Queensland Police Commissioners

Appointed and Acting

DAVID T. SEYMOUR



1st Commissioner of Police: 1 January 1864 – 30 June 1895

Commissioner Seymour established the detective force in 1864, one of the many reforms he undertook in his thirty-one years as Commissioner. He travelled extensively to the far reaches of the state and brought the concerns of his men to the Government. In 1880 he showed his faith in the skills of the native police by sending Indigenous trackers to Victoria to participate in the location of the Kelly gang. On retiring in 1895, Commissioner Seymour had increased police strength from 275 to 907.

William E. Parry-Okeden



2nd Commissioner of Police: 1 July 1895 – 31 March 1905

Commissioner Parry-Okeden was responsible for many reforms during his ten-year tenure. He reorganised the force into seven districts, initiated the grades of Constable 1/c and Chief Inspector, oversaw the formation of the Criminal Investigation Branch, devised more appropriate country uniforms, introduced the use of police bicycles and established the Fingerprint Bureau.

William G. Cahill



3rd Commissioner of Police: 1 April 1905 – 31 December 1916

Commissioner Cahill supervised a period of expansion and introduced reforms to the Police Force. He introduced free uniforms, a better pension scheme, as well as improved arms and ammunition. He established a police horse breeding establishment and in 1913, introduced the first Queensland Policeman's Manual. Commissioner Cahill improved training conditions; modernised the CIB and pushed for the closer supervision of liquor licensing and gambling.

Frederic C. Urquhart



4th Commissioner of Police: 1 January 1917 – 16 January 1921

Frederic Urquhart was the first sworn police officer to rise the rank of Commissioner. His tenure was punctuated by the flow-on effects of the First World War and subsequent industrial unrest. He pushed the Government for a closer approximation between police pay and the rates of industrial wages to slow the loss of men to other occupations. He oversaw the establishment of the Border Patrol during the 1919 Influenza Epidemic and was injured during police action against the 'Red Flag' rioters in Brisbane in the same year.

Patrick Short



Acting Commissioner of Police: 16 December 1920 – 15 January 1921

5th Commissioner of Police: 16 January 1921 – 5 July 1925

Patrick Short was the first native born Queenslander to reach the rank of Commissioner. During his tenure he condensed the number of police districts from 12 to 10 and oversaw changes to the police act regarding improving police pensions and family allowances. In 1924 he witnessed legislation which provided a system of appeal against promotions to members of the Police Union up to and including the rank of Senior Sergeant.

William H. Ryan



Acting Commissioner of Police: 15 January 1925 – 5 July 1925

6th Commissioner of Police: 5 July 1925 – 8 May 1934

Commissioner Ryan's tenure included a push for pay increases for all police officers. He established night duty bicycle patrols in the Metropolitan District and bought two motorised prison vans to replace the horse drawn "Black Maria". In 1931 Commissioner Ryan sanctioned the recruitment of the first two policewomen. He embraced motorisation of the force and at the end of his tenure there were thirteen motorcycles and three vehicles available for use across the state.

Cecil J. Carroll



7th Commissioner of Police: 8 May 1934 – 23 July 1949

Commissioner Carroll introduced many reforms including qualifying examinations for promotion, an improved training system for recruits and a new Cadet system of admission. He oversaw the extensive improvement of police buildings and the opening of the Queensland Police Garage and the Police Welfare Club. During his tenure he oversaw the established of a wireless radio station; the installation of radio receivers in police cars; the introduction of the 'modus operandi' recording system and the establishment of the single fingerprint system; the scientific section and the traffic squad.

John Smith



8th Commissioner of Police: 23 July 1949 – 8 August 1954

Commissioner Smith oversaw the creation of the position of Deputy Commissioner and on 29 November 1951 appointed Chief Inspector Glynn as the state's first Deputy Commissioner. He represented Australia at the general assembly of the International Criminal Police Commission in Norway in 1953 and oversaw the arrangements for the visit of Her Majesty, the Queen, and the Duke of Edinburgh in 1954.

Patrick Glynn



Acting Commissioner of Police: 9 August 1954 – 5 January 1955

9th Commissioner of Police: 6 January 1955 – 25 April 1957

Before Patrick Glynn became Commissioner his commitment to the Queensland Police was evident in suggestions made to improve operations of the Criminal Investigation Branch. Improvements to zoning, wireless patrol, and 'murder bags' (equipment used to secure evidence) were considered, with continued development on these aspects taking place today. Mr Glynn also organised and took charge of a 'Detective College' for the specific training of Detectives during his tenure.

Thomas W. Harold



Acting Commissioner of Police: 18 November 1956 – 25 April 1957

10th Commissioner of Police: 26 April 1957 – 25 December 1957

Prior to taking on the role of Commissioner, Mr Harold headed up the Crime Investigation Branch. During World War II he was in charge of the Metropolitan Air Raids Precaution and later directed security for Queensland's hosting of the Royal Tour in 1954. Commissioner Harold, as President of the Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association, worked energetically for the advancement of the association. On retirement he continued to serve as Director of the QPCYWA until his death in 1961.

Francis E. Bischof



11th Commissioner of Police: 30 January 1958 – 12 October 1969

Commissioner Bischof appeared frequently at public functions throughout the countryside, encouraging the community to support and co-operate with police activities. He became well known for his interest in the welfare of children, particularly through the expansion of youth clubs, which led to him being named Queensland's first 'Father of the Year' in 1959, although he was childless. Mr Bischof was responsible for the formation of the Queensland Police Pipe Band in 1958, established the Police Public Relations Bureau in 1959, the Warrant Bureau in 1963 and the Crime Prevention Bureau in 1968.

Norwin W. Bauer



Acting Commissioner of Police: 14 February 1969 - 11 October 1969

12th Commissioner of Police: 12 October 1969 – 31 August 1970

Commissioner Bauer's began his administration in the middle of the political and public debate about the random use of breathalysers, with the Government being accused of using the police simply as revenue collectors. Bauer took up the request of Callaghan, the Police Union secretary, for an extra 400 police so that Queensland's size, distances and dispersal of population could be adequately serviced. In 1970, Bauer oversaw the purchase of land at Chelmer and the development of the Queensland Police College for in-service training.

Raymond W. Whitrod



13th Commissioner of Police: 1 September 1970 – 29 November 1976

Commissioner Whitrod called for a greater professionalisation and modernization of the Force and for promotion based on merit, not seniority and a preference for Policemen with higher educational standards. During his tenure as Commissioner of Police, he was responsible for the formation of the Crime Intelligence Unit; the Police Air Wing becoming operational; the commencement of construction of a new Police Headquarters building in Makerston Street; and the commencement of construction of the Driver Training Wing at Mt Cotton.

Terence M. Lewis



14th Commissioner of Police: 29 November 1976 – 21 September 1987

During his tenure, Lewis was responsible for opening the Police Museum to the public, the overhaul and expansion of the training regime that included the introduction of the new 18-month Cadet training course. On 21 September 1987 he was stood down on full pay by the Police Minister and Premier. On 19 April 1989, by virtue of the Commissioner of Police (Vacation of Office) Act, the office of Commissioner of Police was declared vacant and from that date Terry Lewis ceased to be a member of the Police Force. In 1991 Mr Lewis was convicted on 15 counts of corruption and one count of forgery and was sentenced to a total of 25 years in prison.

Terry Lewis' tenure as Police Commissioner serves as a testament to the importance of ethics in policing.

Ronald J. Redmond



15th Commissioner of Police (Acting): 21 September 1987 – 1 November 1989

Deputy Commissioner Redmond took over as Acting Commissioner after the Police Minister directed Terence Lewis to step down as Commissioner of Police on 21 September 1987. He guided the destiny of the Department through two of the most turbulent years in its history. His experience and sense of humour in the corridors of Police Headquarters were sadly missed when he retired.

Noel Newnham



16th Commissioner of Police: 1 November 1989 – 31 October 1992

Commissioner Newnham was contracted as recommended by corruption commissioner Mr Tony Fitzgerald QC, to enact the Fitzgerald Inquiry recommendations. Mr Newnham advocated community policing and decentralisation of the Service, and he oversaw the appointment of the first female commissioned officers and implemented a new two-year Police Recruit Program and professional development program for the entire Service in 1990.

James P. O'Sullivan



17th Commissioner of Police: 1 November 1992 – 31 October 2000

Commissioner O'Sullivan's substantial record of achievement had a far-reaching impact on the policy and operational direction of policing in Queensland. Mr O'Sullivan oversaw the introduction of the 'Police Beat Project' piloted in Toowoomba in 1993. He launched the 'Identify It' property marking project in 1995. Mr O'Sullivan believed public confidence could be achieved by directing more resources towards operational policing needs and by improving the professional image through developing professional policing competencies.

Robert Atkinson



18th Commissioner of Police: 1 November 2000 – 31 October 2012

Commissioner Atkinson has a substantial record of achievement, having had far reaching impact on the Policy and operational direction of Policing in Queensland. In 2002 he presided over security arrangements and the successful hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Coolum. He continually focused on community safety and providing a professional police service to protect the people of Queensland and their property. Mr Atkinson is credited with reducing both the crime rate and road toll during his tenure. He was passionate about people, professionalism, partnerships and performance.

Ian D. H. Stewart



19th Commissioner of Police: 1 November 2012 – 7 July 2019

On January 1, 2013, two months into his tenure, Commissioner Stewart announced the commencement of the Queensland Police Service Renewal Program which included organisational restructure. The review proposed a new vision for the Service with key objectives being to stop crime, make the community safer and build relationships across the community. Mr Stewart has implemented changes to policy and practice resulting in improved frontline policing and community services.

Katarina R. Carroll



20th Commissioner of Police: 8 July 2019 – 1 March 2024

One of Commissioner Carroll's key priorities was to strengthen the culture, agility and adaptability of the Queensland Police Service through a continuous improvement journey that fostered an engaged and innovative workforce.

Stephen W. Gollschewski



Acting Commissioner of Police: 2 March – 21 April 2024

21th Commissioner of Police: 22 April 2024 – 20 February 2026

Commissioner Gollschewski's vision for the Queensland Police Service, was led by the principles of integrity, insight, and innovation, to create a safer, more secure Queensland through world-class policing services with integrity at their core, and which were community-focused and technologically advanced.

Brett M. Pointing



Acting Commissioner of Police: 21 February 2026 - current

Acting Commissioner Pointing reaffirmed the Queensland Police Service's commitment to keeping Queenslanders safe, supporting its people, and building trusted relationships with communities and partners. Guided by the values of respect, integrity and courage, the QPS is prioritising the issues that matter most to Queenslanders, including crime, public safety, road trauma, and domestic and family violence, while ensuring its workforce is supported to deliver safer communities now and into the future.