THE FRIENDS' GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum
Established 2007
HISTORY - HERITAGE - HONOUR
3rd Quarter 2025 Edition

President's Message

The Annual General Meeting for the FQPM held on Wednesday 1st October and I am pleased to welcome a new member David Kolb onto the Management Committee. Additionally some other members have indicated an intention to come on board when their circumstances are clearer. The new committee is listed later in this bulletin along with details of the meeting to which all members are invited to attend where they can.

Our program for the coming year includes the finalising of some grave projects already in progress and assisting the Curator and her staff in the provision of a modern and contemporary presentation of the history of the Queensland Police.

The opportunity for members to participate in some activity involving interaction with other historical groups where there is a police interest will be arranged in due course. We look forward to seeing you where possible as the year evolves.

Thank you all for your continued interest.

Bob Burns APM
President

New Members:

Welcome to the following new members:
Tony Bellert and Conrad Martens

Members are encouraged to attend our meetings held every two months in the Police Museum. See page 10 for the dates of our next meetings.

Visit to Army Museum South Queensland – Wednesday 27th August

The FQPM visit to Army Museum South Queensland (AMSQ) at Victoria Barracks, Petrie Terrace was held on Wednesday, 27 August 2025. A small but enthusiastic group of members and a guest were treated to a very warm welcome and informative presentation by the AMSQ Curator Captain Adele Catts and her staff of volunteers followed by a morning tea in the historic Officers & Sergeants Mess. Of immediate interest was the restoration work being carried out on the historic complex to ensure buildings and other functions are suitably maintained.

Because Victoria Barracks is a working ADF military base, entry was strictly managed with parking and entry requirements to ensure proper security was enforced. FQPM member Rob Cochrane was part of the volunteer group presenting an informative and interesting history of the complex including its Military and Queensland Police presence.

The tour included the current exhibition that also has a Queensland Police component recognising the period from 1875 to 1884 when the Queensland Police Commissioner and other police elements occupied the complex. During the police presence, the barracks were still known as the Green Hills Barracks, and it was not until 1885 that the name Victoria Barracks was adopted. The tour of RUSI Hall, the old stables built during the police presence, included a historical look at early mounted police operations.

View of small collection of Queensland Police objects together with a colour photograph of a contingent of QP officers on parade. (*QP Museum photo)*

The AMSQ Museum provides free tours from February until November: Details can be found at:-

https://www.armymuseumsouthqueensland.com.au/book

Police Graves restoration program.

Some time ago the FQPM were advised of the poor condition of the grave of Constable Frederick HOGE who is buried in a family plot in the Stanwell Cemetery, west of Gracemere in Central Queensland. In 1908 Constable Hoge fell from the train near Dingo when returning to Clermont from special duty at Rockhampton. Originally buried in Clermont, he was reinterred in the family plot Stanwell.

An opportunity arose recently for an inspection by committee member Kevin Darch. A stonemason in Rockhampton who assisted with a previous restoration for us has been contacted for his assessment and refurbishment costings.

Hoge Family grave, Stanwell. (*Photo: K.Darch)*

Two other grave locations identified earlier for restoration and repair are now progressing. The graves of Constable Charles O'Kearney in the Ipswich General Cemetery and Constable Edward Lanigan at Irvinebank Cemetery via Herberton in North Queensland.

Committee members Gerry Stevens and Bob Burns met on site with an O'Kearney family member and arrangements have been made for a local stonemason to attend and provide an assessment before proceeding with any refurbishment.

Secretary Geoff Sheldon enabled the condition of the grave of Constable Edward Lanigan in the Irvinebank cemetery near Herberton in north Queensland to be assessed and work is now progressing.

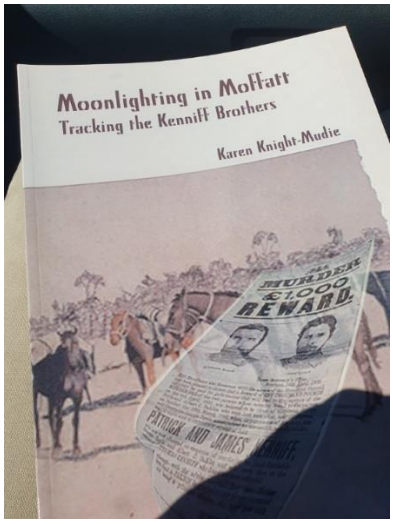
QP Museum 'From the Vault' series

The QP Museum web site has a number of articles in their *From the Vault* and *Sunday Stories* series that deal with some interesting subjects including *the unsolved murder of Betty Shanks in 1952*, *Cattle stealing, The beginnings of the Police Air Wing in 1975* and much more.

FQPM Western Queensland interests.

FQPM Vice President Rob McCall found time on his trip around western Queensland to check on some FQPM projects completed in recent years. The graves of Constable Patrick Cahill and Trooper Sam Johnson at Longreach were found in good order. The photograph of the Johnson grave indicated some form of visitation with the small stone arrangement at the base of the headstone. The placement of stones is a form of remembrance in some religious traditions including Christian and Jewish groups.

At Augathella, as part of the local tourist trail, the Kenniff Tree together with an information panel outlines how the Kenniff brothers used the tree as an element of their activity during the time they were active in that area of Queensland.



An important part of FQPM activity is keeping any eye out for publications relating to the police story in Queensland. A publication titled *Moonlighting in Moffatt – Tracking the Kenniff Brothers* has been added to the Museum library.

The book by artist Karen Knight-Mudie includes painted images of various points of interest in the Kenniff saga which took place in western Queensland 1902.

Honouring our People

Senior Constable William CONROY Reg No 202
Died Thursday Island
2nd July 1895

William Conroy was sworn into the Queensland Police in December 1883 and was transferred to Thursday Island in 1886 where he became a well-respected officer and colleague. On the 1st July 1895, Amelia Tinyana went to Thursday Island Police Station and complained to Sub-Inspector Urquhart (a future Commissioner of Police) that she had been assaulted and beaten by her husband Frank Tinyana, a native of the Soloman Island Province of Malaita.

That evening Conroy reported to Sergeant McCreevy that Frank Tinyana was a quiet and reasonable person and that there were no grounds for arresting him that day. The following day, 2nd July a summons was served on Tinyana and Sub Inspector Urquhart gave instructions that police should keep and eye on him.

On the evening of the 2nd July, Tinyana went to the house of a Mrs Boyd where his wife was staying and demanded to know where she was. Mrs Boyd's son Andrew Boyd refused to provide that information, telling Tinyana to leave the premises or he would call the police. Later that evening Andrew Boyd heard someone trying to break in through the back door. Mrs Tinyana jumped out of a window and called for the police as she ran to Smyths Hotel where she found Senior Constable Conroy.

Andrew Boyd returned to his mother's house where he locked the doors and after letting Mrs Tinyana and Conroy in, he left by the front door but forgot to lock it. Conroy and Mrs Tinyana were in the back yard when Frank Tinyana arrived running through the house and out the back door wielding a knife. He attacked his wife inflicting a serious wound to her arm after which she ran through the house and out onto the street. Conroy confronted Tinyana and after some time managed to disarm him despite being stabbed seven times.

As an exhausted Conroy took his prisoner out through the front of the house he was met by Constable Clines who took the control of the prisoner. As Conroy collapsed he said to Clines, "My God, is that you? Take this fellow, I must lie down. He has killed me". The Senior Constable was taken to the hospital but despite the efforts of two doctors, he could not be saved and following the provision of his dying depositions, he died from exhaustion at 10.30 that night.

After a lengthy trial Frank Tinyana pleaded guilty to the murder of William Conroy and was sentenced to death. He was executed on 4th November 1895.

Senior Constable William Conroy had been at Thursday Island for over 9 years and was noted for his courage and determination. He was buried in the Alpin Road Cemetery, Thursday Island and his colleagues erected a significant monument indicating the high level of esteem in which he was held.

Today, the grave with monument is maintained to a very high standard by local officers, indicating their pride in the actions of a fallen colleague.

PM0158

Thursday Island was the final resting place of Senior Constable William Conroy, and this headstone is engraved with the following:

"To the memory of William Conroy aged 33 years. Senior Constable of police who was killed at Thursday Island on the second of July 1895 in the faithful and fearless execution of his duty. Palmam qui mereif ferat. This stone was erected by the Queensland Government and the officers and men of the Queensland Police Force."

This article was prepared from sources provided by the QP Museum and retired Chief Superintendent and FQPM Committee member Gerry Stevens APM.

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 + 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

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 2025/2026 FQPM Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in the Queensland Police Museum Seminar Room on Wednesday 1st October 2025. The election of office bearers 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
David Kolb

Additionally, the following appointments were accepted and extended during 2026:

Commissioner's Advocate: Senior Sergeant Mel Wilkins
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 10.00am **3 December 2025**
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Wednesday 10.00am **4 February 2026**
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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, incidents, 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

13th October 2025