

## **PRESENTATION OF FQPM 150<sup>th</sup> SWORD TO QUEENSLAND GOVERNOR**

During 2013, the committee of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum (FQPM) had a limited number of ceremonial swords struck to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the formation of the Queensland Police Force (now Queensland Police Service) on 1 January 1864. In 2023, the FQPM committee resolved that a fitting place for a sword would be at Government House Queensland because of the nexus between the state's first governor Sir George Ferguson Bowen GCMG PC and David Thompson Seymour the first commissioner of the then Queensland Police Force.

Contact was made with the Governor's Secretary, and it was agreed that the Governor would accept the sword 'on loan' to Government House and it would be displayed in a cabinet in the Spouses Corridor, off the Investiture Room of Government House.

On Wednesday, 18 October 2023 the sword was formally presented to Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland by the President of the FQPM, Bob Burns APM. The presentation and morning tea was attended by members of the FQPM, family members, and invited guests. Deputy Commissioner Cameron Harsley represented the patron of the FQPM, Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll APM.



Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland and FQPM President Bob Burns APM beside the sword in the Government House Drawing Room.

### **The nexus**

When Governor Bowen arrived in Brisbane on 10 December 1859, he noted that the new colony of Queensland was the only colony without a detachment of Her Majesty's troops, and he soon set about correcting that. On 13 January 1861, Lieutenant David Thompson Seymour arrived in Brisbane in command of a small detachment of the 12th (East Suffolk) Regiment of Foot, the first detachment in Queensland after separation. He was appointed aide-de-camp and private secretary to Governor Bowen on 11 May 1861. On 1 January 1864, Lieutenant Seymour retired from the army to become acting commissioner of police under the Police Act of 1863 and his appointment was confirmed in July that year. Police Commissioner Seymour went on to be the longest serving commissioner in Queensland – over 31 years.

### **The sword**

The sesquicentenary swords were manufactured by WKC Stahl- und Metallwarenfabrik founded in 1883. They are in Solingen, Germany and have supplied over 50 armed services, military academies, and police forces worldwide with ceremonial swords. The Queensland Police Service sesquicentenary sword is based on the Oakley sword (a Wilkinson Sword Company design), nickel plated with a black lacquer grip, triple wire wrapped with a 72cm hand polished forged stainless-steel blade, acid etched with a Queensland Police Service badge affixed to the cross piece.