

PEELERS



GAZETTE

PATRON COMMISSIONER OF POLICE COL BLANCH

DECEMBER 2022

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Presidents Editorial.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish all members and their families a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

In summary the year has been very busy and like police duties a host of various activities have occurred. Soon after the AGM in March The committee held its first of four meetings for the year establishing the priorities within what was reasonably achievable considering the volunteer status of those involved. Forming a formal partnership with the WA Police Force (WAPF) was essential and initial requests and contacts would be by official (Letter) correspondence.

We decided that the following eight issues needed priority going forward.

- Constant liaison with Commander Mike Bell
- How to source and retain service record history from 1966 onwards
- The Sea Container x two dilemma
- Shed extensions
- Renewal of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the WAPF
- Upgrade and capacity increase for the computer system
- Renewal of the Water Corp lease
- Capacity to take exhibitions to community shows

I covered the history of storage in the October 2022 edition so in fear of being repetitive I will prepare a separate report and how this was dealt with. It is very important because ageing volunteers should never have to face a similar situation.

Several letters were directed to the incoming Commissioner and copies sent to Mike Bell. Meetings were held with Frank Pasquale the WAPF Executive Director (ED) initially it came across that the WAPF would like the Police Museum to move closer or in the CBD. No indication was given to the intent of the current State heritage listed site at Highgate Hill. I was strongly opposed to this as the site still offers sufficient room to construct a Large Objects Gallery as the WAPF had intended in 2005-2009.

I emphasised that the volunteers had considerable time spent running the museum which detracted from the ability to concentrate on the six objects of WAPHS. An idea was muted that perhaps the running of the Police Museum (paying bills, organising visits, maintenance etc) would be better served by the appointment of a suitable sworn officer in the role of a curator. I can now report that after numerous fine-tuning details a trial will commence in early 2023. We will chalk that up as a big win.

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In October Sergeant Jon Groves 6929 was offered the position of accessing service records from the old black screen (Green) writing PHREMS computer. Once access he would then download the information into the WAPHS system. This coincided with receiving a book with very old service records and a card system from Personnel Services that contained similar information post books. Jon trained up in the new WAPHS computer system but unfortunately it did not work out and Jon will move to being boarded out on work related medically grounds. Thanks for the effort any way Jon and all the best for the future. So WAPHS is on the lookout for a replacement who will need permission to access the WAPF PHREMS system.

Having decommissioned two police station Medina and Rockingham and the Rockingham Traffic Office and then commissioned the new station at Kwinana and Rockingham I had a rough idea of what was required to decommission the two large sea containers. **No**, I didn't, I had not envisaged the task ahead which included the Ventilation Tower, Existing Shed and Compactor Room storage. All areas were full. Mostly with objects and items that should never been stored here in the first place. The word hoarding springs to mind. The WAPF had a cheek using one shed has a mini *Iron mountain*. I can now report that the sea containers and Ventilation stack have been cleared and the existing shed converted into an organised storage area for all non-fragile items. WAPF Assets Branch have visited the site with builders and the sea containers are ready to be disconnected from power and carted away. That chalked up as a massive win.

The planned shed extension x two are no longer required. But I will keep the plans authorisation renewed just in case they will be required in the future. This has saved the WAPHS approximately \$30,000.00. Chalk up another big win.

This December, after meetings, negotiations and numerous questions the 2023 SLA is just about ready to be signed off. This will enable the WAPHS to continue our great work for the new three years. So, things are looking up and together with the establishment of a WAPF curator role more group visits and events will be arranged. The biggest win of all.

Dealing with the Water Corp is interesting, and we are still waiting for the lease renewal and some maintenance issues to be addressed.

In 2020 Chris Cassidy organised the purchase of three new Lenovo computers aimed at replacing the two (ready to expire, Think Centre PC's) So, Qbit Computers were contracted to make the change and run off the back of the new wiring that had been completed in 2021. Carol and I have been trained in the system and no doubt the Curator will need similar training. Still some fine tuning to occur. A win just the same.

Bit of a sad year with the passing of long time Secretary and Life member Val Doherty earlier this year Mal Evans a considerable donator and just recently a long-time supporter with recommissioned large printers and photo copiers Bob Langridge passed after a sudden illness. RIP Val, Mal and Bob.

As I have commented on several occasions. Carol Vernon and I have used our policing skills faced with all manner of requests and pressing priorities have just about managed to keep the Good Ship Highgate Hill afloat. Don Hawkins, until he broke his leg had been doing a great job in re vitalising the Mounted Section Corner. (That's all they are getting) Take a look next time you visit. Thanks Don. Bob Horton has kept the four gifted police vehicles running. Thanks Bob. Mike Deephouse has continued to digitise any valuable and historical photographs, books and documents that are uncovered. They will be vital for the Australian Policing Museum information walls and tables. Thanks Mike.

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Dave Mac Donald has hit a hurdle, not a huge stumbling block, with the re location of the Pitman Walsh Memorial. The descendants of the two local aboriginals have lodged a stop on the re location to a more accessible site adjacent to the Great Eastern Highway, road into Kalgoorlie Boulder. Its current location is totally inaccessible and is subject to an approved mine extension lease. Perhaps WAPHS needs to negotiate a portion of the information bay being reserved for the efforts of the two men involved.

Lynford have completed the mechanical upgrades on the Anglia which is now back under the carport. Big thanks to Clem and his team.

TRG Bomb Squad have donated a decommissioned fully operational bomb defusing robot. I will ask the team to demonstrate its capabilities in 2023.

We have also requested that Assets Branch provide security mesh to all vulnerable windows as the toilets are the only building protected appropriately.

Our objects

1/. To arouse interest in and promote the study and writing of WA Police history.

(The WAPHS has re-created a police library in a cell of the old station)

2/. To promote the interchange of information among members of the Society.

(Although keeping abreast of requests for historical research by members this has been difficult)

3/. To publish historical records and articles dealing with police activity in its many and varied forms

(This has been achieved through improved use of the website (Thanks Peter Thomas))

4/. Promote the collection, preservation and classification of source materials and records of all kinds relating to WA Police History.

(In addition to sourced materials on hand the WAPHS has been able to acquire further unique historical records of officers, places, stations and events)

5/. To place all such source material collected in suitable premises for preservation

(This is the big challenge and without a large objects gallery for this purpose will never be completed a new computer system now almost complete will certainly help with the written and photographic records)

6/. To co-operate and if in the interest of the Society, to affiliate with similar societies and bodies

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Missing Police Officer in Australia

A few months ago, WAPU Research Officer Matthew Payne sent me information regarding missing police officers throughout Australia. Interestingly only two officers were reported in Western Australia (WA). Frank Buttle lost on the sinking of the Koombana in 1912 and another who I won't name has he shot through when confronted with a family maintenance order.

I would have thought more would have been reported missing in WA. Then whilst sorting out boxed documents in the compactor room I came across a 2013 Kevin Moran treatise "The wreck of the Emma Australia's Worst mass murder. 1867. Now the Treatise is without a shadow of a doubt a controversial read. Based basically on the story told to a ship fairer Charles Tuckey by an unnamed aboriginal deckhand some years later. Claiming that he was one of a tribe of aboriginal natives in an area known these days as Quobba Station in the north west that located, befriended, killed then ate the survivors of the Emma that had run aground on a reef. Kevin was most upset that State Government Forensic Archaeological Pathologists had not taken interest in determining that human remains uncovered many years later had not ruled out that some of the bones were actually Caucasian and could have been from those aboard the Emma.

I leave this debate for those who may wish to read the treatise at the WAPHS Police Museum Library.

Although Kevin doesn't pay much regard to the names on the Emma's passenger list it showed the names of two police officers and above those two names the name of another person who was also a police officer. This led me to research why these three officers were aboard the vessel and why they were never included in Australia's Missing Police Officers and the Honour Role of the National Police Memorial in Canberra.

The following research uncovered that:

Constable Septimus Robert TOOVEY had boarded the Emma at Port Walcott or Nichol Bay the Harbours that serviced Cossack and Roebuck Bay (Roebourne.) He was escorting aboriginal prisoners to Fremantle together with Constable Walter JONES. Constable Robert WILLIAMS was also on the vessel but was en-route to Fremantle due to a serious reoccurring illness. The WAPHS has more detailed information on TOOVEY and WILLIAMS but little detail on JONES. All manner of propositions could be attributed to the fate of WILLIAMS and TOOVEY especially as there were Aborigines on the EMMA. The two officers had been involved in the mission to track down the killers of Inspector Panter, Goldwyer and Harding led by Maitland Brown. Check out the memorial in the park at Fremantle for details. Also see the Perth Gazette in May 1865 for the full journal of events.

There was never any trace of TOOVEY, WILLIAMS and JONES or any other listed passengers. Not only are they missing police officers they were performing a function of their officer at the time the Emma met her fate and whether they were drowned or murdered after reaching the shore they deserve to be included in the National, State police memorials and the In memorandum wall at WAPU HQ West Perth.

Dave Lampard

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MEMBERS EVENTS HELD AT

57 Lincoln Street, Highgate WA, 6003,

First (1st) Tuesday of the month at 10am unless otherwise notified

2023 AGM to be held At 10am On Tuesday March 7.

Agenda and committee nominations to follow by January 20, 2023.

MEMBERSHIP

Annual Fee & Yearly Renewal \$ 20.00 (No Nomination fee)

Direct Bank Transfer P&N Bank BSB#806 015 AC#015602352 Ref: Name (Reg#) Fees.

Yearly subscriptions fall due 1st of January

OPENING HOURS Tuesday and Friday 9am to 3pm Other times by appointment

WEBSITE: www.policewahistory.org.au

EMAIL: waphs@globaldial.com (Preferred method of contact unless urgent)

TELEPHONE: (08) 9328 3691 **POSTAL ADDRESS:** PO Box 471 Mount Lawley W.A 6939

The Society Acknowledges the Support (in kind and financial) it receives from the WA Police Force and the WA Police Union.

2022 Operating Committee

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