THE FRIENDS' GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum
4th Quarter 2023 Edition

FQPM President's Message

President's Message

How often do we ask ourselves about the speed of the year just past. Now as we fast approach the Christmas Season when we generally take a little time to reflect on the year, we can't help but be saddened that this time last year the Queensland Police Service suffered the terrible loss of two young officers. That sad event added two more names to the QPS Memorial that now holds 150 names of officers who gave their life in the service of policing in Queensland.

We at the FQPM have been working to finalise several carryover projects from last year as well as assisting the QP Museum with a project or two. The restoration of police graves is an ongoing project; however, we are spurred on in the knowledge that we are contributing to ensuring that our people are properly remembered and honoured.

This year we had an opportunity to finish with a highlight event when we gathered at Queensland Government House to present our Governor Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM with a QP150 Commemorative Sword. The sword, one of over 130, was made in 2014 to celebrate the sesquicentenary of the Queensland Police. The presentation of the sword acknowledges the role of our first commissioner David Thompson Seymour played in the establishment of the new separate state of Queensland in 1864. Prior to his appointment, Commissioner Seymour was an aide to the first governor of Queensland, Sir George Ferguson Bowen. The sword will form part of the collection of memorabilia on display for the public tours that are a regular feature of Government House.

We have over the last ten years or so been able to produce a newsletter four times a year. The newsletter has been a wonderful forum to keep members informed and this has been substantially due to the work of our retiring Secretary Ian Townsley. This is Ian's last edition and I wish on behalf of all members to thank him for this lasting record of FQPM activity during his time as editor.

It is my hope that Christmas will be a time for family and friends for all FQPM members. I thank you for your interest in our work and look forward to your support again in the new year.

Bob Burns APM
President FQPM

Presentation of the QP150 Commemorative Sword to Governor Dr Jeannette Young at Government House and FQPM tour of Government House 18 October 2023.

Members and guests of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum were invited to attend Government House, Brisbane on 18 October to formally present a commemorative QP150 Sword to Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland. The sword was one of 135 created in 2014 to celebrate the sesquicentenary of the Queensland Police formed in 1864.

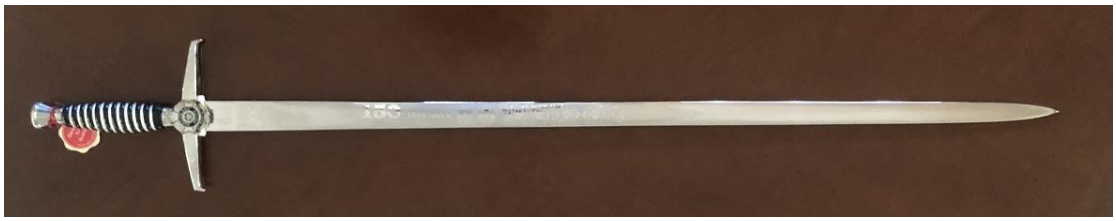
The QP150 celebration also acknowledged the role of the first Commissioner of the newly created Police Force following the separation of Queensland from New South Wales in 1859.

Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland receives a 150th ceremonial sword from FQPM President Bob Burns APM – 18 October 2023.

Commissioner David Thomson Seymour had previously been the aide to the first Governor of the new State of Queensland, Governor Sir George Ferguson Bowen. Captain Seymour had earlier arrived in the colony of Moreton Bay in charge of a detachment of marines. Following his appointment, he went on to serve as Commissioner of Police for nearly thirty years.

A member of the FQPM management committee, Rob Cochrane also acts as a tour guide at Government House and had observed that the story of Fernberg House made no mention of the link between the first Governor and the first Commissioner. The opportunity for a piece of Queensland Police memorabilia to be on display during the public tours of the house that would highlight the link between the first governor and the first Commissioner of Police. The sword will be displayed in the Spouses Gallery of Fernberg House where items of significance are on view to visitors.

Her Excellency greeted members of the FQPM and hosted the event with light refreshments following the presentation of the commemorative sword by the FQPM President Bob Burns. Deputy Commissioner Cameron Harsley represented FQPM Patron, Commissioner Katarina Carroll and joined members for a guided tour of the house and grounds.



Commemorative QP150 Sword celebrating sesquicentenary of the Queensland Police formed in 1864.

Recently completed restoration QP grave project. Constable James William Harris at Rockhampton Cemetery

Background

On the 24 August 1915 Constable James Harris of Rockhampton Police was attending to an inquiry at Kabra, a small community west of Gracemere. Later that day when returning to Rockhampton, Constable Harris suffered head injuries when his horse shied and fell while crossing the Scrubby Creek bridge near Gracemere.

An itinerant man had camped under the bridge and his fire, seen through the gaps in the planks is believed to have caused the horse to react in

such a manner that it fell heavily causing serious injury to Constable Harris who did not regain consciousness and subsequently died that night.

Constable Harris was 28 years of age, married with one child and another expected at the time of his death.

Constable Harris joined the Queensland Police on 17 September 1908 and served at the Police Depot, Police Depot Stables, Rathdowney, Roma, Longreach and Rockhampton Police Stations.

Constable James William Harris is commemorated on the Queensland Police Memorial, Brisbane City Botanical Gardens and the National Police Memorial, Kings Park, Wendouree Drive, Canberra ACT.

Constable James William Harris

The Restoration Project

FQPM committee member Kevin Darch was appointed project manager. Kevin engaged Andrew Flicker, a local stonemason to assess the work required and to recommend what could be achieved in line with the requirements of the Heritage Section of the Rockhampton Regional Council.

Flicker advised that the original condition of the stone was not too stable and subsequently there was a limit as to how much sanding and scrubbing he could do, particularly the text on the headstone. Some parts of the stone sides have been replaced however it is considered that it is a satisfactory result considering the condition before and in comparison, with the other graves around the site.

A small desk with a plaque telling the story of Constable Harris was added to the surface of the slab as there was not information available on the headstone indicating his police service.

It is anticipated that a rededication ceremony , conducted by a local Police Chaplain in conjunction with the local Police Command will be conducted sometime early next year, perhaps in the cooler months.

Constable James William Harris grave prior to restoration

Ther Next of Kin have been contacted and provided details and photos of the finished project.

Constable Harris grave before and after restoration.

Progress Report on Current FQPM Grave Restoration Projects

Restoration of Constable 1/c Roy Doyle QPM Grave Mackay Cemetery

On the 28 July 2023, information was received from former Police Officer and Member of the Queensland Retired Police Association (QRPA), Dennis Hansen advising that the lawn cemetery plaque for former Constable First Class Roy DOYLE, who died on duty at Mackay on 1 April 1956 was in need of restoration.

Roy Doyle was one of three Police Officers killed on duty in Mackay. The other two, Acting Sergeant David Johnston and Constable Albert Price who are buried in the Mackay Cemetery, have had their graves/headstones restored by the efforts of the QPS, Mackay/Whitsunday QRPA, and the FQPM.

Roy Doyle is buried in a lawn cemetery (Mt Bassett) in North Mackay. There are no raised structures in that area of the Cemetery. There is a plaque over the grave, which lies flat on the ground. The plaque is in a distressed condition and requires replacing or refurbishing.

Roy Doyle was sworn into the Queensland Police on 2 July 1948 and served at Cairns before being transferred to Mackay in 1952.

Constable First Class Roy Doyle Memorial at Mackay Cemetery

Project Management

FQPM committee member Rob McCall and President Bob Burns have taken on the project with Dennis Hansen.

Being a lawn cemetery will no doubt restrict us in what can do to bring this grave up to a standard that meets the FQPM commitment to honour Roy Doyle in a manner befitting an officer who died while performing his duty. We agree the existing plaque is a bit short of detail particularly in relation to the circumstances and manner of his death. The size of the plaque is probably dictated by the rules of the cemetery so we need to explore how we can add a story.

The following issues are suggested for consideration:

- Contact cemetery administration to ascertain if the existing plaque can be removed and possibly replaced with a new presentation of the information plus a short story.
- Ascertain if a slightly larger plaque size would be permitted.
- Ascertain if an additional plaque of similar proportion can be created to sit adjacent to the existing plaque. This would be flat on the ground either beside or below the existing plaque.
- If the existing plaque can be removed, consider some refurbishment to retain original text and badge.
- The process from our perspective is that we need to identify next of kin as no work would be performed without a genuine search for family. Committee member Rob McCall will check the QPS data on Roy Doyle through the Police Museum and the Honours and Awards Unit.

The office of the Police Chaplain in Mackay be contacted to see what is available locally. This information may be already known as it is a function of Police Remembrance Day to have family contacts of any deceased officers being honoured. The local QRPA may have knowledge of any family still local.

The preparation of a draft biography will be determined by how much space we will have to work with. Below is the text that is available on the QPS Memorial site and while it is quite lengthy, but we can get it down to a manageable length for the story plaque.

On 29 March 1956, heavy rains fell in the Mackay area with torrential amounts falling in the Pioneer River catchment area. Police from Mackay were sent out to maintain control of the situation. It was not long before the Pioneer River began to rise, and the current became swift. At 5.30am on 30 March the river reached 45 feet and continued to rise. Evacuations began and people were moved to the top floor of the Cremorne Hotel. The flood peaked at midday on 30 March, stopping only a few metres from the top floor of the hotel. By 3pm the river had receded a great deal.

Constables Porter and Doyle who had been doing duty at both ends of the Forgan Bridge waded over to Senior Sergeant McNaught to announce that

all was okay on the northern side of the river. McNaught advised them that all dangers had passed in the Cremorne area and that they should stay around for a short while until their shift ended at 5pm.
About 3.30pm a man named Lorenz Heinrich Fedderson, who had been drinking at the hotel, waded into floodwaters and began to swim out into the deep water of the river which was running very strongly. He soon got into difficulty and when his plight was noticed, Constables Springer and Crowe obtained a rowboat and went to help him. These two officers then got into trouble when an oar broke and had to jump from the boat. While Springer dragged it back to shore, Crowe went after Fedderson. Constable Doyle deciding to assist Crowe in the rescue, waded to a retaining wall, climbed it and then dived into the river. He reappeared floating face down in the water. Roy Doyle was conveyed to the Mackay Hospital, but his condition deteriorated, and he died at 1.40pm on 1 April. Investigations later showed that when Doyle dived into the flooded Pioneer River, he struck his head on a submerged block of concrete which knocked him unconscious and caused massive head injuries.

It is anticipated that the project should be finalised in early 2024.

Establishment of the Queensland Police Service Sergeants' Mess -1995

The Queensland Police Service had a Commissioned Officers' Mess for many years. The function of the Mess was principally to provide a vehicle for Commissioned Police Officers to meet and socialise with their peer group. Staff members at or over the level of AO 8 (Manager) were invited to attend functions.

In early 1995, the President of the Police Commissioned Officers' Mess, Superintendent Mick O'Brien presented a proposal to the Commissioner that the Queensland Police Service Sergeants should also have a mess. It was then agreed by the Commissioned Officers' Mess Committee that they would financially support the establishment of a Queensland Police Sergeants' Mess and assist with its early development.

Mick O'Brien approached Senior Sergeant Ian Townsley with the concept and asked if he would put together a committee and establish a Queensland Police Sergeants' Mess.

A very enthusiastic committee were assembled; needless to say, several of them had a military background. They worked very hard to get the word out, develop a constitution and accumulate some funds.

Once the Mess had been established, the Commissioner, formally appointed Senior Sergeant Ian Townsley as the first President of the Mess Committee (PMC) for the newly formed Queensland Police Sergeants' Mess, other key appointments followed. The Committee consisted of Sergeant Mark Plath (Deputy PMC) (Police Academy), Detective Sergeant Mick O'Dowd (Major Crime Squad), Sergeant Andy Beasant (Redcliffe

Police), Sergeant Peter Fox (Railway Squad), Sergeant Geoff Rogers (Radio Electronics Section), Sergeant Kerry Lee Drabsch (Prosecutions). Further appointments ensued as the development of the Mess progressed. One of the key issues facing the Committee was the development of a Mess dress. The Mess needed something that fell within the ambit of the Queensland Police Service dress guidelines but was different to the Officers' Mess dress and provided members with some dress components that they could carry forward with them should they be promoted to commissioned rank.

We agreed on a white jacket, principally on cost and with consideration to the Queensland climate. Maroon shoulder boards, similar to the Commissioned Officers' dress was worn with the Senior Sergeant and Sergeant metal insignia manufactured locally. The cummerbund, bow tie and trousers were the same as the Commissioned Officers' Mess dress.

On the 11 September 1995, the Sergeants' Mess held its first formal dinner at the HQ 1st Military District Sergeants' Mess at Victoria Barracks. Special invited guests were the Commissioner Jim O' Sullivan APM, Deputy Commissioner Bill Aldrich APM, the Commissioner's Staff Officer Superintendent Ivan Fels APM, President of the Police Officers' Mess, Superintendent Mick O'Brien, the RSM HQ 1 MD, Warrant Officer Class 1 Dave Tucker (PMC of the Victoria Barracks Sergeants' Mess).

The head table at the Inaugural Dinner
Detective Sergeant Mick O'Dowd, Commissioner Jim O'Sullivan APM, PMC Senior Sergeant Ian Townsley, Deputy Commissioner Bill Aldrich APM, Unknown.

Sergeant Mark Plath was appointed as the Dining Vice President, principally because of his experience in military messes (a Reserve Officer) and he had assisted greatly in the lead up to the function. It was

essential that the first dinner was professionally organised and went without a difficulty.

It was an outstanding evening and was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended. Each attendee received a fairly expensive and very collectable souvenir in the form of a crystal wine glass etched with the Service badge and the date and location of the event. As the Commissioner was not fond of wine, the Mess made an exception in his case and purchased a crystal beer stein, similarly etched as the wine glasses. (After all he was the 'boss').

Back Row: Sergeant Geoff Rogers, Sergeant Kerry Lee Drabsch, Sergeant Peter Fox, Superintendent Mick O'Brien, Sergeant Mark Plath, Sergeant Andy Beasant, Superintendent Ivan Fels APM, Sergeant Bob Naughton, Detective Sergeant Mick O'Dowd.
Seated: Commissioner Jim O'Sullivan APM, PMC Senior Sergeant Ian Townsley, Deputy Commissioner Bill Aldrich APM.

Article contributed by FQPM Committee Member and Life Member, Ian Townsley.

Application qualifications for Candidates for the Queensland Police Force 1914

Below is a list of qualifications required by candidates for the Queensland Police Force in 1914.

All candidates for admission into the Queensland Police Force had to apply in person, with an application in their own handwriting, and such testimonials as they may have. Despite complaints from country hopefuls, who found it difficult to travel to the colonial capital, all men wishing to be considered for the position had to assemble at the Police Depot on Wednesday at 9 o'clock in the morning. The applicants had to

be of sound constitution, stand clear at least 5 feet 8 inches without their boots, with chest measurements of 36 inches minimum and 38 inches when expanded. All men had to be free from any bodily complaint. Each applicant was assessed by a medical officer. Initially, the age bar was set to under 40 years old but was shortly lowered to 30 years old.

Fifty years later, the physical requirements remained unchanged, while the educational requirements became more sophisticated. All candidates into the Force had to pass a short examination in reading, writing from dictation, and the first four rules in elementary arithmetic – addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED BY CANDIDATES FOR THE POLICE FORCE OF QUEENSLAND.

Candidates must be at least 5 feet 8 inches in height, 36 inches minimum chest measurement, with expansion to not less than 38 inches, of strong constitution, and free from any bodily complaint. To ascertain this they will be examined by the Government Medical Officer.

They will have to pass a short examination in reading, writing from dictation, and the first four rules in Elementary Arithmetic, viz. :—Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, and Division.

All Candidates must be accustomed to horses, and able to ride well, to test which they will be examined in horsemanship at the Depôt.

They must produce satisfactory testimonials of character, including one from local or other police officer, and those Candidates who have served in any other Force must produce their discharges therefrom.

Candidates are not appointed to the Force when over the age of thirty, unless they have served in some other Police Force.

Married men are not eligible.

RATES OF PAY FOR CONSTABLES.

Probationary period at Police Depôt ..	7s. 6d. per diem.
First three years	8s. 6d. ,,
Over three years and up to ten years ..	9s. ,,
Over ten years	9s. 6d. ,,

"All expenses incurred by members of the Force for messing at a Police Mess, or on other Departmental Accounts, are first charges against their salaries; and when such charges are not duly liquidated by any such member, the amount thereof may be deducted from any salary accruing to such member."

Permission to marry under the Regulations, Clause 4, sub-clause 17, will not be granted to Constables until three years have elapsed from date of enrolment in the Police Force.

FQPM Merchandise

FOR SALE

Merchandise items make great gifts, a memento of something special in your life or perhaps an item of interest for collectors. All proceeds from the sale of FQPM merchandise assists the organisation to preserve the history of policing in Queensland for future generations.

Challenge Coins

The FQPM has a variety of interesting challenge coins ranging from the standard edition FQPM challenge coin to special edition coins commemorating events in the history of policing in Queensland. The price of each challenge coin is **$15** or **$12** each for FQPM members. How to receive a member's discount is outlined below;

Standard Edition
These 42mm challenge coins are beautifully finished in silver cupro-nickel and come in a clear protective cover. The obverse side depicts the badge of the FQPM which is based on the Queensland Police helmet badge in use from 1906 – 1960. The reverse side depicts the current Queensland Police Service badge which was introduced in 1990.

Women in Policing
These limited edition challenge coins are the same size and quality finish as the standard edition FQPM challenge coins. The reverse side depicts a Policewoman directing traffic and it is based on a photograph of a Policewoman from the 1980s. The coin recognises just one of the many roles' women play in the

Queensland Police Service.

Queensland Mounted Police
To acknowledge the contribution that horses made to policing in Queensland since 1864, this challenge coin is similar in size and finish as the standard FQPM challenge coin. The reverse side depicts a silver raised 3D image of a mounted constable (circa 1950) in the Police paddock at Oxley near the current site of the Queensland Police Academy.

Stubby Holders

The FQPM stubby holders depict the five types of Queensland Police hat badge that have existed since 1884. The price of each stubby holder is **$7** or **$5** each for FQPM members. How to receive a member's discount is outlined below.

Polo Shirts

These smart looking polo shirts have the badge of the FQPM embroidered on the left breast. They are made from 65% polyester for durability and 35% cotton for comfort. The fabric is 210gsm pique for easy care and reduced pilling. A variety of colours is available, and they come in male and female sizes. The price of each polo shirt is **$40.** There is no member's discount on polo shirts.

Member's Discount

Members of the FQPM are eligible for a **discount** on some FQPM merchandise by contacting **Melissa Kirkpatrick** at Queensland Police Service Headquarters. Melissa's contact details are:

(P) +61 7 3364 3042

Orders can be either posted (postage extra) or picked up from Melissa at Queensland Police Headquarters, 200 Roma Street, Brisbane 4000. Do not forget to ask for your **member's discount**. Alternatively, any queries regarding merchandise can be made to the FQPM Merchandise Officer at *merchandise@friendsqpmuseum.com.au*

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 Queensland Police Headquarters, 200 Roma Street, Brisbane. The **QSHOP** is open to the public each Wednesday and Thursday from 10 am – 2 pm. The **QSHOP** can be contacted at hello@qphra.com

QPS Collar Badges
Clearance Sale

The FQPM has a small quantity of Queensland Police Service (QPS) collar badges for sale. These badges were used in connection with the development of a 150 Year commemorative sword.

The badges are 38 mm high and 30 mm wide and made of metal, like the QPS hat badge. The rear attachment is a single pin with a clutch grip.

They will be sold as a pair and can be worn on QPS mess dress.

Pair QPS Collar Badges (3rd badge is sample of rear attachment)

The badges can be purchased for $15.00 a pair or ($10.00 pair to FQPM Members) in addition to (P & P $3.60 within Australia).

Any inquiries/orders can be directed to the Merchandise Officer FQPM.

Rob Cochrane
Merchandise Officer FQPM
merchandise@friendsqpmuseum.com.au

FQPM Management Committee 2023/2024

The 2023/2024 FQPM Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in the Queensland Police Museum Seminar Room on Wednesday 4 October 2023.

The election of officers was held, and the following financial members were appointed unopposed to the Management Committee:

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

Additionally, the following appointments were accepted and extended during 2024:

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

AGM 2023/4 FQPM Committee: Rob Cochrane, Debra Austin (Secretary), Wayne Coyne (Treasurer), Bob Burns (President), John McCormack, Ian Townsley, Senior Sergeant Mel Wilkins (COP Rep), Kevin Darch. Absent: Gerry Stevens, Rob McCall, Geoff Sheldon (Vice President).

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 offers 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 and Upgraded Members

The President and Management Committee extend congratulations and welcome to the following new FQPM member:

199 Debra Austin - Coorparoo

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 (Friends' 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, while 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 2024

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 this year (2024) are as follows:

Wednesday 1000 hours 7 February 2024
Wednesday 1000 hours 3 April 2024
Wednesday 1000 hours 5 June 2024
Wednesday 1000 hours 7 August 2024
Wednesday 0900 hours 2 October 2024
Wednesday 1100 hours 2 October 2024 (AGM)
Wednesday 1000 hours 4 December 2024

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3 December 2023