by mentioning, "I was in Scotland recently and was honoured, along with my colleague, to a recital by the City of Glasgow Police Pipe Band. They do a fine job over there. You should write to them."

Nev knew he had the Commissioner hooked.

Nev was fortunate for Mr. Bischoff was not only aware of the important values of forging strong links between the community and the police but he had also been impressed by a recent trip to Scotland where he had seen the City of Glasgow Police Pipe band perform.

From this point, things moved quickly.

Two Important events

Two important events occurred on those stairs that afternoon giving rise to the birth of the Queensland Police Pipe Band. Firstly Nev asked Mr. Bischoff as he was about to depart, "May I have your approval to arrange a meeting of interested Police and invite Superintendent George Smith. He is in Brisbane presently for a lawn bowling tournament and he had much to do with forming the New South Wales Police Pipe Band."

Mr. Bischoff gave his approval and went one step further whereby the second event was Mr. Bischoff saying to Nev, "Go and tell all this to the Chief Inspector."

Ten minutes after their stairway meeting, Nev found himself briefing Chief Inspector Tom Martin on what was required to constitute the formation of a pipe band. Nev advised the Chief Inspector there were willing Police Officers within the ranks to form the band but perhaps a small amount of money would be helpful in starting the band.

Chief Inspector Tom Martin was, above everything, a very astute officer and requested Nev to furnish a written report on everything possible governing the formation of the band. Nev walked away from that meeting a very happy man.

Next he travelled to the Windsor Hotel where he introduced himself to Superintendent George Smith of the New South Wales Police. The Superintendent agreed to also attend the meeting.

Nev then sought and obtained approval from Sub Inspector Bernie Bright to hold the Band's inaugural meeting in the Police Welfare Club Rooms at the old Roma Street Police Station.

A message was then submitted over the police radio (VKR) advising of the time and date of the Band's first meeting.

Nev had also personally contacted pipers and drummers within the Department to ensure that they attended.

Some expressed doubts that the plan would ever see fruition but an enthusiastic Nev forged ahead with plans regardless.

The inaugural meeting

On the day of the meeting towards the early part of March 1958, Nev called at the Windsor Hotel and walked with Superintendent Smith to the meeting at Roma Street Police Station. Chief Inspector Martin, true to his word, was present as well as about fifteen sworn police.

The inaugural meeting of the Queensland Police Pipe Band was held at the top floor of the Roma Street Police Station in the Police Welfare Club room.

The meeting went well and to assist in funding, it was decided for the band to charge a small fee for public performances and any winnings on the competition field would be channeled to band finances.

Superintendent Smith commented, "It may not be much but it will start you off with a respect of independence."

Nev was appointed in the role of Band Secretary and everyone appeared enthusiastic and eagerly anticipating the next meeting following Nev's report.

The report

After closing the meeting, Nev and Constable Frank O'Gorman spent all of Good Friday 1958 and most the early hours of the following day in the kitchen of Nev's home, preparing the report on the band formation.

Upon leaving at 4.30 am Frank left a very thick report with Nev which was subsequently submitted to the Commissioner through the Chief Inspector and assigned Queensland Police Departmental index coding 49 M 11.

State Government Approval

All was quiet for a few weeks, when in April 1958, the Commissioner's Inspector, Mr. E M Anthony advised Nev that the State Government had formally approved the formation of the Queensland Police Pipe Band and had made a grant of £2,000 towards the purchase of uniforms and equipment.

After another meeting the band was formalised and the following arrangements were made:

Membership

Membership was restricted to serving sworn members of the Police Force and Police Cadets.

Office Bearers

The Commissioner of Police, Mr. F E Bischoff MVO accepted the position of Patron of the Band and the Chief Inspector, Mr. Martin and the Commissioner's Inspector, Mr. Anthony, became Vice Presidents.

Inaugural Members

The Band recorded the following police officers as members and arrangements were made for them to commence attending practices.

Pipers:

Constable	D Clayton
Constable 1/c	R Francis
Constable 1/c	I Lane
Constable	D MacMillan
Constable 1/c	N Montgomery
Constable 1/c	I Hay
Plain Clothes Constable 1/c	J Magee
Constable	F O'Gorman
Constable	J Whitfield
Constable	M Wood

Drummers:

Constable	B Cannon
Constable	E Dawson
Detective Constable	C Montgomery
Plain Clothes Constable	A Rattray
Constable 1/c	F Rynne
Constable	J Nisbett

Drum Major:

Constable	D Whyte

Original Band Office Bearers

President	Constable	D Whyte
Secretary	Constable	N Montgomery
Treasurer	Constable	F O'Gorman

Band Appointments

Members were given the right to appoint their choice of ranks within the Band.

Constable D Whyte	Drum Major
Constable I Hay	Pipe Major
Constable N Montgomery	Pipe Sergeant
Constable D MacMillan	Pipe Corporal
Constable F Rynne	Drum Sergeant
Constable B Cannon	Drum Corporal

Drum Major Dales Whyte leading the Band in the City.

Tartan

Members were given the choice of selecting the tartan that the Band would wear and it was finally down to two clan tartans, Gordon and MacDonald of the Isles.

The Gordon (green) tartan was selected.

The Uniform

The original uniform consisted of the Gordon tartan kilt, plaids and hose. Pipers wore black tunics and drummers scarlet. Glengarry type head dress with black cock feathers and white horse hair sporrans. Pipers wore black cross and waist belts and drummers wore white.

The original waist belt buckles features the wording 'QUEENSLAND POLICE PIPE BAND'.

The plaid brooch was in fact the regulation helmet badge. This became a larger and more appealing item later when it was embossed onto a large circular disc of chrome appearance.

The Glengarry cap badges were small circular chrome discs with the Maltese Cross, (the State emblem) was taken from a helmet badge and attached.

White spats completed the uniform and these were made in the Brisbane Prison along with twelve (12) wooden pipe cases.

The members were fitted for their kilts and tunics by the late Mr. John Urquhart of the Brisbane Caledonian Society.

The world famous firm of R Hardie, (Scotland) made the uniforms according to measurements taken by Mr. Urquhart. It is worth mentioning that upon their arrival from Scotland, not one item required any form of alteration as every tunic fitted perfectly.

Equipment

Some sets of pipes were ordered as were a set of Carlton Gaelic drums.

Practice

Approval was given for practice to take place in the Police Youth Welfare Association building at Lang Park on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons between 2 pm and 5 pm in Departmental time.

The initial practice was Thursday 12 June 1958.

Preparations

In the days that followed much organising ensued in order to prepare for the Band's initial appearance.

Lang Park in 1959.
Front from left: Constable 1/c Ian Hay, Constable Dugald MacMillan, Constable Mervyn Wood, Detective Constable 1/c Cecil Montgomery, Constable Dales Whyte, Queensland

Police Commissioner Frank Bischoff, Sub Inspector Phil Theurkrauf from the Queensland Police Citizen's Youth Welfare Association, Constable Frank O'Gorman, PC Constable 1/c John Magee, Constable Barry Cannon, Constable 1/c Neville Montgomery.

Back from left: Cadet Edward Dawson, Cadet Andrew Winning, Constable James Whitfield, Senior Constable Ivor Lane, PC Constable 1/c Allan Rattray, Constable 1/c Frank Rynne, Constable John Nisbett.

The side drummers had the benefit of a paid tutor who came to Lang Park each practice day to train them as a unit. He was the late Mr. Kevin Rook, who at that time was the lead side drummer of the Red Hackle Pipe Band.

The pipers realised the importance of simplicity and the following would be a fair indication of the original tunes the Band played:

The Barren Rocks of Aden
The Green Hills of Tyrol
Bonnie Dundee
Scotland the Brave
The Nut Brown Maiden

There were times between, when practices commenced and the Band made its first official appearance, when the Commissioner, keen to see how the band was progressing, visited the Club at Lang Park where the band would muster and give a 'private recital'.

First Appearance

The Band's first public appearance was on the 29 August 1958 at the RNA Show Grounds for a Swearing – In Ceremony and the first public appearance in the new band uniform was in the Australia Day Procession on the 26 January 1959.

The Band that day comprised seventeen (17) police previously mentioned.

The Commissioner also directed that the eight (8) Mounted Police would ride at the rear of the Band during the procession.

Article compiled by Roland McCartney, FQPM member and former member of the Queensland Police Pipes and Drums.

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). This publication is mentioned in the entry for F C Urquhart in the Australian Dictionary of Biography.

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

For Information:

The Curator, QPM has advised that Frederick Urquhart's 'Camp Canzonettes' is now available via the State Library Queensland website (File Size = 51.4MB)

http://onesearch.slq.qld.gov.au/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=slq_alma21235181990002061&context=L&vid=SLQ&search_scope=SLQ&tab=slq&lang=en_US

Volunteers for Current Projects

Sam Johnson Biography – Volunteer

The President and Committee wish to express our gratitude to FQPM member Kym Hyson who has volunteered to undertake the research and production of 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 rededicated the site on the 29 September 2015.

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. +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 member:

Melissa Pierce - Rothwell

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 with the AGM held in the Seminar Room of the Queensland Police Museum.

The meeting dates for the remainder of this year (2019) is as follows:

Wednesday 9 October 2019 - 0900 hours (AGM at 1000 hours)
Wednesday 4 December 2019 – 1000 hours

Ian Townsley
Secretary/Editor FQPM
(07) 3351 2797
0414 421 347
7 September 2019