THE FRIENDS' GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum
4th Quarter 2019 Edition

FQPM President's Message

Another AGM has come and gone with the re-election of a number of the previous committee. This year we welcomed the return of Grant Linwood who had served previously. Our Treasurer Rob McCall had asked to step down as he moves into pre-retirement mode and allows him to reassess his very busy committee works throughout the QPS. I take this opportunity to thank Rob and all members who provide their time to ensure the work of the FQPM is always moving forward.

Certainly 2019 will be a year well remembered for the number of projects completed and other assistance that we were able to give to the Police museum. This year, Police Remembrance Day was significant for the FQPM for the two projects completed in time for the annual day of remembrance. The major work carried out in the Mackay Cemetery for the grave restoration of Acting Sergeant David Johnston and the purchase of the memorial plaque attached to the Coen Police Station in memory of Constable Richard Roots whose actual burial plot in not identified in the Coen Cemetery. I thank Jock MacDonald for this work and Dennis Hanson for his management of the Mackay project.

I am pleased to announce that Commissioner Katarina Carroll has accepted our invitation to be Patron of the FQPM and I acknowledge her interest in our work particularly the location and marking of the resting place of our fallen officers.

On behalf of the Management Committee I take the opportunity to wish all members of the FQPM peace and contentment for the Christmas Season and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Bob Burns APM, President FQPM

FQPM Annual General Meeting 2 October 2019

This year's FQPM Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in the Queensland Police Museum Seminar Room on Wednesday 2 October 2019. The election of officers took place and the following financial members were appointed to the Management Committee:

President	Bob Burns
Vice President	Mark Plath
Treasurer	Wayne Coyne
Secretary	Ian Townsley

Committee Members	Kevin Darch Robert Cochrane John McCormack Rob McCall

Additionally, the following appointments were accepted and extended during 2020:

Honorary Auditor	Wayne Osborne
Website Administrator	Robert Cochrane
Website IT Consultant	Open Web Design (Karen Walsh)

FQPM members at the AGM held on Wednesday 2 October 2019 in the Seminar Room Queensland Police Museum.

From left: Kym Hyson, Jarrod Sefton, Tiana Adair, Wayne Coyne (Treasurer), Lisa Jones (Curator) Mark Plath (Vice President), Bob Burns (President), Rob Cochrane, Rob McCall, John McCormack, Ian Townsley (Secretary), Kevin Darch.

Archaeological Emergency

The article titled *Archaeological Emergency* was brought to the attention of the Committee by FQPM member Dave Kolb. The article focuses on the history of the Newmarket Police Station and its long time Officer in Charge, Sergeant Edwin Michael Creedy.

Archaeological Emergency was written by author, historian and detectorist, Harold Peacock.

Harold Peacock writes; this week I responded to an archaeological emergency call to metal detect an historic site that was scheduled for imminent redevelopment. I had just twenty-four hours to save history before the opportunity was lost forever. I didn't have a moment to lose.

Newmarket in Brisbane was originally called "The Three Mile Scrub" because of its distance from the city. Sale yards opened there in 1877 and the original police station was built on the site in 1900. The weatherboard building there today was constructed in the early 1930s as part of a government building program to stave off the Depression. The location is now privately owned and deserted.

A desktop survey using historic aerial photography confirmed the age and location of the current building as well as the existence of the horse paddock used by mounted police through to the 1950s. Attached to the station was 'Bantam' (pictured) one of the oldest ever working police horses that patrolled and paraded well into his twenties. He retired around 1940.

The man most identified with the old Newmarket Police Station was Sergeant Edwin Michael Creedy (pictured with 'Bantam' in 1930). He served with the Queensland Imperial Bushmen in the Boer War in 1901-1902. On the voyage to South Africa, Ed wrote to his uncle John Creedy reporting that he'd won the heavyweight boxing competition on board, for which he received a medal. In the letter was the winner's certificate signed by The Honourable Robert Philp, the premier of Queensland who was also on the ship. Upon his return to Australia, Ed signed up with the Queensland Police. Country postings ensued including in the outback at Thargomindah.

Ed's uncle, John Creedy, who had been a councillor on the Rosewood Shire Council, tragically lost his wife and four children in the four years up to 1915. That same year, another son Vincent was shot in the head at Gallipoli serving in the First World War. The injury never healed despite a visit to world famous surgeon Sir Alexander McCormack in Sydney the following year. Vincent died in 1921, the year that his cousin Ed Creedy was assigned to the Newmarket Police Station.

For the final twenty years of Ed Creedy's thirty-eight years of police service, he was stationed at Newmarket. He and his wife Ethel moved into the police residence as soon as it was built in the 1930s and they loved life there. Ed was well-known and greatly liked because of his geniality, humour, and good fellowship. As the Second World War enveloped the

Pacific in the final months of his service, Ed helped to establish the first 150 air raid wardens in his district. His old mate 'Bantam' retired at around the same time that Ed himself at sixty years of age left the Queensland Police in late 1940. He showed his successor Sergeant Bob Sabien, whom he'd known when Bob was a young boy in Thargomindah, some orange trees and told him how to prune them. Creedy knew and treasured every inch of the ground.

Sergeant Ed Creedy

Ed had problems managing retirement. Six months after leaving the job, and two days after giving Sergeant Sabien instruction how to care for the orange trees, Ed Creedy hung himself in Sedgley Park, just metres from his old station. It was from a tree under which he had often sat while grazing his pet cow.

I owed it to the memories of Sergeant Ed Creedy and his friend Bob Sabien to discover what secrets lay underfoot at their old stamping ground, before the bulldozers moved in.

Surface artefact mapping by field walking revealed nothing other than to confirm that my Minelab metal detector would need to do all the work.

What I discovered took me back 120 years to the everyday life at the first police building on the site. There were keys and padlocks, and a broken horse tack brass buckle that was possibly the cause of a fall. I also found the remains of a doorknob from the original 1900 station residence, certain to have been turned by Ed and Ethel before they moved into the new residence.

The really exciting find was a whistle (pictured overleaf). It was unearthed six inches below the surface near the corner of the current building. My inquiry to the Queensland Police Museum resulted in curator Lisa Jones confirming that it was an air raid Police whistle in use by police along with the rattle and gas mask during World War Two. Wow, what a find.

During the war, the states were given the responsibility of looking after internal security. As Japanese bombs fell on Australia, the police played an active role in soothing community fear over invasion and balancing the tensions between Australian and American troops. Brisbane was swamped by Americans, with around 80,000 stationed here at its peak.

The Queensland Police trained 16,000 civilian air raid wardens. Sergeant Ed Creedy started the job in 1940 and Sergeant Bob Sabien completed the training of 200 of wardens in the Newmarket district. The chief air raid warden for Newmarket was Mr Charles Ireland.

Charles himself was remarkable as a pioneer of the motion picture industry in Australia. He started in the "silent" days, owning venues such as Alderley Theatre and the Elite Theatre at Toowong and was a long time executive of the Queensland Motion Picture Association. Much of the warden training happened in his Alderley complex.

Brisbane's first air raid alert happened on the 20 August 1942 when sirens began sounding late in the morning. Air raid wardens including Charles Ireland rushed to the job wearing steel helmets and blowing their whistles. They began clearing streets and directing people to shelters. The alert turned out to be a false alarm, sparked by an unidentified American aircraft approaching from the sea. Newmarket's chief air raid warden didn't see out the war, however, passing away in early 1945.

The police officer responsible for the Newmarket wardens in 1942 at the height of invasion fears, Bob Sabien, had an amazing life. He enlisted in the Australian Army for the First World War and was wounded at Gallipoli on the 11 November 1915, the day before Ed Creedy's cousin got the bullet to the head. Back home having joined the Queensland Police, Bob advanced to the rank of sub-inspector and after thirty-two years in the force was awarded the Imperial Service Medal by the Governor, Sir John Lavarack. Sir John particularly congratulated him on his preparation and leading the Governor's mounted escorts. Bob had learned to break in horses while a youth on Sir Sidney Kidman's Norley station outside Thargomindah, where he first met Ed Creedy.

The air raid police whistle that I found may well have been handled by Ed Creedy, Bob Sabien, and Charles Ireland. It is an amazing artefact that comes directly from those historic times and these remarkable men. If I hadn't responded to the archaeological emergency call, their history and memory would have been lost forever.

Article researched and written by Harold Peacock

Note:

Edwin Michael Creedy served with the 5th Queensland Imperial Bushmen during the Boer War 1901-02. He was subsequently awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal and the King's South Africa Medal for this service.

Current Major Police Grave Restoration Project
Constable Robert Stewart Robertson Alexander

Robert Stewart Robertson Alexander was born in Scotland and joined the Queensland Police on 1 February 1923 and allocated Registered Number 2622. At the time of his death, he was 26 years of age, married and had one infant daughter.

Robert Stewart Robertson Alexander

Whilst mustering horses in the course of his duties at Eidsvold Station, Constable Alexander was thrown from his horse and sustained internal and spinal injuries. This occurred on 10 April 1926. The Constable never recovered.

He passed away in the Maryborough General Hospital on the 21 May 1926. He was 26 years of age and left a widow and one infant daughter. He was the fourth son of Mr Robert Alexander, of Toogoolawah and had been previously stationed at Maryborough and South Brisbane Stations.

The funeral took place from St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church.

His name appears on the Queensland Police Honour Roll, together with the National Roll in Canberra.

Background

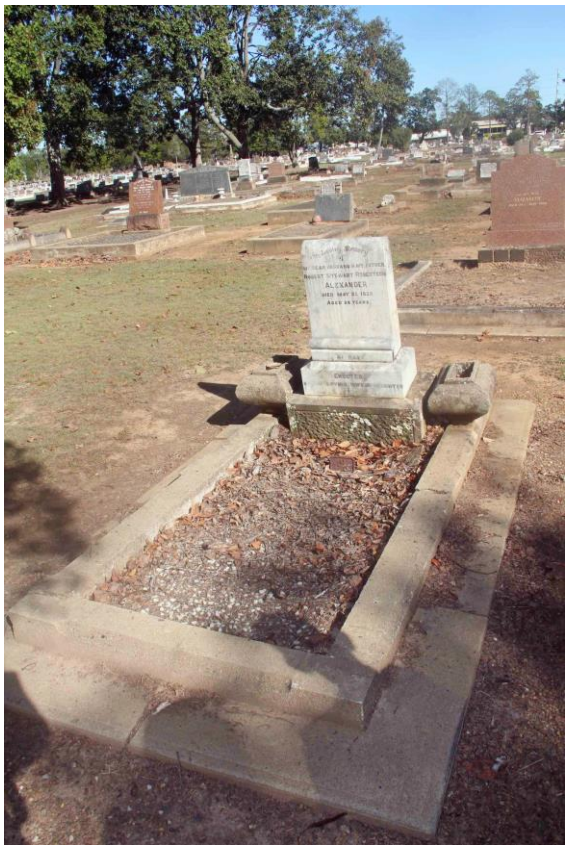
The deteriorating state of the grave of Robert Stewart Robertson Alexander located in the Maryborough Cemetery was pointed out to FQPM members Bob Burns, Ian Townsley and Kevin Darch in August 2017 whilst they were attending the dedication ceremony for the refurbished grave of Constable Henry James Fetherston. It was noted at that time, that the grave only appeared to be in need of a superficial clean-up.

The FQPM Management Committee subsequently contacted two retired Queensland Police members who reside in the Maryborough district. Noel Sparks and Milton Leitch were instrumental in the restoration of the Henry Fetherston grave. Both indicated that they would be interested in assisting in the restoration process of the Alexander grave.

The retired members were requested to obtain an indicative assessment and quote to restore the grave. Noel Sparks engaged Mr Warren Harland

of Wide Bay Memorials – Monumental Masons (this firm undertook the work on the Fetherston grave).

Warren Harland carried out a detailed inspection of the grave and provided the following report:



Constable Robert Alexander grave in the Maryborough Cemetery.

He found the concrete floor, walls and surrounds of the grave to be in very poor repair. They have been made without reinforcement rods and are already cracked through in some places. He also found that the head stone and its base in good repair despite the present lean.

In his professional opinion the walls and surround and floor of the grave are beyond salvage and repair as any attempt to work with the concrete will result in its further fracture and crumbling.

He believes for the most cost effective repair and the longest lasting solution would be to remove and dump the concrete floor, walls and surrounds, realign the headstone and its base, then concrete a 1500 x 1500 border around the headstone to keep it in place.

The grave could then be back-filled and lawn planted over the grave to ensure easier maintenance into the future.

His initial proposal would result in a cost of $1500 to $2000.

Mr Harland appeared enthusiastic to undertake the project and is prepared to supply a quote detailing his works and a final costing should the FQPM Committee wish to consider his proposal in more detail.

Milton Leitch and Noel Sparks have indicated that they would be pleased to undertake any lesser tasks which may reduce the overall costs, such as the planting of lawn etc.

The project was discussed at the Committee meeting of the 4 December 2019 and it was unanimously agreed to proceed with the project subject to detailed discussions with the next of kin (NOK) of Robert Alexander.

Restoration of Queensland Police Graves
Toowong/South Brisbane Cemeteries

The FQPM Management Committee have compiled a list showing the location and photographs of the graves of Queensland Police officers whose names appear on the Honour Roll. The list encompasses all the graves on a State-wide basis. Further information describes the condition of the graves and whether they require any maintenance or restoration.

A number of graves in the Toowong Cemetery and one in South Brisbane (Dutton Park) Cemetery were identified at the October 2019 meeting of the FQPM Management Committee for restoration. Mandy Cotman, Brisbane Memorial Care was engaged to undertake the necessary work. Mandy provided an estimate and assessment of the work required to bring them up to a satisfactory standard.

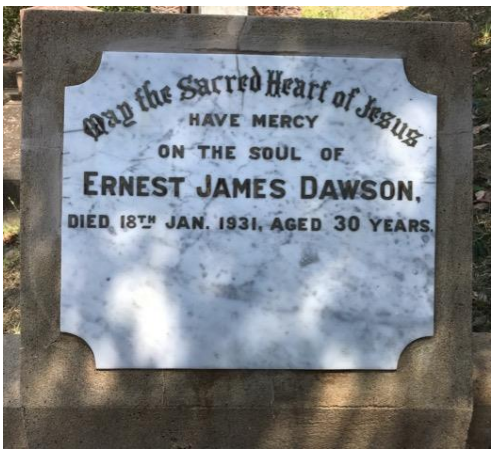
Attached below are photographs of the before and after maintenance condition of the graves:

Grave of John Cullen (2E – 10C) South Brisbane Cemetery

Grave of Kevin Mason (P25 – S23 – Gr 4A) Toowong Cemetery

Grave of Arthur Neden (28 – 39 – Gr 9A) Toowong Cemetery

Grave of Ernest Dawson (7A / 186 / Gr11) Toowong Cemetery



Future Projects – Toowong Cemetery

The FQPM Management Committee have readily identified two more graves of former officers whose names appear on the Honour Roll and are in need of significant restoration work. The grave of Arthur Crust requires a detailed clean-up and the replacement of the headstone or plaque.

During research into the compilation of the list of graves and at the location provided for the grave of Arthur Lowe, the head stone was found lying askew of the ground and clearly being damaged by the weather.

Both these graves will require significant restoration and construction work to bring them to an acceptable standard.

Arthur Crust

Arthur Lowe

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

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 female officer 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:

Bob Pease – Everton 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

FQPM Management Committee Meetings 2020

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 FQPM meeting dates for next year (2020) is as follows:

Wednesday 1000 hours 5 February 2020
Wednesday 1000 hours 1 April 2020
Wednesday 1000 hours 3 June 2020
Wednesday 1000 hours 5 August 2020
Wednesday 0900 hours 7 October 2020
Wednesday 1000 hours 7 October 2020 (AGM)
Wednesday 1000 hours 2 December 2020.

Ian Townsley
Secretary/Editor FQPM
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9 December 2019