THE FRIENDS' GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum
1st Quarter 2022 Edition

FQPM President's Message

The last two years have constrained the activities of the FQPM however I feel there is a spring-like element occurring as the country responds to the opening up of community activity. We look forward to the coming months to enable a couple of long-standing projects to finally get some traction.

The last of the police graves of interest in the Maryborough General Cemetery is now complete and a small dedication ceremony will be arranged in due course.

There has also been some evidence that the lock downs have been an opportunity for some of our members to engage in sorting and cleaning up the family collection of photographs that have now found their way to the QP Museum. We are thankful for this generosity that enables the museum photographic collection to be enhanced.

On a sad note, I wish to acknowledge the recent passing of Dr Glenda Atkins, partner of life member, former Commissioner and FQPM patron Bob Atkinson.

My appreciation to all members who continue to support the Friends.

Bob Burns APM
President FQPM

Queensland Police Service Dog Squad

The following advertising is submitted in support of the Queensland Police Dog Squad.

QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
STATE DOG SQUAD

1972 ***50-year*** *2022*

ANNIVERSARY

TIME: 6pm – 11.00pm

DATE: Thursday the 21st July 2022

PLACE: Suncorp Stadium Garden Bar

40 Castlemaine Street, Milton Qld 4064

COST: $50 per person

Includes: Canapés (Substantial), Entertainment and complementary parking.

Alcohol & Soft drinks available for purchase at the bar.

Dress: Smart Casual/Cocktail

RSVP and PAYMENT by: 31st May 2022

Short Queensland Police Stories

The following are short stories written by former Inspector Max Lewis (Sworn In on 30 June 1966 – Registered No. 7394). Max has penned a number of stories that relate to his personal experiences during the course of his duty with the Queensland Police.

Max is about to publish his series of short stories.

Short Story One

Isn't it great how, when the chips are down, people seem to come out of the woodwork to help?

There was an old tumbledown, deserted shack at Camooweal when I was there in 1967. This hovel became the shelter for all and sundry. Those usually being hobos passing through and the odd down and out alcoholic.

At this material time the shack was in the grasp of an old skinny alcoholic whose name has now vanished in the mists of time, but he was recognised by his other down and out colleagues as the 'owner' of the joint by virtue of the fact that he had been there the longest and others were simply 'guests'.

Came the time when this would be 'land lord' woke up dead and Johnny Baker and I were awakened by one of the 'guests' of this 'landlord' who told us that the old bloke had died in his sleep.

Our inspection of both the body and the scene revealed no grounds for suspicion, and we transported the body up to the hospital where we locked it in a shed, there being no official morgue and of course no body fridge.

The hospital sister had already contacted the Flying Doctor in Mount Isa and learned the Doctor was happy to issue a Certificate of Cause of Death based on the deceased's recent medical history, which allowed us to make immediate arrangements for his burial.

There being no known next of kin we wondered who would be paying the funeral expenses.

Wonder of wonders, the old guy who had reported the death told us that he was willing to bear all expenses, but that for now he would need to raise a temporary loan.

The only one local that we knew could grant a loan was a local shopkeeper, Joe Freckelton, a guy so mean that he spent much of his spare time walking the streets of Camooweal picking up soft drink bottles for extra cash.

Having serious doubts as to the future success of our mission, we went to Joe's shop and began serious negotiations on our friend's behalf.

Miraculously Joe knew our client well and readily undertook to cover a loan for all expenses.

It was now up to us to purchase the cemetery plot and to pick a casket also on hand at the Council and place the deceased therein.

The only things left to do now were to now find someone in the town to conduct the funeral service and then have the burial service. There was no local clergy available. Johnny Baker was at a loss as to who was appropriate to conduct the service, so I took the problem to another shop owner, a former Police Officer named Jack Moloney.

Jack's quick answer was "That's your job".

I was immediately taken aback, being a Police Officer with barely twelve months service and someone who had only been in the town (temporarily) for a couple of those months and faced with a problem like this.

After a quick nervous intake of breath I said, "Now Jack, can I ask, if I wasn't here, who would be doing the burial"?

He said "Well in that case I usually do them". I found it hard to hide my relief.

And that is how, by chance, our deceased friend received a Catholic funeral and not the honour of a Protestant burial, had I been cajoled into attempting to officiate.

During my Police Service I did get to conduct a number funeral services, but some of those stories are for another time.

I found out soon after the above funeral (for which, by the way, we found another use for the Police Ford Falcon Ute as a temporary hearse) our friend who stood the cost of the funeral, did so for the purpose of becoming the new 'owner' of the abandoned shack.

oOo

Short Story 2

My two young nephews came to visit us at Laura from down south during school holidays. We were driving north near Musgrave and came across 'Toots' Holzheimer, a well-known lady truckie, broken down beside the road.

She had a couple of her kids with her and when I stopped to check on her, We found her and the kids sitting under the semi-trailer, out of the sun, all eating ice cream with their hands all scooping it out of a one gallon plastic ice cream tub.

My nephews couldn't believe their eyes, not having seen such a thing in all their lives.

On another trip north, she pulled up at one of the local company stations with a semitrailer load of fuel in 44 gallon drums for the station and found the manager's wife the only person there.

'Toots' unloaded the fuel, manhandling each heavy drum with apparent ease. When she had finished she was filthy from dust and spilt diesel, so much so, the station manager's wife offered her the use of the shower to clean up.

'Toots', true to form, said "Nah mate, she'll be right, can I use your hose?"

To the astonishment of the manager's wife, she shushed herself all over with water from the hose and soaking wet, jumped into the cab of the truck and dashed off, headed back to Cairns.

The manager's wife could only stand and watch, simply amazed.

'Toots' was killed in a wharf accident at Weipa in the early nineties, getting caught between a suspended swinging heavy load and solid, non-budging object.

She remains as one of the great popular characters of the peninsula roads, stations and towns.

'Toots' was certainly a legend and continues to be sorely missed by all who are fortunate to have known her.

oOo

Short Story 3

I well remember Bowie Gostellow (named after Ben Bowyang), a recent owner of the Laura Store, now a contract linesman caring for the overland, single wire telephone line.

Bowie's kit was his toolbox, Landrover utility, chainsaw and digging tools. The toolbox contained many and varied tools all knocked around by constantly riding rough roads or horseback. The notable item therein was a pair of tooth extractors (the real dentist's item) that he carried ever since his droving days.

Should one of his drovers develop toothache on the track, Bowie would boil the extractors in his billycan and perform the operation there and then, cold turkey or if the patient was fortunate, a belly full of Bundy rum.

Bowie claimed to have used them many times over the years.

A tourist 'cityite' on one occasion called into pub and complained that he had serious toothache and was looking for a dentist. The flash visitor was referred to Bowie, who at the time was the owner of the Laura Store, jumped at the chance to help.

Bowie went to faithful toolbox which was stowed in the rear of his Landrover and retrieved the trusty/rusty implements and dropped them into his billycan. When the 'towny' saw what was happening, chucked a 'mickey' and drove all the way back to Mareeba.

I don't think Bowie was ever paid for that 'consultation'.

Now it was Laura Races weekend and the whole district was visiting and tonight attending the Race Ball - except one…

Bowie's brother, Miles, who had had a big day and decided to stay in camp with his bottle of Bundy.

The race ball was in full swing when Miles arrived with blood (and Bundy) in his eye.

He was certain that his wife, Connie was playing up. In a jealous rage he staggered across the dance floor and confronted Connie and

as chance would have it, she was dancing with her brother, Kev Callaghan.

Now there are times when the prudent Police Officer needs to be busy elsewhere, so I disappeared to allow natural justice have its way without interference. As I heard it told afterwards, all the rest of the male members of the Gostellow clan escorted Miles outside and stood around while Bowie administered summary jurisdiction and laid Miles out cold.

The boys then threw him into the back of the station Ute and returned him to the camp.

oOo

Short Story 4

In 1974, Heather and I arrived in Laura, just a young couple with a two year old girl (Sharee) and a babe in arms (Brendon).

Of course as young parents we had high ideals of what our children should see and experience, knowing what can and does happen at any Police Station, what with drunks, language and the odd lowlife to deal with.

The substance of our concerns arrived soon after...

An aeroplane load of Aurukun citizens arrived with the intention of 'doing a grog run' in other words, purchasing liquor and taking it illegally back home to Aurukun.

Percy Trezise, who was both the publican and the pilot was glad to sell them the grog, but told them, quite reasonably that there would be no drinking in the aeroplane on the homeward journey.

The first suggestion of trouble I had was when the pub staff rang me to say that the grog runner passengers had started drinking on board and that he was returning to Laura.

I met the plane at the airfield and made the passengers empty the liquor on the ground, after which I loaded them up, arresting each of them for being drunk.

Unloading them at the watch house, one of them wanted to fight about the situation so therefore I was forced to knock him down. He came up fighting and I had to again help him quickly find the ground.

I finally got them all into the watchhouse and shut the door. Glancing down to the house, I could clearly see a pair of two year old blue eyes watching everything that had occurred.

I went home and told Heather what had transpired and we felt that our worst fears had been realised.

The next morning I had the prisoners lined up in the Police Station which at that time was in the front room of the house. Soon I could hear the approaching footsteps of our two year old Sharee.

Without hesitation she picked out the 'fighting hero', looked him in the eye and said "You was naughty yesterday, my daddy had to give you a smack".

We were never concerned about the issue again, and our kids have now grown up, none the worse for spending all of their formative years in and around Police Stations.

oOo

Finalisation of the Restoration and Dedication of the Robert Stewart Robertson Alexander Grave on 27 April 2022

Robert Stewart Robertson Alexander was born in Scotland and joined the Queensland Police on 1 February 1923 and allocated Registered Number 2622 and Collar Number 1665. At the time of his death, he was 26 years of age, married and had one infant daughter.

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.

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:

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 headstone and its base was 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 believed for the most cost effective repair and the longest lasting solution was 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 was restored to these standards.

Restored Robert Alexander grave at Maryborough Cemetery.

Dedication Ceremony

The FQPM Project Coordinator Kevin Darch met with Superintendent Mick Sawrey, Wide Bay Burnett District and Acting Inspector Glenn Cameron who indicated a desire to organise and host the local arrangements for the dedication ceremony.

The dedication ceremony was held on Wednesday 27 April 2022 at the Alexander grave site at Maryborough Cemetery. The ceremony was well attended by serving and retired officers, Robert Alexander's great-grand-daughters Natalie Collins, her sister Angela and other family members, the Member for Wide Bay Mr Llew O'Brien, the President of the FQPM Bob Burns and members of the FQPM and representatives of other emergency services together with members of the public.

The dedication was followed with a morning tea to be hosted at the Maryborough Police Station at 11.00 am.

The dedication ceremony was coordinated by local QPS Padre, Fakavu Finau.

Padre Rev. Fakava Finau, Acting Inspector Glenn Cameron, great-grand-daughters Natalie Collins and Angela McFarlane, Superintendent Mick Sawrey, Padre Matt Govan.

The President and Management Committee extend our gratitude to Superintendent Mick Sawrey, Acting Inspector Glenn Cameron from the Wide Bay & Burnett Police District, Noel Sparks, his wife Denise,

Milton Leitch (Noel and Milton are retired QPS members), the administration staff at the Fraser Coast Council and our FQPM committee member Kevin Darch who undertook the coordination of the planning arrangements. The dedication format was coordinated by Padre Matt Govan.

We acknowledge the high standard of grave restoration undertaken by Warren Harland, Wide Bay Memorials.

The Alexander dedication ceremony marks the 9th grave restoration that the FQPM has completed since its incorporation in 2007.

This is also the second grave restored within the Maryborough Cemetery, with Constable Henry James Fetherston's gravesite restored in 2017.

FQPM President Bob Burns delivering an address at the dedication.

FQPM Vice President Superintendent Geoff Sheldon at the grave site.

The following email was from received from great-grand-daughter Natalie Collins on the 5 May 2022:

Dear Ian

The ceremony was indeed a very special event. Congratulations to all concerned at FQPM for their research and commitment to the restoration of our grandfather's grave.

It is almost 100 years since the tragic death of Robert Alexander. His descendants and his police family have not forgotten him. The dedication of the grave ensures that future generations can acknowledge his service.

My mother, the only child of Robert and Alice had no memory of her father except to recognize a photo. Thanks to Queensland Police she was able to participate in Police Remembrance Day including the first here in Queensland. She subsequently attended for a number of years. It meant a great deal to her to honour him as part of the police family.

Being part of the ceremony to honour our grandfather's service was quite remarkable. Thank you for providing us with that opportunity.

Sincerely
Natalie Collins

With Honour He Served.

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 has 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. For contact numbers see page 16.

Forensic Crash Unit - 50 Year challenge coin

The limited edition Forensic Crash Unit challenge coins is 42mm across and beautifully finished in silver cupro nickel. The coin comes 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.

Commemorating Horses in Policing from 1864

This challenge coin commemorates and celebrates the value of the horse in policing from 1964 to the present.

The obverse of the coin shows the badges and motto of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum and the reverse an image of a mounted trooper.

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 your 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 the 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 in 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.

Vale

We regret to advise that FQPM Life Member Peter Keegan from Roma passed away recently. Peter, a dedicated historian was always available to provide assistance to the FQPM.

He was significantly involved in the research and establishment of the grave monument for Police Tracker Sam Johnson at the Longreach Cemetery.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR!

The FQPM is 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 online 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 2022

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 (2022) are as follows:

Wednesday 1000 hours 1 June 2022
Wednesday 1000 hours 3 August 2022
Wednesday 0900 hours 5 October 2022
Wednesday 1100 hours 5 October 2022 (AGM)
Wednesday 1000 hours 7 December 2022.

Ian Townsley
Secretary/Editor FQPM
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15 May 2022