THE FRIENDS' GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum
4th Quarter 2020 Edition

FQPM President's Message

The AGM has again been conducted and I am pleased to advise that some new faces have been appointed along with the return of Superintendent Geoff Sheldon as vice president. Gerry Stevens and Kym Hyson are also added to the committee and I congratulate them and the returning members on their election to the management committee for the next 12 months.

There is no doubt 2020 will be talked about for years to come and I am thankful that we were able to conduct some business despite the lack of travel.

We have identified a number of projects for the immediate future and can sign off on the Constable George Doyle/Christian Dalke memorial at Tamrookum and the Constable Arthur Lowe headstone restoration at Toowong. I believe the FQPM support of Dr Anastasia Dukova's work on the story of the police officers who joined the AIF will add a wonderful page to the history of the Queensland Police when published.

Christmas 2020 will perhaps be a different experience for some of us this year as our country opens up and those who normally travel make those plans that will be permitted. Whatever your circumstances, can I trust that you have a peaceful Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

Bob Burns APM, President FQPM

Replacement of Information Stand at the Seymour Family Grave at Toowong Cemetery

Background

The Seymour grave was at one time on the list of graves included in a tour of police graves at Toowong Cemetery. The FQPM arranged the construction and installation of the original information sign. The sign was recently located lying on the ground. It seems it may have got in the way of one of the BCC lawn mowers.

David Thompson Seymour – Brief Biography

Lt. David Thompson Seymour, the Aide-de-Camp and Private Secretary to Governor Sir George Bowen, was appointed as Acting Commissioner of the newly formed Queensland Police on the 1 January 1864 until his permanent appointment was confirmed in July that same year.

Mr Seymour was born in County Galway, Ireland in 1831, educated at Ennis College, he entered the army as an ensign and promoted to lieutenant in the 12th (East Suffolk) Regiment in 1858. He arrived in Sydney in 1859 in command of a draft and in 1861 moved to Brisbane in command of the first detachment in Queensland following separation.

Commissioner Seymour had resigned his army commission when, in 1864, he took charge of the new Queensland Police, a force that consisted of 150 white officers and 137 Native Mounted Police to protect a population of 61,497. He set about expanding and improving the force beginning with the establishment of a detective branch and among other things focusing on pay and conditions for his officers. Commissioner Seymour resisted a move to phase out the Native Mounted Police and in 1880 he showed faith in the Native Mounted Police when he sent a contingent to Victoria to assist with the capture of the Kelly Gang. Commissioner Seymour led the Queensland Police Force for over 31 years until his retirement in 1895 when the strength of the force consisted of 907 men and included 104 Native Mounted Police.

Commissioner Seymour served on other government bodies including the Brisbane Relief Board and his private interests involved business, horse racing and athletics. He was a foundation member and committee-man of the Queensland Turf Club and a committee-man of the Queensland Club. He attempted a role in federal politics when in 1901 he was an unsuccessful candidate for a Senate position in the new Australian Parliament. A mountain range in North Queensland south of Cairns is named in his honour.

Commissioner Seymour married twice during his term in office. In Brisbane in 1864 he married Caroline Brown with whom he had a son who died as an infant and 6 surviving daughters. When Caroline died in 1884 she was interred in the family grave at the Toowong Cemetery, Brisbane. Another three of the Seymour family members including two infant children are interred with Caroline. Following Caroline's death Commissioner Seymour married Sara Stevenson in Melbourne in 1888 and they had two sons, one of whom died at 8 years of age and is buried here at Toowong.

The Seymour family moved between London and Brisbane following his retirement and it was in London that David Seymour died in 1916 and where he was buried in Hither Green Cemetery, Lewisham, SE London. His wife Sara was also buried there after her death in 1936. The inscription on the Hither Green headstone identifies David Seymour as the first Commissioner of the Queensland Police and he is also memorialised on the centre monument of this family grave.

On the 27 November 1893, a memorandum signed by Commissioner Seymour created a museum for the preservation of crime related articles, the foundation of the establishment of the Queensland Police Museum.
Restoration of Information Sign

The president and committee wish to extend our appreciation to the Brisbane City Council (BCC) staff at the Toowong Cemetery for the re-installation of the sign and to FQPM committee member Kym Hyson who was responsible for coordinating those arrangements.

The reinstalled information stand at the Seymour family grave in Toowong Cemetery.

The Death of Sub-Inspector Cecil Fulford HILL - Native Mounted Police

FQPM Management Committee Member Gerry Stevens has researched and prepared a submission on the circumstances surrounding the death of Cecil Fulford Hill who died in 1865 while performing his duty with the Native Mounted Police. The matter of Cecil Hill's death and the location of his resting place has been of interest to the FQPM for a number of years. The circumstances of his death has been considered by the QPS Honours and Awards Unit some time ago however, a decision on the

elevation of Hill to the QPS Honour Roll is yet to be determined. A letter of request to have the circumstances of Cecil Hills death reviewed has been forwarded to the Commissioner of Police for consideration.

Twenty-one years old, Cecil Fulford Hill was sworn in on 28 February 1865. His registered number is unknown. Soon after his induction, he was made an Acting Sub-Inspector in charge of police troopers, aborigines recruited from distant tribes to assist in 'policing' troublesome local aboriginal tribes. Hill was killed on what was then *Rannes* Station, south-west of Wowan and north-west of Banana, in the Upper Dawson River Valley, 115km (80 miles) south-west of Rockhampton on 23 May 1865, less than three months after his induction. Hill and his aboriginal police troopers had arrived at *Pearl Creek* Station to investigate a report of the murder of a shepherd. In company with the manager, Mr Rother, they set out to disperse the tribes believed to be responsible. Hill was fatally wounded during a confrontation and was buried alongside one of his troopers who died in the same incident on *Coomooboolaroo* Station, now *Shannonvale* Station, south of Duaringa.

Mr Stevens has contacted Sergeant Paul James, the Officer in Charge of Duaringa Police Station and discovered he has also been researching the murder of Sub-Inspector Hill. Sergeant James informed Mr Stevens that Hill was buried on what is now Shannonvale Station, formerly part of Coomooboolaroo Station, south-east of Duaringa and had spoken to people who are aware that Hill was buried there. The corner posts of the fence that were erected around the grave site were still visible forty years ago but have since become obliterated. The full research paper presents detailed reports contained in newspapers of the day along with accounts of the death by Cecil Hills' brothers and other family members. A broader perspective of the Hill family makes for interesting reading putting into context the conditions of service at the very start of the Queensland Police. **The full version of Gerry Steven's paper can be accessed on the FQPM web site.**

www.friendsqpmuseum.com.au

Comment

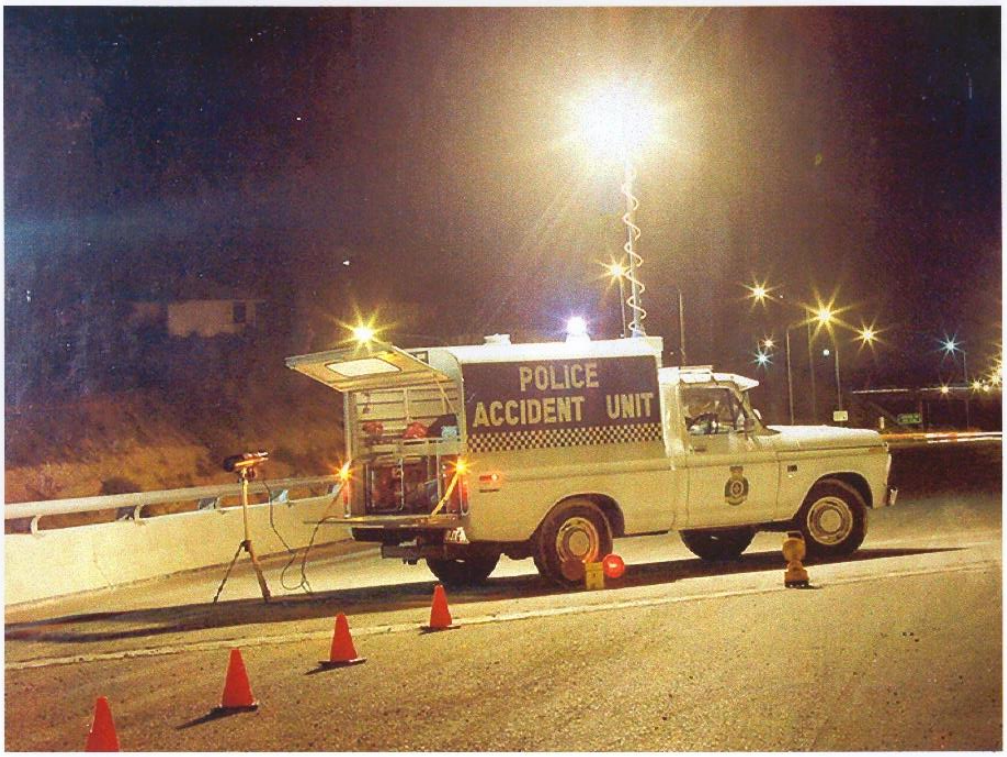
The FQPM has for some time been engaged in the process of identifying and locating the graves of deceased police officers who were killed or who had died while performing their duty. This process is driven by our desire to ensure that these officers have a resting place that is maintained in a condition befitting their status on the QPS Honour Roll. Should our request for a review of the circumstances of Cecil Hills death be successful arrangements will be made to have his resting place located and marked with a suitable memorial.

COMMEMORATION OF 50 YEARS OF THE FORENSIC CRASH UNIT (FCU)

During 2020, the management committee of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum (FQPM) decided to have another limited-edition challenge coin struck. After consideration, it was decided to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the commencement of the Traffic Accident Appreciation Squad (TAAS), now known as the Forensic Crash Unit (FCU). Please refer to FQPM merchandising section of this newsletter to obtain information on how to purchase one of these limited challenge coins.

Background

On 1 June 1970, a new section of the Queensland Police Force called the Traffic Accident Appreciation Squad (TAAS) commenced operation. The initial squad of twenty-one officers was made up of both plain clothes detectives and uniformed officers. Their brief was to investigate, in the Brisbane Metropolitan area, all serious injury and fatal road incidents and road incidents where there was evidence of criminal negligence. Detective Sergeant First Class Neil Harvey was seconded from the Nundah Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB) to lead the newly formed unit and to ensure experience detectives passed on their investigative skills to uniformed officers. In the late 1970s, the detectives returned to the CIB and the unit became the Traffic Accident Investigation Squad (TAIS), staffed entirely by uniformed officers, as it is today.



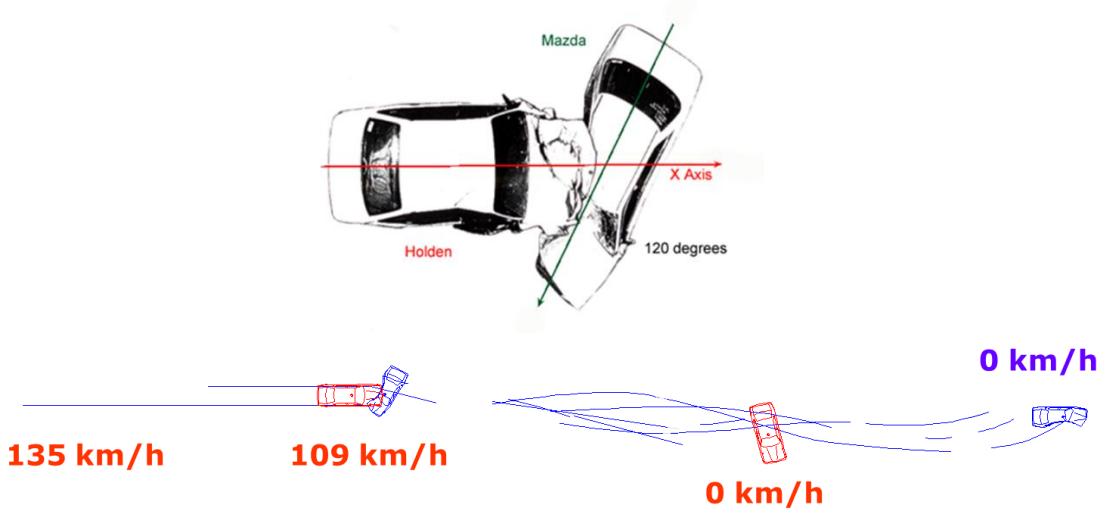
Traffic Accident Appreciation vehicle c.1970

Outside the metropolitan area, detectives continued with the investigation of serious injury and fatal road incidents and eventually, part-time trained investigators, with support from the TAIS in Brisbane, took on that role. The skills of TAIS members in the preparation of scale plans of crash scenes were also utilised in the preparation of plans of major crimes scenes such as murder, rape, arson and other serious crimes.

During the early 1990s, a more scientific approach was adopted to the investigation of major road incidents rather than relying solely on the recollections of witnesses or the versions of offenders. The speeds of vehicles at impact could be accurately calculated by the length of skid marks and the conservation of linear momentum, approach and departure angles or the radius of yaw marks on a road surface. In 1992, the reconstruction of a fatal crash in Fortitude Valley was the first time in Australia that a video animation was successfully introduced into evidence in a court and it resulted in the conviction of two offenders. This was just one year after a video animation was first introduced into evidence in the United States of America (USA).

In 1992 the squad was renamed the Accident Investigation Squad (AIS) and its brief was broadened to include the investigation of incidents on the rail network, industrial sites and aircraft crash scenes where a fatality was involved. Some fatal marine incidents were also investigated and later, any incident involving electrocution. This new approach relieved general duties police and detectives of the burden of unfamiliar investigations.

Some full time squads were commenced in non-metropolitan areas.



Greater emphasis on collision analysis

Accident Investigation Squad vehicle C.1980

About 2004, consideration was given to renaming the squads to remove the word 'accident' from their name. The rationale was that 'accident' had connotations of something that happened by chance or, nothing could have been done to prevent the incident. In reality, when thoroughly investigated, there was usually a 'cause' and some fault or neglect could be attributed to someone involved in an incident. Several names were suggested and in the end, the name Forensic Crash Unit (FCU) was adopted as being more reflective of the type of investigations undertaken by its members.

'Forensic' is relating to the use of science or technology in the investigation and establishment of facts or evidence in a court of law. 'Crash' is to hit something hard enough to cause serious damage or destruction and 'Unit' to better reflect a more professional approach to investigations.

Initially, plans of incident scenes were prepared by measuring a scene and then using those measurements to manually prepare a plan on a drafting table. The procedure was time consuming and required scenes to be closed to traffic while measurements were taken. New technologies have been introduced over the years including the use of total station instruments similar to those used by surveyors, with laser scanning and more recently, the use of drones.

Forensic Crash Unit vehicle 2008

The introduction of drone technology and the use of motorcycles by the FCU is a world-first initiative. Responders on motorcycles can reach an incident scene quickly and the drones can complete mapping of the scene faster than traditional methods. The reduction in road closure times is a huge cost saving benefit to the Queensland community and it does not compromise police investigations.

The traditional time consuming method of measuring and drafting scale plans of incident scenes

Continuous improvement through the adoption of new technologies.

This FCU article was contributed by former FCU Member and FQPM Committee Member Rob Cochrane.

The '000 Wall' at Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery.

During a recent trip to the Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery by President Bob Burns in search of the grave of Senior Constable Douglas Nicol who died from injuries received following a fall from his horse in 1947, had another outcome of interest to the FQPM.

Grave of Senior Constable Douglas Nicol at Drayton Cemetery.

Senior Constable Nicol was stationed at Moore at the time of his death and buried in the Drayton Toowoomba Cemetery and was subsequently memorialised on the Queensland Police Memorial. The search was prompted by the lack of a quality photograph of the grave to add to the FQPM Grave Search Project being conducted over the last few years. The headstone reveals he was accidently killed and is buried with his wife, who passed in 1996, however there is no mention of his status as a police officer or that he is on the QPS Honour Roll in Brisbane or the National Police Roll of Honour in Canberra.

The FQPM had been made aware of a local initiative by the regional council to make a section of a brick wall in the cemetery available to Darling Downs emergency services groups to honour their personnel who served the district and who have since died. The site is known as the 000 Wall and the Darling Downs Branch of the Queensland Retired Police Association together with the Queensland Ambulance Service and Queensland Fire & Rescue Service have responded to the offer. The small cast plaques allow for the families of deceased police officers to honour

the service of their family member and provide some recognition in a public forum.

The QRPA has by far the largest number of memorial plaques attached to the wall and includes some historic names (Constable Daniel Copley - 1864) and recent deaths of a tragic nature. (Senior Constable Brett Forte - 2017).

The 000 Wall at Drayton Cemetery

A proposal will be considered by the FQPM to have a plaque recognising Constable Douglas Nicol on the 000 Wall following the usual research regarding the wishes of any family who can be contacted.

The FQPM has been in discussion with other groups seeking a way to recognise police officers who died in mainly outback locations and who have no known grave or who are buried in known cemeteries but their exact grave location has been lost in time. The memorial wall concept may be a future project to consider these historic deaths. There is potential for the wall concept to be developed in other cemeteries.

FQPM Annual General Meeting 7 October 2020

This year's FQPM Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in the Queensland Police Museum Seminar Room on Wednesday 7 October 2020. The election of officers took place and the following financial members were appointed unopposed to the management committee:

President	Bob Burns
Vice President	Geoff Sheldon
Treasurer	Wayne Coyne
Secretary	Ian Townsley
Committee Members	Kevin Darch
	Robert Cochrane (Website Administrator)
	John McCormack
	Rob McCall
	Mark Plath
	Kym Hyson
	Gerry Stevens

Additionally, the following appointments were accepted and extended during 2021:

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

FQPM members at the AGM held on Wednesday 7 October 2020 in the Seminar Room Queensland Police Museum.

From left: Wayne Coyne (Treasurer), Rob McCall, Bob Burns (President), Rob Cochrane, Ian Townsley (Secretary), John McCormack, Kym Hyson, Gerry Stevens, Mel Wilkins (Commissioner's Representative), Kevin Darch, Lisa Jones (Museum Curator).

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.

Forensic Crash Unit - 50 Year Challenge Coin

The limited edition Forensic Crash Unit challenge coins are 42mm across and beautifully finished in silver cupro nickel. They come in a clear protective cover. The obverse depicts the badge of the FQPM which is based on the Queensland Police helmet badge in use from 1906 – 1960. The reverse side depicts a silver raised 3D image of an Accident Investigation Squad vehicle from the 1980s and two investigators.

Details on how to order or obtain one of these desirable challenge coins can be found at the end of the Merchandising section of this newsletter.

QPM 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 3042. 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:

185 Allison Beitzel – Rockhampton

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

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
2021

The FQPM Management Committee meets every two months on a Wednesday, commencing with the first Wednesday in February of each year. The meeting place for all meetings, unless advised differently, is held in the Seminar Room of the Queensland Police Museum.

The FQPM meeting dates for next year (2021) are as follows:

Wednesday 1000 hours 3 February 2021
Wednesday 1000 hours 7 April 2021
Wednesday 1000 hours 2 June 2021
Wednesday 1000 hours 4 August 2021
Wednesday 0900 hours 6 October 2021
Wednesday 1000 hours 6 October 2021 (AGM)
Wednesday 1000 hours 1 December 2021.

Ian Townsley
Secretary/Editor FQPM
(07) 3351 2797
0414 421 347
2 December 2020