THE FRIENDS' GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum
Established 2007
HISTORY - HERITAGE - HONOUR
2nd Quarter 2025 Edition

President's Message

The year is moving through the half way mark and as the projects and other activities continue I am mindful of the need to ensure that all management team positions are filled with enthusiastic people. Our AGM this year will be conducted on Wednesday 1st October 2025 and I would encourage all members to consider joining our management committee at least as committee members to assist in whatever way they can.

We meet at the Queensland Police Museum, Police Headquarters, Roma Street, Brisbane on the first Wednesday of every second month commencing in February. Members must be financial at the time of the AGM. The meeting times are generally from 10.00 am to about mid-day and are published in every FQPM Gazette newsletter posted on our FQPM web site.

Please consider attending any Management Committee meeting as an observer and be encouraged to participate in any discussions. The secretary will be forwarding AGM details to you all in the coming months.

A number of 2025 projects are in the planning stage with grave sites in Ipswich and the Cairns area identified for restoration. Additionally the FQPM has arranged for a tour of Victoria Barracks, Petrie Terrace and includes places of Queensland Police interest.

Thank you all for your continued interest.

Bob Burns APM
President

New Members:

Welcome to the following new members:
Shane ROCKLEY and Jonathon PARATZ.
Members are encouraged to attend our meetings held every two months in the Police Museum. See page 11 for the dates of our next meetings.

Ian Ross TOWNSLEY
23-03-1947 - 10-06-25

It is with sadness that I write to acknowledge the passing of our long term former secretary Ian Ross Townsley who passed away on 10th June 2025 in the RWBH.

Ian joined as a member of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum in 2008 not long after he retired from the Queensland Police Service following a long and distinguished career. My memory of Ian goes back to his time in the Traffic Branch where he served as a traffic motorcycle officer and later as an investigator in the Traffic Accident Appreciation Section (TAAS). Following a period in general duties he moved onto various units at Police Headquarters and rose to the rank of Inspector at the Major Events & Planning Branch from where he retired.

For many years Ian wrote and edited the FQPM newsletter known as The Friends Gazette.

Ian had a parallel career as a member of the army reserve and rose to the rank of Captain having served in various roles including the military police. His time in both organisations was recorded in a number of articles he authored focusing on his experiences in the QPS, unit histories and on the personnel with whom he had served.

We were to discover from the family eulogy at his funeral service that he was a committed collector and his eye for detail was something I remember in all our dealings while he performed the role of secretary of the FQPM for over 10 years. His time as secretary was focused on proper records, detailed procedures and scanning on-line platforms for police related items that should be considered for the museum collection.
All our projects from grave restorations to purchasing objects for the museum collection were carried out with great respect for the history of the Queensland Police and the thousands of officers who have served the Queensland community since 1864.

We send our condolences to his wife Christine and his family.
Vale Ian.

Visit to Army Museum South Queensland – Wednesday 27th August

The FQPM visit to Army Museum South Queensland (AMSQ) at Victoria Barracks, Petrie Terrace has been confirmed for Wednesday, 27 August 2025.

Because Victoria Barracks is a working ADF military base, entry is strictly managed. Rob Cochrane will be the FQPM member arranging entry details and the following information for those attending will need to be with Rob, a week before the visit, by 20th August at the latest.

He will need:

- The names of those who will be attending;
- A contact (phone) number for each attendee; and
- The registered number of the vehicle they will be travelling in (if coming in a vehicle). robert@cochrane.one

Attendees will need some form of photo I/D (driver licence etc.).

There will be parking on site. Those attending need to arrive at the front gate on Petrie Terrace shortly after 0900hrs. An AMSQ volunteer will be there to open the front gate and guide visitor/s to a parking spot. Those arriving by foot should also go to the front gate. Attendees will then need to go to the guard house where they will be issued with a day pass to the Victoria Barracks precinct and then escorted to the Officers and Sergeants Mess. The visit to AMSQ is from 1000-1200 and it includes a viewing of the current exhibition, a welcome by the AMSQ manager, a presentation on the history of the military presence in Queensland, a short talk on some military equipment, morning tea, and a walk around (some) of the precinct. A lot of renovation work is going on at the moment.

Petrie Terrace is a one-way street and entry to Victoria Barracks is via the gate on the right. **Once inside, vehicles travel on the right side of the various roads within the precinct.**

It is anticipated the visit will include RUSI Hall (the old Queensland Police stables). It is not always open to tour groups due to time constraints and the hall being in use by the Royal United Service Institute Queensland (RUSIQ). The walk around the precinct may need to be shortened to allow time to go into RUSI hall.

Commendation for Brave Conduct Award.

The QP Museum staff joined with the FQPM in hosting a special gathering on the 2nd April at the Museum Flynn Gallery where FQPM member Gerry Stevens APM donated his Commendation for Brave Conduct award to the museum collection. Gerry was joined by his family, his siblings and invited guests for the event, followed by a morning tea. Museum curator, Lisa Jones had previously advised the FQPM that the Museum did not have a sample of this particular bravery award. Following a discussion with his family Gerry has kindly donated his award together with the citation for inclusion in the museum collection.

The circumstances of the event at the Toowoomba Municipal Library in 1985 is outlined in the June 2025 edition of the Australian Bravery Association newsletter. The ABA newsletter can be found at ABA website. www.forbravery.org.au

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT
May be awarded for other acts of bravery
which are considered worthy of recognition

Police Graves restoration program.

Two grave locations have been identified for restoration and repair as part of our ongoing major project for the 2025. The graves of Constable Charles O'Kearney in the Ipswich General Cemetery and Constable Edward Lanigan at Irvinebank Cemetery via Herberton in North Queensland.

Constable Charles O'Kearney lost his life after being rundown by a mounted offender in the main street of Laidley. The incident occurred late on the night of the 15th September 1904 resulted in the officer fracturing his skull and he died the following morning. The grave in Ipswich is that of the extended family of James O'Carroll, a former Ipswich Police Senior Sergeant and Charles O'Kearney was James's son-in-law.

Members of the O'Kearney family have been contacted to commence discussion on the extent of the restoration and repair and also the addition of a story plaque relating to the circumstances of the Charles's untimely death.

The recent visit to the Cairns area by our secretary Geoff Sheldon enabled a number of local police graves to be visited and contacts made with stonemasons in the area to progress our program of restoration and repair. The condition of the grave of Constable Edward Lanigan in the Irvinebank cemetery had been brought to our attention some time ago. Irvinebank is an historic former mining town west of Herberton. The grave is clearly marked as that of a Constable who lost his life in the execution of his duty. Lanigan's story appears in this edition of the Gazette. The grave had limited repairs in recent years however as the assessment from a local stonemason has indicated it now requires some substantial work to prevent further deterioration.

QP Museum 'From the Vault' series

The QP Museum web site currently has a number of articles in their *From the Vault* series that deal with some interesting yet little know subjects. They include the introduction by the Queensland Police of camels as a means of transport in the far western parts of Queensland in the late 1800's and still in use well into the early 1900's.

Another story reminds us of the visit to Brisbane some 61 years ago of The Beatles and the noisy reception by large crowds of young people, mainly females challenging methods of crowd control.
Check it out.

Honouring our People

Constable Edward LANIGAN. Reg No 390

Died at Montalbion near Herberton.
6th September 1894

Edward Lanigan joined the Queensland Police Force in May of 1885 at the age of 24. Born into a farming family in Ireland in 1861, he had only resided in the state for two months before he entered the police force.

Constable Lanigan was transferred to a small gold and tin mining settlement at Montalbion, in the Herberton district of North Queensland. Lanigan became friends with Constable James McLoughlin from the nearby station of Watsonville. On 6 September 1894, McLaughlin came to Montalbion to arrest an Aboriginal man Jacky Norman, a persistent offender who was wanted for housebreaking and stealing in Watsonville. Norman had previous service as a police trooper and tracker acquiring a number of skills including marksmanship. He presented as a formidable individual when he turned to a life of crime.

The two officers went to arrest Norman but could not locate him. They then received information that he was at Montalbion Creek. McLaughlin rode alone to arrest Norman and arranged for Lanigan to follow.

When Norman saw the Constable he ran, causing McLaughlin to give chase on his horse. Norman spooked McLaughlin's horse as it got close and McLaughlin drew his revolver. Lanigan arrived and McLaughlin told him to remain on his horse until he caught hold of Norman. The two men fought and during the desperate struggle Norman got hold of McLaughlin's revolver. Norman aimed the gun at McLaughlin but since the Constable was holding his hands the shot was difficult.

Lanigan, still mounted, came to his friend's rescue by pointing his revolver at Norman and threatening him. Unfortunately, Norman got a shot away which hit Lanigan in the chest and spooked his horse that promptly tossed the officer onto the ground. Lanigan died minutes later. The fight for the gun went on and when finally McLaughlin wrenched it free of Norman's grip, Norman ran away.

The search for Norman continued for two days when he was sighted and caught after a short chase on the 9th. Jacky Norman came to trial on 17 September 1894 in Cairns and was sentenced to life imprisonment on the charge of manslaughter of Constable Edward Lanigan.

This article references the work of FQPM member Gerry Stevens and Phil Hocken in his Police History series published in the Queensland Police Journal November 1998.

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

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 + postage. 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. 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 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 2025:

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 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 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

Bob Burns APM
Editor FQPM
0423100786

8th July 2025