# THE FRIENDS' GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum
Established 2007
HISTORY - HERITAGE - HONOUR
1st Quarter 2025 Edition

## FQPM President's Message

This time last year I approached the matter of more member involvement in the activity of the FQPM by inviting members to the management committee meetings held at the Police Museum. These meetings are held every two months at 10.00 am in the Flynn Gallery at the Museum on the ground floor of Police Headquarters. Additionally we have endeavoured to hold an event open to members where the FQPM has an ongoing interest. A tour of the QPS Memorial in the Brisbane Botanical Gardens was followed by a coffee at the Old Government House precinct last year. This year we have made plans for a tour of the Victoria Barracks complex including the military museum and the grounds where the Queensland Police have some historical presence.

I again invite members to join us at our April Management Meeting at 10.00am on Wednesday 2nd April.

Bob Burns APM President.

## Progress on Quinlan Grave in Ayr cemetery.

The last of the QPS Memorial list of graves in the Townsville Region identified as needing a restoration plan is that of Constable William Quinlan, Reg No 1039 who died from injuries sustained when he fell from his horse. On the 11th June 1914, Constable Quinlan from Brandon Station and another constable from Ayr Station had been on duty all day at the Ayr Agricultural Show. On returning home it is believed his horse shied throwing him to the ground. The constable suffered a broken neck and died almost immediately.

The grave of William Quinlan is located in the Ayr Cemetery and an assessment has revealed it to be in reasonable order however the marble headstone is no longer upright and has been fractured in two places. A request has been made with a Townville Stonemason who will make an assessment and advise of the required restoration work to ensure this 110 year old grave is restored to the standard required by the FQPM.

Grave of William Quinlan in the Ayr Cemetery.

**FQPM Visit to Victoria Barracks.**

Committee member Rob Cochrane has identified an opportunity for FQPM members to tour the Military Museum and environs of Victoria Barracks at Petrie Terrace, Brisbane City. Members may be aware that this precinct has a significant police history which may surprise. The Military Museum has indicated that Wednesday 27th August has been pencilled in for our visit. This is just after the end of the Ekka. Closer to the date we will need to identify who is coming as Victoria Barracks is a secure base. Some parking will be arranged for us at the time.

**Publication: Queensland Police in the Great War - A Compendium**

The compendium Queensland Police in the Great War by Dr Anastasia Dukova has been available on line from the likes of Amazon for a few weeks. Members would be aware that the FQPM assisted Dr Dukova with some financial assistance in the production of her work writing the stories of Queensland police officers who enlisted to serve in the war of 1914 -1918.

Dr Dukova writes: *'Meticulous research carried out with the assistance of the Queensland Police Museum identified and verified 174 names. This compendium is a comprehensive reference source featuring short biographies of Queensland police personnel who enlisted to fight in the First World War between 1914 and 1918. It also contains a selection of in-depth life and family stories of these men. Many of them returned from the front and resumed their duties with the Queensland Police Force and they went on to have long careers, in some cases their children carrying on their policing legacy.'*

A formal launch of the publication is being planned and members will be advised of details in due course.

## Honouring our People.

### Lost but not Forgotten.

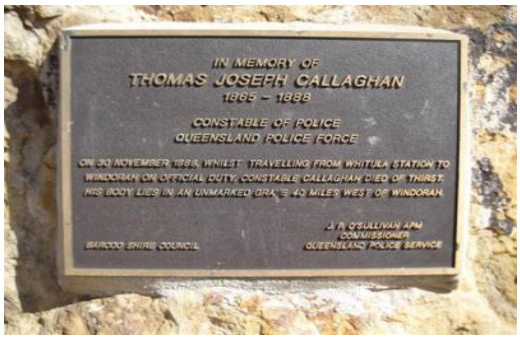
During the research process to locate the graves of all officers on the QPS Memorial list who have died on duty it was revealed that exact locations of a small number have not been identified. Deaths in remote locations in the late 1800's and early 1900's often required a burial where the body was located and records have not been specific enough to assist with exact locations. The vastness of the state of Queensland also contributed to some of these 'lost' burial sites.

The story of our recent project relating to Constable Nathaniel Roberts in the Jundah area was a prime example however local knowledge came to our attention and a positive outcome resulted. Not all grave searches have been as successful and the FQPM will keep an open file in the hope of having all officers found and honoured with a headstone.

I have identified two such cases that still have some detective work to achieve a result.

**Thomas Joseph Callaghan Reg No 717**, was born in the village of Aclare in County Sligo, Ireland in about 1865. He arrived in Australia with his brother Bartley in February 1886 and joined the Queensland Police on 1st January 1888.

During a sweltering summer in late November 1888, Constable Thomas Callaghan was making his way on duty from Whitula Station to Windorah. It appears from tracks made that he had become lost and disorientated. After failing to arrive a search was conducted and after some time his body was found. It is believed he had died due to the extreme heat and lack of water, on November 30 of that year. Constable Callaghan was buried where he was found and lies in an unmarked grave on Whitula Station some 40 miles west of Windorah. Constable Callaghan's name appears on both the QPS Memorial in the Brisbane Botanical Gardens and the National Police Memorial in Canberra. Former Commissioner Jim O'Sullivan unveiled a memorial plaque to Constable Callaghan in the town of Windorah during his term as Commissioner of the Queensland Police Service. (1992 -2000)




The memorial plaque for Constable Callaghan located in Albert St Windorah just around the corner from the Police station.

## Lost in the desert

**Constable William Murray Reg No 1319**, a native of Lockerbie in Scotland arrived in Australia by way of South Africa where he served as a Constable in the Orange River Colony. After moving to Queensland he found work in the railway while he awaited his callup to the Queensland Police Force. He was sworn in on the 4th March 1910 at the Police Depot and was transferred to Fortitude Valley Station. He was then transferred to Rockhampton and in 1911 transferred again to Many Peaks Police Station. Following a disciplinary issue at Many Peaks he was transferred to Clermont.

In the late Spring of 1913, Constable William Murray set off on patrol from Clermont Police Station with his troop horse and another carrying a swag and provisions. He was bound for 'Doongmabulla Homestead' situated 100 miles north-north-west, crossing a landscape sparsely covered in rough native grasslands, brush and the occasional eucalypt tree. An area described in a subsequent report 'as a land in which a man could get easily lost.'

Murray arrived safely at journey's end, then for reasons unknown, chose to ride one of the station's horses to commence his rounds in the morning of Monday, November 17, 1913. Somehow during that first patrol, disaster struck when he became separated from the horse which eventually made its way back to the homestead two days later. When the station hands found the riderless animal, they feared for the constable's life and commenced an immediate search. They soon found tracks but a shower of rain quashed all hope of rescue as the tracks disappeared in sand.

Police took over the search with trackers and a number of civilians . Constable Murray lacked the bush skills necessary for this environment and would have known early he was in trouble. His remains were found by the police search party on 2nd December about 20 miles from Laglan station near Aramac and it was estimated he had been deceased for nearly a week. Constable Murry was buried near Dunda Creek. Official reports put his actual date of death as 20 or 21 November.

Constable Murray's grave has not been located and although his name appears on the Queensland Police Memorial in the Brisbane Botanical Gardens and on the National Police Memorial in Canberra, the FQPM will ensue a local memorial in an appropriate public place.

The Editor wishes to acknowledge FQPM member Debra Austin for her article titled '*Doomed Patrol to Doongmabulla 1913"* published by the Police Museum in the *From the Vault series - January 2024.*

# 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

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

Rob Cochrane
Merchandise Officer FQPM
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

**FQPM Management Committee 2024/2025**

The 2024/2025 FQPM Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in the Queensland Police Museum Seminar Room on Wednesday 5 October 2024. The election of officers was held, and the following financial members were appointed unopposed to the Management Committee:

President Bob Burns APM
Vice President Rob McCall APM
Treasurer Wayne Coyne
Secretary Geoff Sheldon
Committee Members Kevin Darch
Robert Cochrane (Website Administrator)
John McCormack
Gerry Stevens APM
Additionally, the following appointments were accepted and extended during 2024:
Honorary Auditor Wayne Osborne
Website IT Consultant Open Web Design (Karen Lily)

**FQPM Management Committee Meetings - 2025**
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 otherwise advised, is held in the Flynn Gallery of the Queensland Police Museum commencing at 10.00am. Members welcome to attend.

**The FQPM meeting dates for the year (2025) are as follows:**

Wednesday 1000 hours 2 April 2025
Wednesday 1000 hours 4 June 2025
Wednesday 1000 hours 6 August 2025
Wednesday 0900 hours 1 October 2025
Wednesday 1100 hours 1 October 2025 (AGM)
Wednesday 1000 hours 3 December 2025

## 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: $20.00 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.

**BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR!**

The FQPM is still seeking hard 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 in hard copy, however donations are always acceptable.

NOTE:
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.

Bob Burns APM
Editor
0423100786