

# Queensland Police Museum

## Police Museum offers more than a history lesson

By Lisa Jones, Curator,  
Queensland Police Museum



Ever wondered how a human bone can pinpoint a murderer; or how a piece of personal mail you threw in the bin can allow someone to steal your identity; or whether that cheque you just received is worth the paper it is printed on? Then the Police Museum's guest speaker series is for you.

In 2006 – in an effort to increase numbers and expand the type of visiting clientele – the museum began opening on the last Sunday of the month. Guest speakers from the crime-solving realm were introduced in August to further enhance the visitor experience.

Since then, speakers have enthralled and educated visitors in the fascinating areas of forensic anthropology, homicide, fingerprinting, identity theft and, most recently, document examination.

Mr Velu Selvakumar, Queensland Police Service Chief Document Examiner recently treated 50 enthusiastic visitors to an insight into the world of document examination.

A veteran of this specialisation, he explained that his work involved the inspection of documents and the analysing of handwritten or machine-generated images contained on them.

Mr Selvakumar defined a document as "any material that contains writing, printing, symbols, marks or signs that are visible, partially visible or invisible that may convey a message to someone".

Document examination is a complex discipline that is applicable across a varied range of investigations.

"It can include the scrutiny of passports, visas and drivers' licences, inks and writing instruments, physical matching of shredded/torn papers, photocopies, charred and burnt documents and the enhancement of writing, printing, counterfeit and manipulated documents," Mr Selvakumar said.

It is a perfect example of the many interesting facets of forensic investigation that can be discovered during a visit to the Police Museum.

The 2007 guest speaker series will include experts involved in crash investigation, missing persons, fraud and disaster victim identification, among others.

The aim of Sunday openings is to represent the wide variety of expertise used for solving crime while introducing visitors to the Police Museum displays and historical information.

Visitors are welcome to peruse the museum's displays before and after the talk and can experience 25 displays that interpret the rich tapestry of police life in Queensland since 1864.

Come in and try your detective skills in our simulated crime scene.

The Queensland Police Museum is open 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 3pm on the last Sunday of the month.

The guest speaker series happens every month between January and November. The hour-long talk starts at 11am. Entry is free and no bookings are necessary.

If you would like to be included on the museum's email list to receive information on upcoming speakers and events, then contact us at [museum@police.qld.gov.au](mailto:museum@police.qld.gov.au). ■