

Police Gazettes



DR19120 - Police sign at the Enoggera Police Station, Brisbane, July 1961

Research Guide to Police Gazette records
at Queensland State Archives

Queensland State Archives (QSA) is the official repository for Queensland Government records selected for permanent retention because of their continuing value. The archived public records are from state government departments, state courts, local government authorities and statutory authorities. The records are in our facility at [Runcorn, Brisbane](#), and open records are available for viewing in the Reading Room, free-of-charge.

Historical police gazettes are useful for genealogists and local historians. Gazettes hold details of matters reported to police throughout Queensland and copies are available at Queensland State Archives from 1864.

The Police Gazettes contain information on topics such as:

- persons apprehended
- prisoners tried at the District and Supreme Courts
- complainants
- deserters from His Majesty's Service
- escaped prisoners
- persons suspected of committing offences
- prohibited immigrants (ship's deserters)
- personnel changes in the Police Force including discharges
- wife and child deserters
- missing persons
- prisoners discharged from custody
- summons and warrants

The main finding aid for records held at QSA is the [Queensland State Archives' online catalogue](#) (known as ArchivesSearch). The following citation abbreviations are used throughout our catalogue:

ITM	QSA Item (describes the item)
PR	Physical Representation (generally the original or microfilm copy)
DR	Digital Representation (for a digital image)
S	QSA Series ID (for a series of records)
A	Agency ID (for the creating or responsible agency).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that our catalogue contains images, names and voices of people who have died.

Police Gazettes

1864 to 1945

The full-text of the *Queensland Police Gazettes* for the years 1864–1945 are digitised and available for researchers to search on the Reading Room computers. These PDF files are searchable by keywords.

1946 to 1997

The years 1946 to 1997 are held at Queensland State Archives. These indexes and gazettes are subject to a 65 year Restricted Access Period.

Index to Police Gazettes

Police Department
Circa 1/1/1897–31/12/1971
[S930](#)

Indexes are arranged chronologically, and alphabetically. There are no cumulative indexes between 1864 and 1896. Browsing is a good idea as the indexes do not always list individuals included as part of a published departmental list. For example, police gazettes include lists of qualified Justices of the Peace, chemists and druggists, medical practitioners and the recipients of licenses issued by the Treasury Department. Administration arrangements: From 1898, in addition to the main alphabetical listing, there is a list at the end of the index describing changes in the police service since the last Police Gazette was published. The *Queensland Police Gazette* continued as a hardcopy publication until 17 October 1997.

Queensland Police Gazettes

22/7/1864–17/10/1997
[S798](#)

There are no cumulative indexes for the Police Gazettes between 1864 and 1896, and there are no cumulative indexes after 1971. These years are self-indexing. The bound *Queensland Police Gazettes* may also contain copies of the Photographic Supplements or Weekly Wanted Lists for that year. If not, check the item list to see if the Photographic Supplements and/or the Weekly Wanted Lists are bound separately. The separate volumes may also contain their own indexes.

Photographic Supplements

In addition to the standard gazette, the Police Department produced photographic supplements of individuals wanted on various charges and photographic weekly wanted lists. From 25 October 1976 the weekly wanted lists were referred to as Crime Circulars. Photographs in the photographic supplement may include the Prisoner's number, shown on the collar of the prisoner's shirt. This number can be used to access Series ID S3693, Photographic Records, Descriptions and Criminal Histories of Prisoners - (Males and Females). The *Queensland Police Gazettes* also contain photographs of discharged prisoners, missing persons or individuals wanted in connection with an offence. To find these photographs, look for the person's name.

Other sources of information

Queensland Police Gazettes held at the [Queensland Police Museum](#) are not subject to the strict access rules, and the Queensland Police Museum may be able to assist you to access information from their copies.

Need more information?

Check our online catalogue [ArchivesSearch](#).
Phone us on (07) 3037 6777 or you can [email](#) an archivist.