THE FRIENDS' GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Queensland Police Museum
Established 2007
HISTORY - HERITAGE - HONOUR
1st Quarter 2026 Edition

President's Message

The new year has commenced with a pleasant surprise in that our founder Brett Pointing has now returned to the QPS as the acting Commissioner, and he has accepted our invitation to be the Patron of the FQPM. We look forward to meeting with him soon to bring him up to date with our current activities and projects. Another year is before us and our support for the Queensland Police Museum continues with several projects that are still in need of finalisation. Contact with qualified stonemasons is ongoing in relation to our grave restoration/repair activity, however costs are ever rising, particularly where extensive travel is required in the more remote areas of Queensland. We certainly don't need external issues like fuel costs impacting on the progress of some grave projects, particularly where price increases are becoming more regular.

The FQPM is committed to the long game in ensuring that our grave project is successful even if locations are becoming increasingly remote. We have always reached out to our serving officers in these remote locations and are grateful for their assistance.

Thank you all for your continued interest in the work we do as we strive to meet our commitments.

Bob Burns APM
President

New Members:

Welcome to the following who have applied for membership:
Tony Wright, Carl Burgoyne and Caitlin Gardner.

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.

At the Police Museum.

Late in 2025 the QP Museum opened a new feature with a temporary exhibition space providing opportunities for visiting exhibitions and to showcase stories of interest with relevant items from the collection.

The opening exhibition *Rogues and Vagabonds* features 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. This new endeavour has proved quite popular. The exhibition has now been extended to 25th June 2026. Entry is free.

Sir Robert Peel.

On entry to the QPM a poster appears outlining the role of Sir Robert Peel in the establishment of modern police organisations across the demographic world. Peel championed the idea of a professional policing model when he became Home Secretary in the UK in 1822. His model outlined in his Metropolitan Police Act of 1829 established a full-time, professional and centrally organised police force for the greater London area and became known as the Metropolitan Police. This new arrangement did not include the area in the centre of the city designated as the City of London which retained responsibility for its own policing. The Mayor and Corporation of the City of London at the time refused to be part of a London-wide force because the City of London had certain liberties dating back to Magna Carta.[16] Formed in 1832, the London City Police was later renamed the City of London Police.

To mark the bicentenary of the birth of Robert Peel a commemorative medallion was minted and one came into the possession of our Secretary Geoff Sheldon.

Police Graves restoration program update.

Constable Frederick Hoge. Constable Hoge is buried in the Stanwell Cemetery, west of Gracemere in Central Queensland. The procedure to commence restoration of this grave requires the FQPM to advise the regional council that all attempts to identify descendants have been made. Some descendants in the grand child and great grandchild level have been identified however our attempts to make contact have not been successful at this stage. A contractor who may be able to assist with the restoration has also been contacted.

Constable Charles O'Kearney's grave in the Ipswich General Cemetery has presented an unusual difficulty for our restoration attempt as he is buried in a family plot along with 4 other family members. The names of all members are informed on the one central headstone with absolutely no room for any extra information. Ipswich Council has firm rules regarding headstone information and our intention to attach a small plaque outlining the circumstances of his death at Laidley in 1904 appears to contravene council rules. Another option is being explored however the O'Kearney family are yet to be advised.

Constable Edward Lanigan (Lannigan)was shot and killed at Montalbion near Herberton while arresting an offender on 6th September 1894. Lanigan's grave is located in the nearby Irvinebank Cemetery. A quote from a local stonemason has been obtained and the application for restoration is with the local council. A search for family connections is underway as the officer was not married and no children or family are identified.

Memorial service for Constable George Doyle at Tamrookum.

The Logan-Beenleigh Branch of the Queensland Retired Police Association recently arranged for a memorial service to mark the anniversary of the death of Constable George Doyle who along with Albert Dahlke was murdered by the Kenniff brothers on 30th March 1902. Both victims were buried in the same grave at the cemetery attached to the Anglican Church at Tamrookum via Beaudesert. The QRPA Branch had identified that George Doyle was the only officer from the QPS Memorial List who was buried in their region of interest. The memorial service was conducted by

local Chaplain Fr Peter Palmer and was attended by members of the QRPA Logan-Beenleigh Branch, local uniform officers, local dignitaries, members of the Collins family and one member of the Doyle family.

FQPM President Bob Burns delivered a reflection on the life of George Doyle, and a copy of this address is printed below.

Honouring Our People.

The life and times of George DOYLE, Police Constable, Queensland Police Force.

George Doyle was born into a farming family in Brookfield near Brisbane in April 1869. He worked as a labourer and timber getter prior to joining the Queensland Police Force. Sworn in on the 8th May 1891 he was allocated Reg No 600 and spent 3 months in Brisbane before he was transferred to Normanton and a year later moved to Croydon.

While at Croydon, with only 3 years' service he was confronted with health issues after returning from an arduous patrol. He was diagnosed with Rheumatism and the after effects of flu and was placed on sick leave. Seeking some time to recover he applied for some recreation leave that would enable him to see his parents at Moggill, this being the first of any leave since his appointment. It appears he struggled to recover his health, and he tendered his resignation notice to leave the Force on 30th April 1894.

Two years later he applied to rejoin and on 15th May 1896, Constable George Doyle Reg No 795 was sworn-in. A week later found himself transferred to the town of Bollon. Over the next three years he went on to serve at Wyandra, Cunnamulla and Charleville stations until his appointment to the new station of Upper Warrego in November 1900.

The Upper Warrego police station was established in the Mitchell region in 1900 following persistent cattle and horse theft in the area. Constable George Doyle, Constable Stephen Millard and tracker Corporal Sam Johnson were given the responsibility to police this large area that was bounded by a holding allocated to the notorious Kenniff family. The Kenniff family, originally from New South Wales with a history of horse and cattle thefts had relocated to Springsure in the Central Highlands district, and later set up camp in the Carnarvon area about 200klms north of Mitchell where they continued their criminal activity.

A warrant for the arrest of Patrick and James Kenniff was issued in March 1902 over the theft of a pony. A police party consisting of Constable

George Doyle and tracker Corporal Sam Johnson, was joined by Albert Dahlke, the manager of the Carnarvon Station. Their job was to locate the Kenniffs and execute the arrest warrant. They left the Upper Warrego Police Station and after some time located the Kenniff camp at Lethbridge's Pocket. A confrontation occurred when the arrest of the two men began with Patrick being taken into custody however James had escaped into the bush. Sam Johnston was sent to collect the pack horse with the handcuffs and in his absence an altercation occurred where shots were fired leaving two men dead and no sign of the Kenniff brothers.

Later, another police search party located the remains of Doyle and Dahlke. The confronting and revolting circumstances of their death became clear. This instigated a massive police search that captivated the Queensland community for the next 3 months, culminating in the arrest of the two men south of Mitchell on charges of murder. Committed for trial at Mitchell Court the matter was referred to the Supreme Court in Brisbane where a trial headed by the Chief Justice, Sir Samuel Griffith found both men guilty with both men sentenced to hang. The trial evidence was all circumstantial with no direct witnesses and no bodies as such that could be identified. Sam Johnston, on a rare occasion of an aboriginal giving testimony, is recorded as having given solid evidence despite patronising treatment from the defence team.

Much opposition to the outcome of the trial was evident across the community and funding was raised to ensure a higher court appeal against the guilty verdict and the sentences. James's sentence was subsequently commuted to life in prison and Patrick, hanged in January 1903 at Boggo Road Prison, was buried in South Brisbane Cemetery.

The period after the trial makes for some interesting observations particularly focusing on the Kenniff story. A film and many books about their life and tribulations have been written and continue to attract attention. Bushranger 4X4 tours of the Kenniff country are popular and many small communities highlight any Kenniff connection as part of their local tourist attractions.

The end of the Kenniff trial is determined to be the end of the Bushranger Period in Australia. A public monument south of Mitchell marking the spot where the Kenniffs were captured, acknowledges the end of this bushranging era and pays respects to those police officers who had been killed in Australia during this period.

There is no doubt this episode in our history had an impact on a number of people and events in public life that was to follow. Chief Justice Sir Samual Griffiths is remembered for his work on the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia. Griffith University has been named in his honour. In recent times the conduct of the trial has been the subject of

legal debate. Of interest also is the story of a government solicitor who as an Under Sheriff had a formal duty in the hanging of Patrick Kenniff. Arthur Hoey Davis was so affected by this experience he left his job and later became the well-known writer of the iconic *Dad and Dave* stories under the name of Steele Rudd.

Perhaps the heightened community interest in the trial and subsequent legal activity relating to the sentences may have laid the ground for a later debate when the Queensland Government abolished capital punishment in 1922, the first state in Australia to do so.

We may well ask ourselves what has become of the two men who paid with their lives. There are no books or films or 4X4 tours. It has become incumbent on the families, the employers and the colleagues of these men to ensure that they are honoured and not forgotten. For our part as retired police officers we know we have 150 officers in Queensland who have given their lives while performing their duty.

The QPS has been at the forefront in recent years in conducting annual Police Remembrance Days around the state. Members also participate in supporting the Queensland Police Museum in ensuring that these officers have a resting place befitting their status. The significant memorial over the grave of George Doyle and Albert Dahlke here in this beautiful cemetery at Tamrookum reminds us of our commitment to ensure they are not forgotten. We will remember him. May he rest in Peace.

In 2019 The FQPM was advised of some concern about the stability of the monument consequently the foundations were reinforced. This work was carried out with the permission of the Collins Family Trust who manage the property.

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 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 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, are 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 **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 of 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.

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.

Likewise, if you're changing your email address, don't forget to let us know so that you don't miss out on notifications and/or newsletters.

It's important that we ensure that our website and records are up to date and accurate.

Bob Burns APM
Editor FQPM
25 April 2026
www.friendsqpmuseum.com.au