THE FRIENDS' GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum
Established 2007
HISTORY - HERITAGE - HONOUR
4th Quarter 2025 Edition

FQPM President's Message

Once again, I ask myself if Christmas is just around the corner and the answer is everywhere in the shops, on the radio and the television. Fortunately, the season does provide for a little reflection on the preceding 12 months that have just flown and I am pleased to report that our work is supported and valued. The FQPM team has been engaged in several ongoing projects, some finalised and others yet to be completed and new initiatives being considered as word of our activity becomes known.

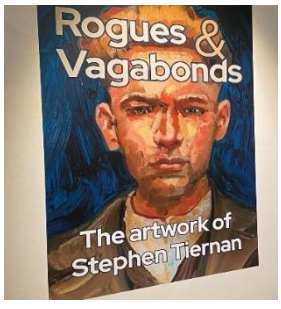
The year has not been without some sadness with the passing of our long-term secretary Ian Townsley and the death of strong supporter, former Police Union president Ian Leavers. Welcome news that our Patron, Commissioner Steve Gollschewski has returned to work following a serious health challenge.

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. I would like to wish all members of the FQPM a joyful Christmas and safe New Year in 2026.

Bob Burns APM

At the Police Museum.

The museum recently opened a new feature with a temporary exhibition space providing opportunities for showcasing stories of interest with relevant items from the collection.

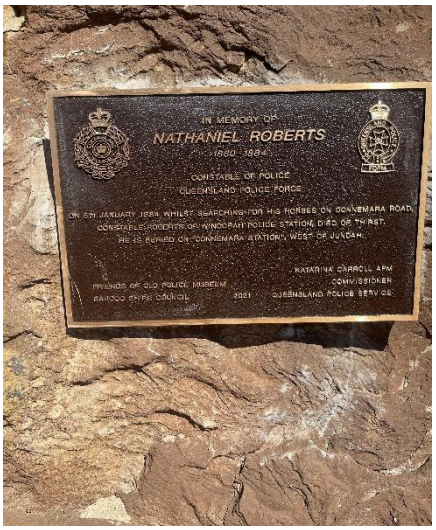


The opening exhibition *Rogues and Vagabonds* featured a series of original art works by Stephen Tiernan, a serving Detective Chief Inspector at the QPS Crime Command. Stephen has drawn his inspiration from mugshots of Queensland and New South Wales offenders taken during early 1900s period.

The exhibition was opened by Curator Lisa Jones on Friday 5th December, and is open Monday to Thursday until 6 April 2026. Entry is free.

Constable Nathaniel ROBERTS memorial plaque at Windorah.

It is with some satisfaction and relief that I advise of the completion of the project to find and acknowledge the location of the grave of Constable Nathaniel Roberts west of Jundah. Because of the remote location of the grave on private property, the Management Committee supported the property owners by having a publicly accessible memorial placed on the monumental rock in the nearby town of Windorah. The rock in Albert Street, Windorah already contains a memorial to Constable Thomas Callaghan placed by Commissioner Jim O'Sullivan during his term as police commissioner (1992 to 2000). It is an acknowledgement to the story of Nathaniel Roberts as he was stationed at Windorah when he set out on his fateful journey to locate a witness working on a property at Jundah in January 1884.



Photographs supplied by serving officer, Senior Sergeant Gerry Stevens.

Recent FQPM purchase.

A recent offer from a deceased estate for the FQPM to purchase select medals from a significant private collection has enabled the Curator to secure police related medals for the QP Museum collection.

A Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, a Queen Elizabeth 11 Coronation Medal and a QPS Service Medal were added to the collection funded by the FQPM.

WHISTLES: A time-honoured historic replica of policing history.
By Geoffrey Sheldon PhD

Just as synonymous with the mental image of the London 'Bobby' and his helmet from the 1800s is the picture of a 'Bobby' calling upon a 'villain' to stop, by sounding his police whistle.

These whistles are a respectful nod to our policing history where 'the job' was somewhat simpler, a communication device didn't need to be recharged, and assistance would come running at the mere blow of a whistle.

Police whistles have an interesting history, some of which is outlined below.

The London Metropolitan Police (Met) whistle replaced the 'police rattle' which was a wooden noise-making device in use since 1829. (The rattle-style device is still seen occasionally today at football matches). Realising the rattle was no longer fit for purpose in the 'noisy 1880s city environment' of down-town London, the Met advertised a competition nationally in 1883 for someone to design and provide them with a superior communication device.

The winning design was provided by Joseph Hudson (1848–1930), an inventor and skilled toolmaker from Birmingham. Winning this contract saw Hudson and his company, J Hudson & Co., achieve global success, providing whistles to organisations across the world before, during and after each of the world wars. The company today is the largest seller of whistles world-wide.

Of interest to collectors of the modern era was Hudson's practice of putting his factory's address into the body of the whistle. His factory operated from various addresses as seen below.

17 Mark St. Birmingham (J. Hudson workshop)	1870 - 1882
84 Buckingham St. Birmingham	1882 - 1884
131 Barr St. Birmingham	1885 - 1888
13 Barr St. Birmingham	1888 - 1909
244 Barr St. Birmingham	1909 Onward

The address stamped into the whistle allows modern policing historians to date a whistle (and often price the item accordingly!)

Collectable Whistle

The Friends of the Qld Police Museum take great pride in presenting a limited unique offering for the policing historian / collector.

The FQPM have struck a limited number of replica police whistles, engraved with the FQPM initials and will be available to members on the FQPM website shortly. When more whistles become available, they can be purchased through the QStore in the foyer of Police HQ.

FREEDOM OF THE CITY

By Wayne Coyne

The **Freedom of the City**, in military terms, is an honour conferred by a city council upon a military unit, which grants that unit the privilege of marching into the city "with drums beating, colours flying, and bayonets fixed".

The honour is usually bestowed upon local regiments, in recognition of their dedicated service, and it is common for military units to periodically exercise their freedom by arranging a parade through the city.

During the exercise of this Freedom, the role of City Marshall, who issues the Challenge on behalf of the Lord Mayor, is normally performed by a Police Officer. On occasions this role has fallen to members of the Queensland Mounted Police.

In 1979, when 4 Signal Regiment, Royal Australian Corps of Signals exercised their Freedom, this role was performed by Sergeant 2/c Andrew Coyne QPM, Officer in Charge of the Queensland Mounted Police. (cont over)

In 1987, when 23 (City of Brisbane) Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force exercised their Freedom the challenge was to have been issued by Sergeant 1/c David Bown, Officer in Charge of the Queensland Mounted Police at that time. However, due to illness, Sergeant Bown was unable to perform this duty and asked Constable Wayne Coyne to act in his place. This may well have been the first occasion where a father and son had both acted in this role.

Honouring Our People. Constable Frederick HOGE. Reg No. 566

Constable Frederick Hoge was born in 1877 at Stanwell a small farming community west of Rockhampton. He applied to join the Queensland Police Force in January 1899 and was sworn in on 5 April that year where he was allocated reg.no. 821. (In 1905 Commissioner Cahill re-organised the service wide numbering system and Hoge was re-issued 566).

Constable Hoge commenced his service at Roma Street Station, then onto Nambour and in September 1900 to Gladstone where he was to spend the next seven years.

This period included some significant time in the search for the Kenniff Brothers following the murder of Constable George Doyle and station manager Albert Dahlke. Additionally, he performed instances of good police work resulting in several payments of one pound rewards. His service was also interrupted by periods of illness including dengue fever and influenza which was to cause considerable sick leave. He married Zilla Hinchcliffe in April 1902 and later went on to have 2 children.

Following a dispute with a subordinate officer while acting as Officer in Charge, Hoge was transferred to Clermont in July 1907.
In June 1908 he and two other officers were returning by train from Rockhampton having performed special duty at a carnival in that city. Hoge had fallen ill during this duty but had recovered well enough to travel back to Clermont.

At about 11.30pm on 15th June 1908, as the train passed through the town of Dingo, Hoge left the carriage to get a drink of water from the waterbag hanging on an outside railing. His travelling companions felt a bump and on investigation could not locate Hoge. The train was stopped and following a search Hoge was located having been run over by the train. His body was recovered and returned to Clermont where he was buried in the Clermont Cemetery. Frederick Hoge was 31 years of age at the time of his death.

Police Trainees at Police Depot in March 1899. Frederick HOGE is in the front row second from the right. (QPM photograph S180)

His widow was pregnant at the time and later gave birth to a third daughter. Tragedy struck the family again in 1909 when their 3-year-old second daughter died from diphtheria. Mrs Hoge remarried in 1912 while living in Brisbane.

Constable Frederick Hoge was later exhumed from the Clermont Cemetery and reburied in a family plot in the Stanwell Cemetery where his parents and a brother are also interred. Recently the FQPM were advised that the condition of the family grave was in a sad state of disrepair.
FQPM Committee member Kevin Darch was able to inspect the cemetery recently and an assessment by a stonemason has indicated a significant expense will be required to reinstate the grave to a suitable condition. Inquiries by the QPS Honours & Awards Unit are ongoing in an effort to locate descendants who will advise on how the project will proceed.

The current condition of the family grave in Stanwell Cemetery indicates a significant rebuild will be necessary however the FQPM will honour Constable Frederick Hoge with the best possible reconstruction befitting an officer who died while performing his duty. This project will be a major focus for the management committee in 2026

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 $45 + 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 2025/2026

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
Brendon McMahon

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 – 2026

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 (2026) are as follows:

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Wednesday 10.00am **4th February 2026**
Wednesday 10.00am **1st April 2026**
Wednesday 10.00am **3rd June 2026**
Wednesday 10.00am **5th August 2026**
Wednesday 10.00am **7th October 2026 + AGM**
Wednesday 10.00am **2nd December 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

17th December 2025