

A COUNTRY COP

The Police Career of Superintendent Patrick Finnigan

(23 May 1860 – 30 Jun 1902)



By

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Introduction and Acknowledgements

This paper is part of a longer, wider family history investigation and began as one chapter of the larger work but as time and research went on became a separate work in itself and is now a stand-alone document. We have no idea why Patrick Finnigan, my great grandfather, decided to become a policeman but as part of that decision he may well have thought that, despite its modest remuneration, a government position would provide stable employment for him and a stable financial future for his family. During Patrick's career, spanning just over 42 years, he earned an enviable reputation as a forthright but compassionate upholder of the law and was highly respected by his colleagues and the wider community, as was reported towards the end of his career.

That there is so much available information on Patrick is thanks largely to his decision to undertake government employment. As is ever the case, every aspect of a government employee's career is recorded in detail by the bureaucracy of the time and especially so in a service such as the police. Similarly, and often so too in local press reports, then probably more so than now. I do not pretend to have sourced every document available in compiling this record of his police career and certainly there would be additional documents which could be uncovered but I am confident these would complement the history presented here rather than change any pertinent details of it. In writing this history I wanted to also paint a word picture of the times in which his career developed and give some context to his life as a policeman, hence the additional and various details and backgrounds presented on aspects of early policing in Tasmania.

In any form of family history investigation, the search for information is rarely a solitary exercise if one hopes to capture the essence of the story in any great detail. There are facets which can often only be uncovered with the help of others and there are many people to thank for their assistance with this research and the unearthing of documents and sources. Some documents and papers I would otherwise have not discovered until much later or indeed, may not have found at all and many documents have been presented to me without my having to search for them. The Police Museum in Hobart is a wonderful source of information about the history of policing in Tasmania and volunteer staff, particularly Greg Chambers, have been of great help. There have also been many others who have provided information, advice, suggestions or encouragement but there are four individuals without whose assistance this paper simply could not and would not have been written with the authentic detail it now contains.

Maurice Appleyard, current President of The Tasmanian Family History Society (TFHS) has been my wonderful "go to" man for all sorts of queries, clarifications and discussions. He has helped me through many apparent dead ends, innumerable questions and conundrums and has provided invaluable advice and information. Maurice has held many and varied executive and committee positions within TFHS, pointing to his value to that organisation and to all those fortunate enough to benefit from his knowledge and insight into the history of Tasmania.

Faye Gardam, historian and prolific writer of many books and articles etc relating to the history of Devonport and surrounding areas provided very useful information on the early days of policing along the NW coast of Tasmania and was very generous with her time and the provision of a number of documents.

Alan Townsend, Heritage Projects Officer with the Southern Midlands Council is a walking encyclopaedia of the history of the Southern Midlands of Tasmania (and probably a lot more besides) and particularly in relation to the colonial buildings associated with this research.

Senior Sergeant 1523 Tony Grincas, Operations Support Administration Sergeant and Officer In Charge of State Community Policing Services for Tasmania Police has been an invaluable support

and source of so much information related to early policing in Van Diemen's Land / Tasmania and the Green Ponds area and also in relation to Patrick Finnigan's career. Tony's prodigious knowledge about early policing in Tasmania is amazing and the time he has given me for interview, fact finding and discussion as well as providing source information has been very much appreciated and I am indebted to him for his generosity. Much of his knowledge has come from his own research efforts in relation to historical policing in Tasmania leading to several databases he has created and is in the process of populating with the service details of every member of Tasmania Police, from its formation on 1 January 1899 to 2006 and also with police appointments and separations in Van Diemen's Land from 1804 to 1838. By further and future research and collation of records Tony hopes to complete the second database to 1898. Once completed and merged, these databases will provide comprehensive information on every officer who has served as a policeman in Tasmania from 1804 until the present day. Tony is also the vice president of the Tasmania Police Historical Group and authors the Tasmania Police Museum Facebook page and Police Museum web site. All this in addition to his normal day to day duties!

My sincere thanks go to these individuals who each gave of their time so generously and willingly during my annual research visits to Tasmania, saving me countless hours of even more investigation and also in answering my many emails and phone calls from Sydney.

The Beginning

Patrick Finnigan migrated from County Limerick, Ireland, to Tasmania as a free settler with his wife and baby daughter, arriving at Hobart aboard the schooner 'Creole' in August of either 1858 or 1859. Lack of detail in ships' passenger lists from the time make it difficult to determine which year the family arrived but the latter is more likely. The couple's second child, another daughter, was born at Hobart in Oct 1859 while the family was resident in a house in Murray Street and it may have been during these first few months that Patrick decided to apply for a police position. It was probably in the early months of 1860 that Patrick and his family journeyed the length of the state for the commencement of his police career.

Torquay

Settlements along the northwest coast had developed from the 1820s onwards. There seems to have been no definitive date for the establishment of the towns on either side of the Mersey River but by the 1850s the twin settlements of Formby and Torquay were well established on opposite banks at the mouth of the river. Torquay on the eastern shore was the larger community with police, post and magistrate presence and with at least three hotels, shipyards and stores. A river ferry service connected the two communities and the name Devonport was chosen when the two towns amalgamated in 1890.

The earliest police presence that we know of along the north west coast began in 1833 at Circular Head¹ and by May 1844 the first police office was located at what is now Port Sorell² but at that time known as the township of Burgess. Over the years increasing shipping activity around the port of the Mersey River saw the two separate townships of Formby and Torquay develop substantially. Also, coal mining in surrounding areas saw the arrival of coalminers; surveyors were required for the fast-developing townships; hotels were built leading to more disturbances as a result of the consumption of alcohol and there were regular occurrences of convicts trying to escape the island, particularly after the discovery of gold in Victoria. Smuggling was also a huge industry in the area, aided by the extent of shipping activity at the port. These factors saw the authorities decide to move the police presence from Burgess to Torquay in 1855. However, "[t]he authorities were ... unprepared for the removal of the Police Offices to Torquay. ... There were no buildings available, other than an old hut on the banks of the river which housed a constable deployed from the Port Sorell office."³ It was where these old huts were located that a police precinct consisting "of a courthouse, gaol, superintendent and police offices, constable's quarters and storeroom was developed on a large land protrusion which extended out into the river off Drew Street with a clear view both up and down stream".⁴ However, this jutting piece of land⁵ restricted shipping in the river and over a period of about 70 years, the protrusion was removed in three excavations: in 1896, 1926 and 1969. So today, Police Point and its buildings no longer exists but a cylindrical plinth has been erected by the Rotary Club of Devonport South East on the grassy foreshore area at the end of Drew Street commemorating the existence of the Police precinct, see photos on page 3.

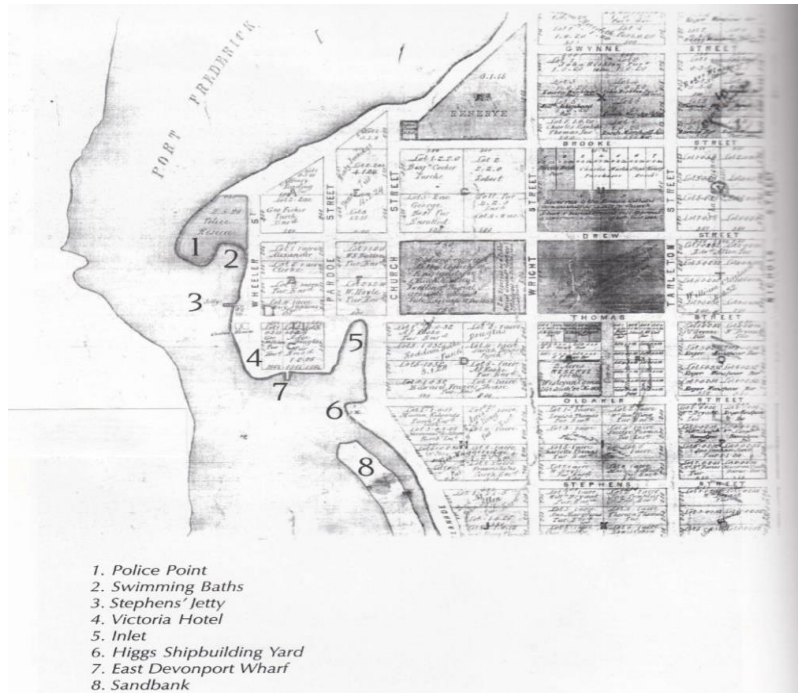
¹ Grincais, Tony. Senior Sergeant 1523 Tony Grincais, Operations Support Administration Sergeant, Officer In Charge State Community Policing Services, Tasmania Police. Personal communication (interview in Hobart) 12 February 2019.

² Gardam, Faye. *Shifting Sands – A History of the Mersey River, Devonport*. Devonport Maritime Museum and Historical Society. 2001. P91

³ Ibid P92.

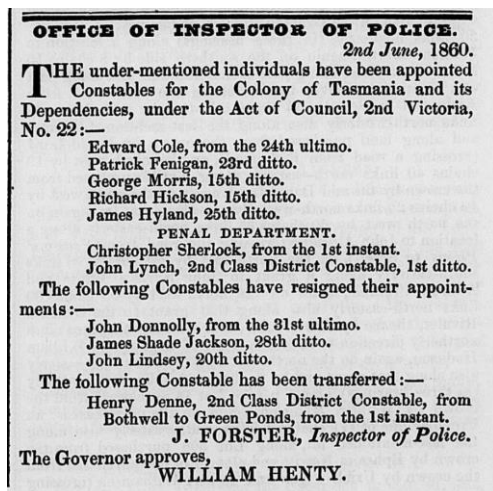
⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Map on page 2 from Gardam P90.



Location of Police Point at Torquay / now East Devonport

And so it was that after arriving at Hobart Town Patrick Fenigan* was appointed Police Petty Constable⁶ to commence service in the north west of the state at Torquay.



Notice of Patrick Fenigan's initial police appointment from 23 May 1860. Hobart Town Gazette Tuesday 5 June 1860.

At the time all appointments to the Colonial police were made from Hobart which perhaps partly explains why a young man would travel from there to the far north of the state to commence new employment. With a regular coach service between Hobart and Launceston having been established in 1831 and, by the time of his journey to Torquay, possibly also one between Launceston and Torquay, it probably took about a week for Patrick and his young family to travel from Hobart to the site of his new employment.

* Various spellings of the name appear in different sources. The variant used in each source, written at the time, has been used in this document while the spelling 'Finnigan' is used in all other instances.

⁶ Hobart Town Gazette. Tuesday 5 June 1860.



Section of the park at the end of Drew St,
East Devonport with Police Point plinth



Police Point plinth erected by the Rotary
Club of South East Devonport



Wording of plaque on Police Point plinth

The details of his appointment, commencing on 23 May 1860, provide the greatest amount of recorded personal information we have on Patrick and his Appointment and Police Record reveals the following details about him. See also Appendix 1.

<i>Name:</i>	Fenigan Patrick
<i>Description</i>	<i>Age:</i> 24 <i>Height:</i> 5 feet 7½ inches <i>Trade:</i> Carpenter <i>Native of:</i> Co. Limerick
<i>Condition:</i>	<i>Free to Colony/Free by Servitude/Convict Pardon/Married or Single:</i> Free to Colony, Married.
<i>Education:</i>	<i>Read and Write / Indifferent / Not at All:</i> Indifferent
<i>Religion:</i>	R Catholic” ⁷

The indication of Patrick’s ability to read and write as “Indifferent” is an interesting but perhaps understandable description. As documentation associated with the British colonisation of Australia was in English, the assessment of Patrick’s reading and writing ability was in relation to the English language, not the Irish that would have been his native tongue. Following the introduction of a state school system in Ireland in the early 1830s, English was the main language taught and the speaking of Irish/Gaelic by students was discouraged. However, the majority of people in Ireland’s western counties still had only one language, and that was Irish. When so many who travelled from Ireland or England to various parts of Australia in the early to mid 19th century could neither read nor write, that he had English skills at all suggests that his education accorded with the newer educational English requirement. Or just as likely, as well as the English he had acquired at school he also may have had enough contact with English speaking people to give him sufficient command of this language to enable his appointment to police service once in Tasmania.

Unfortunately, there seem to be no details available of Patrick’s service during his short time at Torquay, but he was not destined to spend long in the north of the state.

⁷ TAHO POL324/3, Copy Z180. Archives Office of Tasmania. Register of the Appointment, Transfer, Registration and Dismissal of Members of the Police Establishment, Alphabetical by surname, 01 Jan 1855 to 31 Dec 1955.

Brighton

After only a few months in the north west the family again travelled almost the length of the state back to its southern areas. Patrick and his family moved to Brighton, his appointment there dating from 19 Sep 1860 where police records show that he was attached for approximately 19 months. Again, there seem to be no details of his police service whilst attached to the Brighton police office but there are some extant general details of the police precinct at the time.

The government had planned to set up government services and offices at Brighton – as it was hoped that this would be the town centre of the district, but the township never took off. Once the Bridgewater causeway was constructed in 1836, the main road bypassed the town and Brighton as a town centre started to decline. Named as a separate town by 1830 Pontville became the more prosperous of the two townships. As the more developed town it became the location for the police presence of the area. By 1839 a watch house had been built as had the police office which was also probably used as constables' quarters. The watch house complex comprised a solid outer wall eighteen feet (approx. 5.5m) high and enclosed a combined office and cell block.⁸ It continued to be used for many years becoming in later times variously the local gaol and then the dog pound. By 1836 the by then derelict building and its crumbling walls were demolished. When Brighton Council was formed in 1863 part of the police office was used as a council office and courthouse but a new building was constructed in 1934 and the original building was demolished two years later.

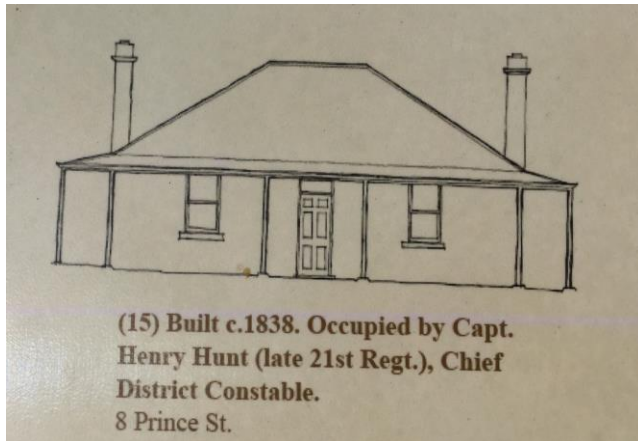


The 18 feet walls of the Watch House and complex (left) 1839-1934 and Police Office (right) 1839-1936 located at Pontville.

Today there is a bitumen carpark and small natural bush park where the police precinct existed behind the (now 'old') red brick and sandstone council building. In the park is a Brighton Council sign from where the above information has been taken. Across the main road from the council building is a small manicured grass park where a map can be found showing the layout of Pontville in the early to mid 1800s and featuring drawings of a number of prominent buildings of the time. A sketch of the

⁸ Photo from Alexander, Alison. 2006. Brighton and Surrounds. Brighton Council. Gagebrook. P51.

original residence of the District Constable is shown as item 15 on this map. The cottage still stands in Prince Street - down the hill and across the road from the police precinct park.



Sketch of the original District Constable's residence built in 1838.



The District Constable's cottage in 2019.

It was in this precinct that Patrick spent his Brighton-based days, but again, he did not stay very long there and his next and final police posting location was but a short distance up the road.

Green Ponds

Police presence in the areas north of the Derwent River was established quite early in the colony's history and one Constable Pitt was the first recorded police officer in the township of Green-water, or Green Water, Holes. This fledgling town later became known as Green Water Ponds, then Green Ponds and subsequently Kemp Town which was later reduced to Kempton. The Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter on Saturday May 22nd, 1819 published a Govt Public Notice issued from the Secretary's Office, Hobart Town stating that "Phillip Pitt is appointed a Constable for the District of Green-water Holes; also Pound Keeper for the same District."⁹ It is uncertain whether Constable Pitt was the first officer stationed at Green Ponds but it is highly likely that this was so.

At that time there doesn't seem to have been any appropriate police cottage or office to accommodate him despite the fact that other areas already had an identified police cottage. A general muster of the population in each of various areas or districts around Van Diemen's Land had been held in 1817. A muster was an effective way of keeping track of the entire population in those, still early, days and the local police cottage, or similar, was usually identified as the muster location. The population of Green-water Holes was required to participate in this exercise but the muster location nominated for the district was closer to the present-day Gagebrook. On 9 Aug 1817 the relevant Government Order required that "A General Muster of the Whole of the Inhabitants (Civil Officers and Military exempted) will take place at the different Settlements on the Days hereafter named ..."¹⁰ Then followed a list of districts with the instructions for each district. For Green-water Holes the details were: "... AT HERDMAN'S COVE¹¹ HOUSE on Friday the 11th of the whole of every description of Free Men and Women, and of Male and Female prisoners, with all Ticket of Leave Men, in the District and Vicinity of, [and including] ... Green-water Holes,"¹² The next muster notice in the list required settlers from New Norfolk and nearby areas to muster at "Constable Murphy's, New Norfolk". Together, these two notices strongly suggest that there was no dedicated police presence in the Green-water Holes area otherwise the muster would likely have been held at the constable's office had there been one at Green-water Holes at the time. It also adds weight, but not definitively, to the contention that Pitt was the first police constable to be stationed there.¹³ Similar musters for the Green-water Holes population were held in 1818, 1819 and 1820 but still requiring people to muster at Herdman's Cove House further suggesting that, even by 1820, there was no dedicated constable's cottage at Green-water Holes. Phillip Pitt was allowed to resign as constable at Green-water Ponds - he was granted a licence in 1821 to sell spirits, wine and beer in the district. His licensed hotel was called the "Three Jolly Farmers"¹⁴ and he held this licence until June 1823 when it was transferred to one John Hook.¹⁵

A series of Gazette Notices over the next few years gives an indication of the vagaries of trying to maintain a police presence at Green Ponds (and probably also at various other locations around the colony as well) in those early years. It is unclear whether anyone replaced Phillip Pitt immediately when he left the Force to start his hotel, but one Joseph Whitfield was appointed Chief District Constable of the District of Green-water Ponds on 24 May 1822 and was also subsequently appointed Keeper of the Pound at Green Ponds. (This latter position involved the responsibility for ensuring that sufficient yards and enclosures were provided for the safekeeping of any impounded animals.) Around this time, it seems that there was sufficient need for an additional constable in the area as William Flint was appointed an extra District Constable in approximately September 1822. However, five years later in September 1827 he was dismissed for neglect of duty. Joseph Whitfield remained

⁹ The Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter (Tas. : 1816 - 1821), Vol IV. Saturday 22 May 1819. P1.

¹⁰ The Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter (Tas. : 1816 - 1821), Saturday 9 August 1817 p2.

¹¹ Herdmans Cove is located at the mouth of the Jordan River where this river joins the Derwent River just north of Hobart.

¹² The Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter (Tas. : 1816 - 1821), Vol IV. Saturday 9 August 1817. P2.

¹³ Grincais, T. Snr Sgt Tasmania Police. Personal communication (email) dated 13 Sep 2018.

¹⁴ Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser, (Tas. : 1821 - 1825) 6 October 1821. P1.

¹⁵ Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser (Tas. : 1821 - 1825) Saturday 7 June 1823. P1.

at Green Ponds until his death on 10 November 1827 at the age of 37 and was replaced by Jesse Pullen as District Constable and Keeper of the Pound. The fate of Constable Pullen is unknown but one George Ashton was also listed as a District Constable at Green Ponds in 1826¹⁶. And so, a succession of individuals continued to fill the various police vacancies over the years and accommodation remained an issue until well into the later years of the century.

Patrick Finnigan commenced duties at Green Ponds well before his formal appointment to that location took effect. An extant police duty log shows him on duty at Green Ponds as early as 15 May 1861¹⁷ despite the official appointment dating from 16 Apr 1862. When he arrived at Green Ponds some changes had occurred to police buildings and accommodation but first, some additional background ...

Prior to white settlement, the Green Ponds area had been inhabited for generations by local tribes of the Paredarerme Aboriginal people¹⁸. As the new settlers pushed their way further north from Hobart and began to establish themselves, local tribes began to push back against the forceable takeover of their traditional lands. Over a period of time and into the 1820s, increasingly aggressive and hostile actions by these groups saw Governor George Arthur establish a chain of military posts along the new Hobart to Launceston roadway as protection for European settlers. It was also during Governor Arthur's tenure that a great deal of roadways construction occurred. Convict labour was ideal for this purpose and much of this labour was provided by chain or road gangs. As well as seeing roadways built, a sentence to time on a road gang was found to be an effective punishment for recalcitrant convicts, due largely to the conditions under which convicts worked: they were chained to each other but nevertheless expected to be able to continue the back-breaking work of quarrying and breaking stones for the roadmaking. It was a general rule that beasts of burden - horses or bullocks - were not used for this type of work as they were too expensive and valuable. So, men were used. A sentence to a chain or road gang was not, however, an average punishment for the average convict. It was only for those who had been secondarily convicted after they had been transported – convicted of another crime, unrelated to the one for which they had been sent to Tasmania.

Gangs were based at various strategic locations for road construction and rudimentary huts made from a mixture of mud and turf, were built for, and usually by, the convicts. These huts often had no fireplaces to cope with even winter temperatures and conditions and food was often scarce leading, in one instance, to a convict break out where vegetables were stolen from a neighbouring property. A road gang cottage would also be built for the road gang overseer, the Superintendent. The Superintendent's cottage was superior to the convicts' huts and often built of stone. Together, these rudimentary buildings became a road station.

These convict gangs eventually became part of a new penal discipline experiment, the probation system*. Unique to Van Diemen's Land, this system required "All convicts ... to be subjected to successive stages of punishment, commencing with a period of confinement and labour in gangs: at a penal settlement for life-sentenced prisoners, or at a probation station for all others. If they progressed satisfactorily through several stages of decreasing severity, they received a probation pass and became available for hire to the settlers. Gangs of passholders awaiting employment remained at the stations and continued to labour on public works. Sustained good conduct eventually led to a ticket-of-leave or a pardon. More than eighty probation stations were built, most of poor construction, in various

¹⁶ Grincas, T. Information on early Green Ponds policing and details of police officers provided in email correspondence to the author dated 12 Sep 2018.

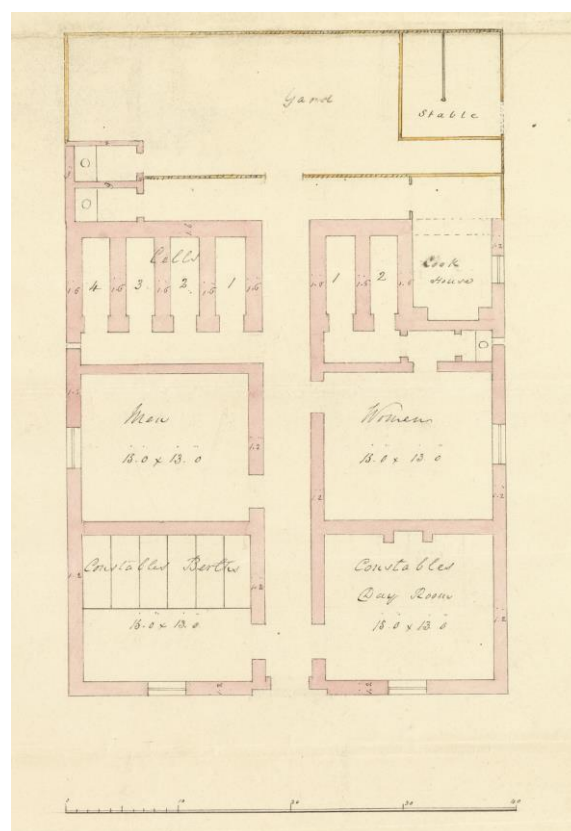
¹⁷ TAHO File AC494/1/1 Duty Books Kempton Station 15 May 1861 – 14 April 1866.

¹⁸ Horton, David (Ed.) *The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander History, Society and Culture*. Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra. 1994. P845.

* Author's Note: While the probation system did not start until 1839 preparations for its commencement would have begun earlier with all the necessary planning and construction of buildings required for the system's operation.

locations along the Hobart-Launceston road and for varying periods.”¹⁹ “In practice the system turned out to be a disastrous failure, undermined by poor planning and administration, inadequate numbers, huge numbers and an unforeseen economic depression. ... With little demand for the labour of the passholders, the system was overwhelmed ... and was abandoned altogether following the abolition of transportation to the colony in 1853.”²⁰

The building which became the first watch house for Green Ponds was known as the old probation station and was likely built in the early 1830s. Despite the fact that it was not at Green Ponds at all, by the mid-1830s it nevertheless became part of the responsibility of the Green Ponds police but whether it was actually used as part of the probation system is unclear. While it was apparently in use for only a short time it was nevertheless a substantial building containing solitary cells, men’s and women’s lock up areas, constables’ berths and constables’ day room.²¹ It was located at Picton, two to three kms north of the town, close to where, in 2019, the roadhouse ‘Mood Food’ stands.



Sketch Plan: Watch House Green
Ponds (at Picton) early 1830s.

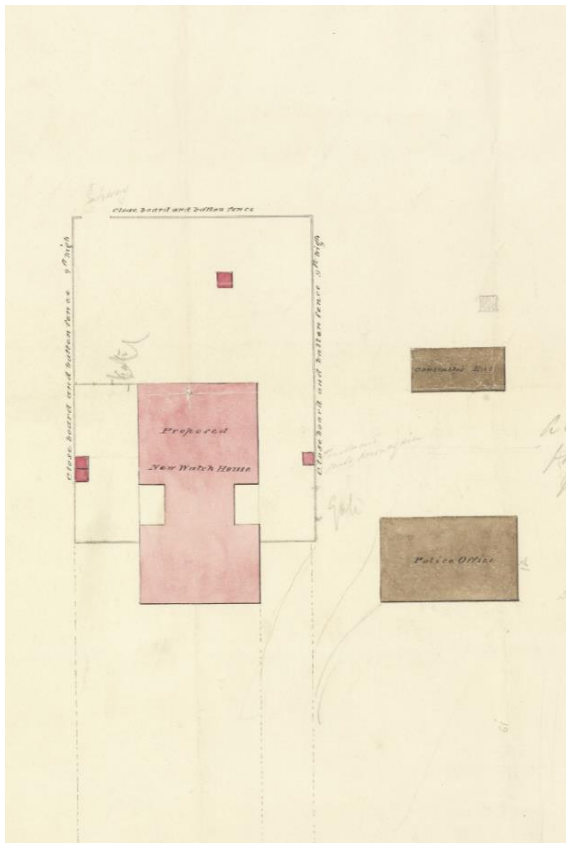
A road station had also been located at Constitution Hill (approximately 2.5 miles or 4km south of Green Ponds) for some time. In 1837 this gang was relocated to the Green Ponds area, probably as the road construction moved north. The original watch house built at Picton was abandoned and a new cottage was built in 1837/38. That this road station’s, or Superintendent’s, cottage survived when many did not is apparently due to the fact that the Superintendent at the time built a rather more solid stone

¹⁹ Alexander, Alison, (Ed.) 2005. The Companion to Tasmanian History. Centre for Tasmanian Historical Studies, University of Tasmania. Hobart. http://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history/P/Probation%20system.htm Website accessed 18 Sep 2018.

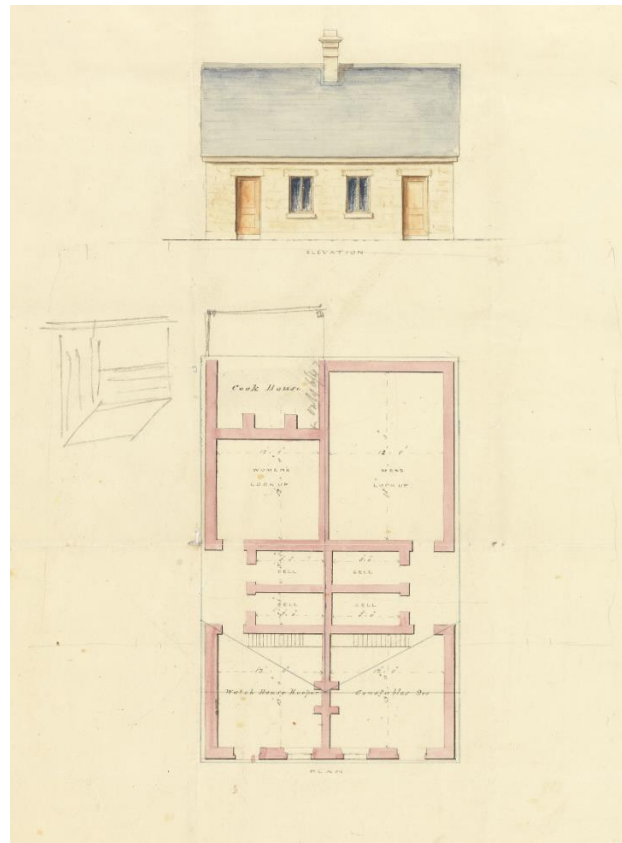
²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ TAHO PWD266/1/1308 Plan – Green Ponds – Block Plan and Elevation of a Watch House. <https://stors.tas.gov.au/PWD266-1-1308> [Sketch plan of original watch house at Picton] Accessed 1 March 2018.

cottage than was required. The Government decided not to knock it down and instead turned it over to the local police for a police office once the function of road station was no longer required - by 1841. Also, plans for a new watch house, next to what was now this 'new' police office, were drawn in November 1848.²² The new watch house building incorporated a Court House and a separate room for the Watch House Keeper, both located at the front, constables' quarters, men's and women's lock ups with solitary confinement cells, and a cook house at the back.²³ This was the police station configuration when Patrick Finnigan was appointed petty constable at Green Ponds.



Sketch Plan: Footprint of the 'new' Watch House Green Ponds 1848 in relation to Police Office (1837/1838) - brown block on the right with constables' hut behind.



Sketch Plan: Detail of 'new' Watch House Green Ponds 1848 with front elevation above.

Prior to his appointment at Green Ponds Patrick, along with other police of the area, was part of the group of police variously referred to as Field Police or the more general term colonial police which was the responsibility of the Colonial Government. In the past, funds had been provided by the British government to The Tasmanian government to help defray the costs of administering the large numbers of convicts and ex-convicts in the colony/state but when transportation ceased in 1853 the amount of money provided by the British government was reduced. To defray costs The Tasmanian

²² TAHO PWD266/1/1309 Plan – Green Ponds – Block Plan and Elevation of a Watch House. <https://stors.tas.gov.au/PWD266-1-1309> [Sketch plan and elevation of new watch house 1848] Accessed 1 March 2018.

²³ Much of the information about the colonial police buildings in the preceding paragraphs provided by Alan Townsend, Heritage Projects Officer at Southern Midlands Council, in interview on Friday 2 March 2018.

Government made the decision that municipalities would have responsibility for police. In 1857 Parliament had passed the Municipal Police Act which transferred the charge and control of the Police forces in the city of Hobart and town of Launceston to the respective councils. Each was required to appoint and maintain a sufficiently strong force to protect the public. After the passing of the Rural Municipalities Act in 1858 similar police schemes were gradually adopted by other municipalities. It is not clear whether any of the funds still being provided by the British Government to the Tasmanian government were passed on to the municipalities and the amount of money provided from Britain reduced steadily over the years.²⁴ Later, in 1865, all police in the state who were stationed in areas not covered by municipalities, became part of the Territorial Police which was gazetted at that time.

Patrick's formal transfer to Green Ponds coincided with the declaration, on 16 April 1862, of that district as a municipality, although as we shall see later, an earlier date for his appointment has also been cited. As a result, Patrick was 'reduced', in this case meaning he was removed from the Colonial Government's books on 15 April 1862, and the following day was re-appointed as a petty constable and taken on strength at Green Ponds as part of the now Municipal Police. He was to spend the remainder of his career in this municipality. The date of 16 April 1862 was to become significant in Patrick's police service as it was this date that was used, after his resignation/retirement, to determine his length of service at 40 years. However, his original appointment dates from 23 May 1860, almost two years earlier when he was first appointed as a petty constable at Torquay. But he was one of the lucky ones. Many constables in other municipalities were either not re-employed or were moved to other locations. Experienced policemen were always in demand and Patrick's previous experience at both Torquay and Brighton stood him in good stead.

Once he started in his new position at Green Ponds it did not take long for his name to appear in both police and press reports relating to the pursuit of his duties. A report of what seems to be the first evidence of his police activities there (even though at this time he was still posted to the Brighton position) was published in the 14 and 21 March 1862 Reports of Crime, the precursor to the Police Gazette. One Thomas Davis was apprehended by PC Finnigan, Green Ponds, for stealing one grey horse, property of Mr John Berstead of the Black Marsh.²⁵ And a report in the Advertising section of *The Mercury* on Monday 7 April 1862 stated: "Impounded by Constable Finigan from off the main line of road one dark brindle bullock. ...".²⁶ Later the same year, Thomas Woods, better known as Coachy, was apprehended by PC Finigan, Green Ponds Municipal Police, for stealing a gentleman's saddle, and was also later charged with stealing [that gentleman's] ... black horse.²⁷ Still later that year, PC Finigan was reported as having apprehended Francis Hill for unlawfully absenting himself from the service of his master - in December of the preceding year.²⁸

The practical effect of Patrick's transfer to Municipal Police in 1862 was that his remuneration was now the responsibility of the municipality rather than of the colonial government and policing issues were henceforth often addressed in municipal council minutes. Which is why we see in a Sat 13 Jan 1866 report of Green Ponds Council minutes "... a petition from PC Finigan for an increase in pay on account of his long service - consideration thereof postponed until next meeting."²⁹ Green Ponds Council members must have felt that the petition had merit as it is only a month after the above council minutes entry that the following item appeared in the Hobart Town Gazette promoting Patrick to Sub-Inspector from 1 Feb 1866:

²⁴ Grincas, T. Information in this paragraph provided in interview 20 February 2018 and by email 21 September 2018.

²⁵ Tasmania: Reports of Crime, Friday 14 Mar 1862, Sub-Inspector's Office. P164, and Friday 21 Mar 1862, Sub-Inspector's Office. P168.

²⁶ *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954). Monday 7 April 1862. Public Pound Green Ponds. P4.

²⁷ Op. Cit. Reports of Crime. Friday 8 Aug 1862, Sub-Inspector's Office. Pp 232, 234 and 238.

²⁸ Op. Cit. Reports of Crime. Friday 13 Dec 1861 Sub-Inspector's Office, p116 and Friday 5 Sep 1862, Sub-Inspector's Office, p248.

²⁹ *Tasmanian Morning Herald* (Hobart, Tas. : 1865 - 1866) Saturday 13 January 1866. Country News. Green Ponds Municipal Council. P2.

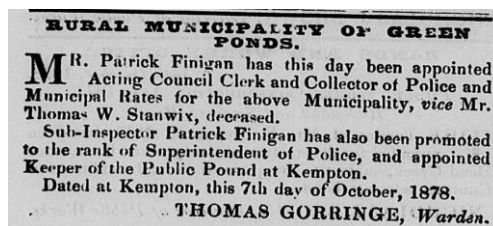


Notice of promotion to Sub-Inspector from 1 February 1866,
Hobart Town Gazette 13 February 1866.

Patrick's stability in the Green Ponds position saw him appointed as Bailiff of the Court of General Sessions, Green Ponds, as reported in June and July 1869 by no less than three papers around the state: *The Mercury*, *The Tasmanian Times* and the (Launceston) *Examiner*. Gazettals were usually reported on in the press but the multiple publications of this particular report possibly had more to do with the fact that the report also contained the information that the previous incumbent, Inspector Thomas Stanwix, had been dismissed from the police although no reasons for the dismissal were published.

Between 1866 and 1878 press reports indicate Patrick's more newsworthy duties included multiple and fairly regular apprehensions of many individuals for various, but mainly minor, offences including stealing of sheep and wool, cattle, horses, ducks, dogs, rabbits from traps and various personal and attractive items. Local press also reported apprehensions for larceny and other miscellaneous offences, appearances in court as either witness and/or arresting officer, recovery of the bodies of murdered or drowned individuals, undertaking duties as Bailiff of the Court and impounding various animals in his capacity as Pound keeper. As well, the police Reports of Crime included entries relating to regular apprehensions of offenders for absconding from hired service, deserters from Her Majesty's Services and the occasional desertion of husbands from their wives and children leaving the family without means of support.

Twelve years after elevation to Sub-Inspector came his promotion to Superintendent on 1 Oct 1878, although after this time various press reports use the terms Inspector and Superintendent interchangeably.

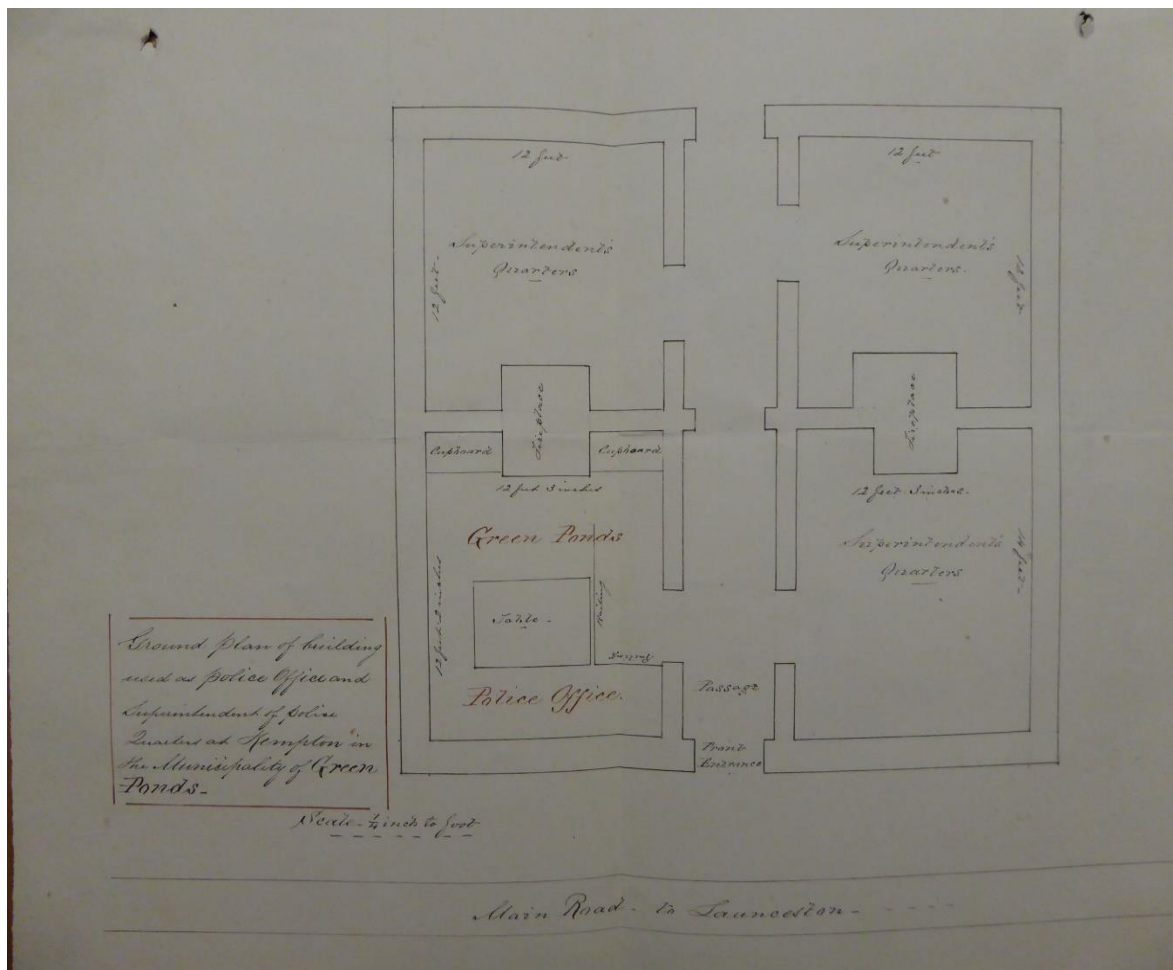


Notice of promotion to Superintendent from 1 October 1878,
Hobart Town Gazette 15 October 1878.

This commissioned rank entitled him to move into the superintendent's quarters of the police office building (brown rectangle shown on the right in the footprint plan of the watch house building on page 10). The detailed sketch plan³⁰ of the police office, shown on page 13, shows a single storey building but at some stage attic rooms were added, as evidenced by the dormer windows visible in 1901 and still to be seen as part of the updated building of today. These upstairs rooms may have been additional space for the Superintendent's family or possibly used as upstairs living quarters for up to four probably unmarried constables, although a separate constables' hut behind the police office had been in use in earlier years as also shown in the sketch plan on page 10. There is no direct evidence that Patrick, his

³⁰ TAHO TRE1/1/87 Accommodation for Police Officers at Glenorchy, Green Ponds and Campbell Town [Plan included with letters etc in this file] Accessed 1 March 2018.

wife and their now half-grown family did so, but the addition of the upstairs rooms, possibly for this purpose, and the selections from the documents cited below suggest that they may well have.



Sketch detail of police office building
(1837/1838) including Superintendent's
quarters

As early as 1869 representations had been made by the Green Ponds Municipal Council to The Tasmanian Governor regarding the adequacy of this building. An undated petition from the Council, but referred to Government Ministers on 13 September 1869, reads in part:

"To His Excellency Charles Du Cane Esquire, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Island of Tasmania and its Dependencies

May it please Your Excellency

We the undersigned Warden and Councillors of the Municipality of Green Ponds beg to bring under the notice of Your Excellency the total inadequacy of the accommodation at the police office of this Municipality for the purposes of holding courts of General Sessions of the Peace, meetings of Council and police and other necessary business.

The room in which the Court is held and in which all the Civil and Criminal business of this Municipality is transacted in 12 ft 3 inches square and a large proportion of this space is taken

up by the necessary adjuncts of a police office, namely – table, chairs etc – so that there is scarcely room for half a dozen persons outside the Rail where the plaintiff and Defendant are placed. ...”³¹

The petition, with a request for funds to be made available to address the situation, was signed by the Warden George Kemp and five Councillors.

Ten years later, in 1879, and four months after Patrick’s promotion to superintendent, the following article appeared in the Hobart *Tribune*. “The dwelling occupied by Mr. Finnigan, superintendent of police, requires not only repairs, but enlarging – the accommodation is not adequate. ... The room used as a Council chamber and Police Office is not adapted for such purposes. It is so very small that little or any space is at the disposal of the public, and not very much for magistrates, councillors or officials of the courts. ... A new building to serve as a Council Chamber, Police Office, etc., is being erected. The cost is estimated at £335...”³² It appears that the government did not contribute to the construction as the article goes on to state that “ ... the money for the building has been lent by [a councillor at the time] Mr John Palmer to the Council at the rate of 6 per cent., and it is calculated that the debt can be liquidated in ten years by the imposition of a rate of one penny in the pound.”³³ Despite this, by 1881 repairs were still required: “At a council meeting on Monday May 3 Supt Finnigan brought before council the bad state of repairs of police buildings. The shingles were rotten and the flooring had given way and if something were not soon done it would not be habitable. ...”³⁴

It is not clear to which building Patrick’s above comments to Council apply, but it seems that the new building to serve as a Council Chamber, Police Office, etc., related to the open space between the existing two buildings (the police office from 1837 and the watch house from 1848). In 1880 this space was enclosed and the newly created area became the council chambers which were used until the early 1930s. Most of the Watch House was demolished in 1935. Today, the latest iteration of the buildings is the Southern Midlands Council Kempton Office.

One can compare the two photos on the following page. The first, dated approximately 1901,³⁵ shows a row of four buildings on the LHS of the photo. Ignoring the large building at the left hand end of this group, from right to left the first building is the police office from 1837, the second building is the infilled space and its façade which created the new council chambers and on the left of these three buildings is the watch house built in 1848. The second photo shows how little the appearance of the first two buildings has changed in the intervening period.

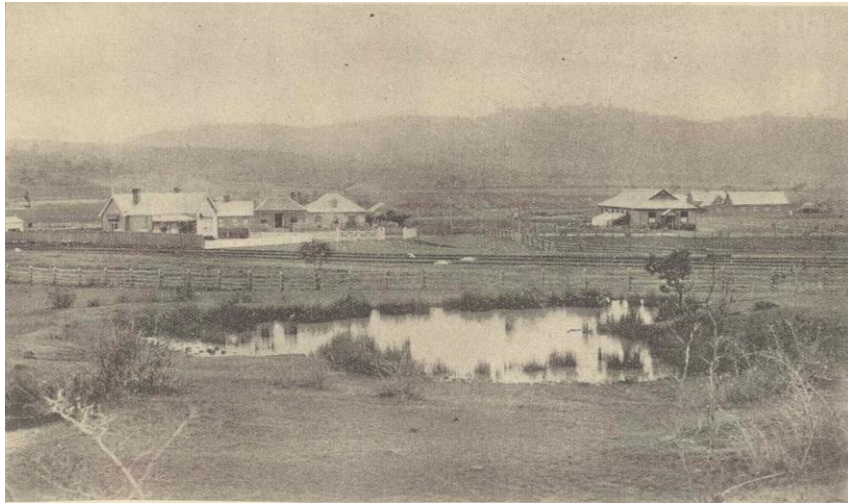
³¹ TAHO TRE1/1/87 Accommodation for Police Officers at Glenorchy, Green Ponds and Campbell Town [Petition from Green Ponds Municipal Council to His Excellency the Governor of Tasmania regarding the inadequacy of the accommodation at the police office of the Municipality] Accessed 1 Mar 2018.

³² *Tribune* (Hobart, Tas. : 1876 - 1879) Friday 14 February 1879. Public Buildings. P3.

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954) Monday 9 May 1881. Green Ponds. P3.

³⁵ *The Tasmanian Mail* (Hobart, Tas. : 1877-1921) Saturday 7 September 1901. Inserts P3.



1901 view of three police buildings on LHS. From right to left: police office, infilled space to create council chambers, watch house.



Kempton Council Offices and Chambers building in 2019 incorporating the original Green Ponds police office (right) and the remnants of the watch house (far left).

There are some interesting historical features of the original buildings which have been retained. One part of the watch house is still visible. The small area which was the men's lock up was retained for a time as a woodshed, but once inside it is apparent that this was no ordinary woodshed. Woodsheds don't normally have barred windows and this is the main clue to its previous usage. The lock up cum woodshed is part of what is now the history room. Also in the photo below, the concrete strips visible on the ground are where some of the original internal walls of the watch house solitary cells were located. Behind the front desk in the reception area (entrance through the cottage on the left) the sandstone block engraved with the date '1837' - that of construction of the original external wall of the police office (cottage on the right) - has been retained despite later refurbishments, plastering and painting over the years. The original internal staircase (now boarded up at the ceiling) leading to the attic rooms also still exists and the worn and thinning timber on various treads can be seen as can the additional timbers placed on top at various times to reinforce the more fragile of them. Even one of the additions has considerable visible wear.



Wall and door to the men's lock up of the original watch house (1848) and concrete strips showing locations of some internal walls to watch house cells.



Original sandstone block showing date of construction of the police office



Internal staircase leading to attic rooms added at a later time to the police office

Over the years and in various newspapers it was common practice to report on various police related gazette notices and police activities. Most have been found to be correct, but occasionally errors occurred. On Tuesday 15 October 1878 the Hobart *Tribune* reported the gazettal of Patrick's latest promotion and other appointments: "Mr Patrick Finigan has been appointed Bailiff of Crown Lands for the municipality of Oatlands, also acting council clerk and collector of police and municipal rates and Superintendent of Police."³⁶ This gazettal appeared in no less than six Tasmanian papers but it seems that this was a case of misreporting the name of the municipality by the first paper to run the story and that the remaining newspapers simply copied the original error. No other mention has been found of Patrick Finnigan having any formal association with the municipality of Oatlands and Walch's Almanac records that Messrs H Carter and C Kingston were the individuals holding this position in Oatlands over the years 1878 and 1879 respectively.

As with many uniformed professions, the uniform itself broadcasts the organisational status of the individual wearing it. Now at the height of his career, Patrick wore the accoutrements which accompanied his newly elevated rank. But what did the uniform he wore over these years look like? In his comprehensive account of badges and uniforms of police in Tasmania, Russ Ames has provided valuable photographs, descriptions and diagrams to illustrate various uniforms in use over different periods and using the relevant ones, we can imagine how Patrick would have looked in uniform. Both the uniform and the cap were dark blue, the cap with an embroidered crown and distinctive gold band around the peak.³⁷ There is no definitive picture available for the Green Ponds Superintendent but the jacket shown below³⁸ for police in the nearby municipality of Hamilton was probably very similar, although minor differences may well have distinguished one municipality's police uniform from another, eg the design of the Austrian knot embellishment on the lower sleeve. He may also have worn braided epaulettes on his shoulders and a thin oakleaf pattern stripe on the outer legs of his trousers. These latter uniform embellishments were apparently common to all commissioned officers and were in use until well into the 20th century.



Superintendent's cap with the Queen's crown and broad gold band around the peak.



Superintendent's uniform frock coat embellishments, Municipal Police (Hamilton).

³⁶ *Tribune* (Hobart, Tas. : 1876 - 1879). Tuesday 15 October 1878. The Gazette. P2.

³⁷ Ames, Russ. 2012. *Badges and Uniforms of Police in Tasmania*. Revised Edition. Hobart P23.

³⁸ *Ibid.* P52.

And for Patrick and his officers the police work continued. While most of his police work and apprehensions were for minor offences, an extant police log book with day to day reports of police duties and activities shows how police were required to be on duty 24 hours a day and gives an indication of duties and investigations undertaken by Patrick and his constables. One such investigation: from November 1879 through until January 1881 regular surveillance of the person and property of one William Harbach was undertaken by police officers from Green Ponds as Harbach was suspected of sheep and wool stealing from Mr H Flexmore, a farmer on an adjoining property. Constables Evans and Lewis conducted most of the surveillance with Patrick regularly signing off on their various duties and surveillances. A selection of log entries, showing how this investigation developed, read:

“Jany 21, Wednesday. [1880] On special duty within sight of Harbach’s House from 4 a.m. until 9 a.m. and returned to station at 10 a.m. and ... on special duty near Harbach’s house from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. and patrol Bagdad at night until 11 p.m. ...

“March 3, Wednesday. [1880] On special duty within sight of Harbach’s House from 4 a.m. until 10 a.m. and returned to station at 11 a.m. and then to Harbach’s by order of Sup^t to count Harbach’s sheep. There was (sic) 24 then returned to station at 4½ p.m. and remained there for Sup^t and accompanied Sup^t over the Hill and returned to station at 11p.m. ...

“March 4, Thursday. [1880] On special duty within sight of Harbach’s House from 5 a.m. until 1 p.m. and returned to station at 1½ p.m. and accompanied Sup^t to within sight of Harbach’s House and accompanied Sup^t to Harbach’s House at 6 p.m. and examined Harbach’s sheep ...

“Nov 10, Wednesday [1880] ... near Harbach’s from 4.a.m. to 6.a.m. and saw Mr John Flexmore on Mr Taylor’s run and informed him there was (sic) ten 10 of his sheep in Harbachs yard & returned to Station at 7.a.m. & patrol Hill from 10.a.m. to 4.p.m. then to within sight of Harbachs House from 5.p.m.to 7.p.m & returned to station at 10.p.m. ...

“Dec 22, Wednesday [1880] On special Duty Day with Constable Evans near Harbachs House and saw William Harbach the younger at about 2 a.m. this day Wednesday the 22nd Instant leave his Home with a Horse & Cart loaded with wool & Sheep Skins. Constable Evans then left me at 2½ a.m. & [proceeded] to Kempton to inform the Sup^t of that fact & I returned to within Sight of Harbach’s House for some time then returned to the Station at 7.a.m. & on Special Duty with Constable Evans near Harbach’s House ...

“Dec 25, Saturday [1880] To Harbach’s to search his Run for sheep and received from Sup^t some salt mutton and also some small pieces of wool and burnt bones ...”³⁹

This sustained surveillance effort and the subsequent arrest of Harbach on 4 Jan 1881 had its sequel on Wednesday 27 April 1881 when William Harbach appeared in the “First Criminal Court before His Honour Mr Justice Dobson, charged with having stolen 45 sheep, the property of H. Flexmore and others on December 24; of having stolen 45 fleeces and 200 lb of wool, the property of H. Flexmore and others; and with having received the same knowing them to have been stolen. He was found guilty of stealing the fleeces and the wool, but not of stealing the sheep. [A case of “you can’t win them all”?] The jury took all of half an hour to reach their verdict⁴⁰ and Harbach was subsequently sentenced to four years imprisonment.⁴¹

³⁹ TAHO AC494/1/12 Duty Books Kempton Station 20 Nov 1879 to 27 Sep 1882.

⁴⁰ *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), Thursday 28 April 1881. Criminal Sessions. P2.

⁴¹ *Launceston Examiner* (Tas. : 1842 - 1899), Friday 29 April 1881. Tasmania. P3.

The Harbach family name lives on in the district and today there is a Harbach's Road signposted on the Midlands Highway just south of Kempton.

In April 1882 a government Gazette notice appointed Patrick as Inspector under the Californian Thistle Act.⁴² Even today Californian Thistle is still recognised as a serious invasive weed in Tasmania. "[It] competes with pasture species and a heavy infestation can significantly reduce production. Stock avoid grazing around the rosettes and shoots, further reducing productivity of infested areas. Dense infestations of flowering stems may totally exclude stock. Californian Thistle also competes with crop species and can interfere with harvesting."⁴³ In 2019 there are still current legal responsibilities required of landowners with regard to this weed and there is a current statutory management plan for dealing with it. It is no wonder then that the appearance of this weed was so significant and had the potential to devastate the amount and availability of grass and feed for livestock. The first legislation relating to the weed was included in the Quarantine Act of 1881 and Patrick's appointment as an inspector provided him with yet another duty. Even as early as February 1882 (before the Thistle Act but after the Quarantine Act) Patrick had charged one Henry Crabtree with allowing Californian thistle to come into bloom on land occupied by him. During Mr Crabtree's subsequent court appearance "[t]he municipal warden said the Act relating to californian thistles was very stringent, and he considered it very necessary that it should be so, as they were the greatest pest there could be in the colony. The law said they were bound to fine at least £2, and as high as £20."⁴⁴

Through the 1880s Patrick's apprehensions of offenders continued to be reported in the police Reports of Crime and the local papers. In May 1882 William Lacey was charged by Superintendent Finnigan with driving without lights on the night of 4 May⁴⁵; in August of that year George Maguire was charged by Superintendent Finnigan with a breach of the Licensing act – having allowed cards to be played on the premises of his Licenced house, the Wilmot Arms Hotel and Michael Carroll was charged by Superintendent Finnigan with having stolen a watch valued at £5.⁴⁶ This report refers to the 'clever' capture of the prisoner by Superintendent Finnigan in that, having taken the prisoner to the lock up, he found a pawn ticket proving to belong to the stolen watch sewn into the lining of Carroll's vest. Carroll was sentenced to three months with hard labour.⁴⁷ And in May 1888 Patrick apprehended Alexander Smith for housebreaking and stealing £9.10s. Smith was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment.⁴⁸ The severity of the sentences in relation to the various offences speaks to the conditions pertaining in those times and the viewed seriousness of the crimes relative to similar offences over a century later.

But as well as his wide and varied police activities, the duties of the additional positions that Patrick held also helped to ensure that his police tenure at Green Ponds remained closely intertwined with the local population and community. During the 1880s and 1890s he held various appointments either related to or completely outside his specifically police-related activities for part or all of these years. Walch's Tasmanian Almanac lists a number of these and local press reports indicate a further number. Titles found during this research: Sub-Collector of Carriage Duties, Examiner of Weights & Measures, Inspector of Health, Inspector of Stock, Town Surveyor, Inspector under the Californian Thistles Act, Inspector under the Rabbit Act, Inspector for the Fruit Board, Collector of Timber Licences, Bailiff of Crown Lands, Bailiff of the Court of General Sessions, Deputy Clerk of the Peace and Pound Keeper. This last responsibility saw Patrick impounding a number of animals over the years and highlights the rural nature of the Green Ponds police duties. Here are a few as detailed by local press reports from time to time: a brindle bullock, a red and white cow and calf, a blue calf, a white and brown spotted

⁴² Hobart Town Gazette Tuesday 11 Apr 1882

⁴³ Dept of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania. Invasive Species, Californian Thistle.

<https://dpi.pwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/weeds-index/declared-weeds-index/californian-thistle> Site accessed 16 Apr 2018.

⁴⁴ *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954). Thursday 16 February 1882. Green Ponds. Police Court. February 13. P3.

⁴⁵ *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), Saturday 20 May 1882. Green Ponds. P1.

⁴⁶ *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), Thursday 24 August 1882. Green Ponds. P2.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), Monday 28 May 1888. Green Ponds. P3.

heifer, a strawberry heifer, a red and white Poland cow, one red steer – tip off the right ear, a black horse, a bay horse, a bay mare, a roan horse, a pig and various numbers of sheep.

He was a country cop after all.

Patrick provided his last report as a police officer under municipal control to the Green Ponds Council at its meeting on 31 Dec 1898. He outlined the state of crime for that month and announced that there had been no crime of a serious nature in the last year. He thanked the Warden and councillors for the kindness and courtesy invariably shown him during his term of office of Superintendent of Police. Councillors then spoke of the high regard with which Patrick had been held in the municipality over the years. During his time at Green Ponds, Patrick “had ever been desirous of doing his duty with as little unpleasantness as possible. The police were often blamed for not taking action in cases, whereby a little forbearance much enmity had been avoided; and ... the Superintendent [was always] desirous of exercising a wise forbearance in the discharge of his duties.”⁴⁹ It was then moved, and subsequently carried unanimously, “That th[e] council place on record the high appreciation of the services of Mr Finnigan during the time he had been in the service of the municipality from its beginning ... as constable, sub-inspector and for many years Superintendent of police. ... [and] had always treated everybody with respect. It was difficult to please everybody, ... but Superintendent Finigan had always done his duty fearlessly, and so long as he did his duty cared not whether it pleased or dpleased (sic).”⁵⁰

⁴⁹ *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), Friday 6 Jan 1899. Green Ponds Municipal Council. P3.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

Centralisation

On 1 Jan 1899 Tasmania Police was formed. This centralisation of all police resources in the state saw a necessary rationalisation of both positions and the individuals filling them. As a result, and along with a number of others, Patrick's rank was reduced and he reverted to Sub-Inspector. However, he was one of the lucky ones as apparently a number of police members were not retained at all. He held this rank until he resigned in 1902.

APPOINTMENTS, TRANSFERS, RESIGNATIONS, &c.
THE following arrangement and amalgamation of Districts for Police purposes, and the appointment of the under-mentioned Superintendents and Sub-Inspectors in connection therewith, have been decided upon: to take effect from 1st proximo.
GEO. RICHARDSON,
Commissioner of Police.
Hobart, 29th March, 1899.

Fredk. Pedder, Superintendent of Districts of Hobart, New Town, Clarence, Queenborough, Carnarvon, and Glenorchy.
Richard Driscoll, ditto Launceston, Selby, and George Town.
J. E. J. Farrell, ditto Hamilton, Bothwell, and New Norfolk.
Michael Conlan, ditto Campbell Town, Ross, and Oatlands.
Frederick Propsting, ditto Brighton, Richmond, and Green Ponds.
Henry Berresford, ditto Deloraine, Westbury, and South Longford.
M. J. Hayes, ditto Evandale and Longford.
L. Whitham, ditto Fingal, Portland, and Glamorgan.
R. W. Stuart, ditto Franklin and Kingborough.
W. Scott, ditto Mersey and Latrobe.
J. Pilling, ditto Macquarie.
W. Browne, to be Sub-Inspector of Police at Bothwell.
W. E. Morrisby, ditto at Clarence.
T. Gill, ditto at Evandale.
W. Rust, ditto at Glamorgan.
W. Bateman, ditto at Glenorchy.
P. Finnigan, ditto at Green Ponds.
W. Phillips, ditto at New Norfolk.
J. Reardon, ditto at Richmond.
T. Gillam, ditto at Westbury.
H. Marshall, ditto at Deloraine.
C. Wright, Superintendent of Police, Brighton, resigned from 1st prox.

Gazetted of appointment as Sub-Inspector from 1 April 1899,
Police Gazette 31 March 1899.

At the time of centralisation still serving police members, other than commissioned officers, were given seniority numbers and Patrick was given the seniority number '3' behind number '1' Sub-Inspector Michael Lynch appointed 17 Jan 1860 and number '2' Sub-Inspector John Connor appointed 13 Apr 1861.⁵¹ Patrick was thus the third most senior non-commissioned police officer in the state based on length of service. The date his service commenced was recorded as 16 Apr 1862. Nothing has been found to explain why his earlier service at Torquay, which commenced on 23 May 1860, and his time at Brighton, both of which are included in the Police Appointments Register (see Appendices 1 and 2) and his duties at Brighton being recorded in the Hobart Town Gazette and in local press reports, were not included in this calculation.

Appendix 1 is a copy of a section of the original page containing Patrick's details when he was first appointed as petty constable on 23 May 1860. As can be seen, the entries are chronological by date of appointment. Slightly further on in this register is the list of still serving officers compiled from the original records but dating from Centralisation or shortly after. Each officer has been allocated a number, not appearing in the original list, but recorded on the left hand side of the page next to each name, and based on length of service. Here is the first record of the number '3' appearing against Patrick's name. A copy of part of the relevant page of this list is shown at Appendix 2. That this list is a transcription from the original can be seen by the fact that all entries are in the same handwriting. As the hand written record of his 'service history' or 'character of service' are difficult to read, each appendix has been annotated with a typed version of his details.

⁵¹ Op Cit. TAHO POL 324/3.

There is one item of interest relating to the rationalisation and his rank reduction. As part of the centralisation and rationalisation process the Commissioner of Police (Mr George Richardson) had decided on transfers for a number of officers. Patrick was to go to Brighton – not that far away - but at a Green Ponds Council meeting on the evening of Monday 1 May 1899, he tendered his resignation from a number of the additional positions he still held at the time. Parts of the press report of 4 May giving details of the meeting are worth quoting:

“A letter from Sub-Inspector Finnigan was read, stating that as he was about to leave the district, he resigned his position as poundkeeper and inspector under the Rabbit Act, etc.

...

Councillor Palmer said no doubt all the councillors were sorry that Mr. Finnigan had received notice to leave the district, and they were thus compelled to lose his services. He had known him longer than any other member of the Council - for about 40 years – and in all that time he had carried the goodwill of the people of the district, and he was sure that Sub-Inspector Finnigan would continue to keep the good name he had gained in whatever place he was removed to.

Councillor Bisdee said he was sorry to see the notification of removal in the paper, and felt more sorry for this than for any thing that had happened during his connection with the Council. No one knew the district as Mr. Finnigan did, and he had always done his duty fearlessly, and yet few would have used the position with such discretionary power during the time he had been Superintendent of Police, and it was with credit to himself, and good to the municipality, that he had filled that office. They had, as a Council, always favoured centralisation of police, but it had always been an understanding both with themselves and members of Parliament that officers of long standing like Mr. Finnigan should not be reduced in status financially, or they would have hesitated to support the movement. They would all be sorry to lose Mr Finnigan as a friend because he had helped largely in every social gathering, and he would carry with him the good wishes of all classes in the district. Councillor Lumsden said as he had known Mr. Finnigan for nearly 39 years, and all that time had been a friend, it was hardly likely they could part without feeling sorry, or that too much could be said in praise of a man who had filled such an office with so few causes of complaint for such a long time. ...

Councillor Gorrington said he could echo the sentiments already expressed because they had given deserved praise, and he was sure after such a long residence in their midst Mr. Finnigan would be as sorry to part from them as they were sorry to lose his services. He wished him God’s speed in his new district ...

The Warden said they had at the end of ... [last] year placed on record their appreciation of the services of Mr. Finnigan when he severed his connection with them as their officer, but it was not then expected that the change would bring about the present result. It was not necessary for him to repeat all the kind words said, but he hoped he would always bear the same (sic) character as he had in this district, and, though not a young man, they wished him many years of usefulness wherever he might spend them. ...”⁵²

Based on the above comments, it appears that there may have been some representations on Patrick’s and the municipality’s behalf as over the next two days at least three Tasmanian papers reported that the Commissioner of Police had decided to allow Sub-Inspector Finnigan to remain at Green Ponds. This news was greeted with what may be described as relief and pleasure in the Green Ponds area: “We have not after all lost our Sub-Inspector Finnigan who after 40 years is still retained in this district, and we may truly say the whole district is pleased. He enjoys the distinction – perhaps unique – of having been in the Government police, through service in the municipal police and now handed over again to the Government service, and we wish him a long and continued useful life.”⁵³

⁵² *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954) Thursday 4 May 1899. Green Ponds Municipal Council. P4

⁵³ *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954) Thursday 18 May 1899. Green Ponds. P3

Retirement

For the next two years Patrick continued the police duties which had seen his approach to his work extolled in Green Ponds Council minutes. However, by 1901 he was suffering from ill health and although we don't know the exact nature, it was this which ultimately led to his resignation from what had become the Tasmania Police service, having taken 12 months leave of absence because of his health situation just prior to leaving his post. In July 1902 many Tasmanian papers ran the story of his retirement which dated from 30 Jun 1902.

At his retirement he was able to claim a small amount of money for his post-police life as he had contributed for some short while to a provident fund. An extract from the Territorial Police Provident Fund Compensation Allowances for 1902 shows that Patrick drew "£31 11s. 6d.: retired consequent upon ill-health and drew the full amount to his credit."⁵⁴ In the statement of accounts Patrick's initial is shown as 'J' but looking at the hand written entry, it would have been easy to mistake the one initial for the other.

But the Government was not ready to finish with Patrick just yet, even though perhaps it initially tried – purely by omission. In 1904 the Attorney General tabled a report in the House of Assembly regarding the awarding of long service medals to police officers who had completed more than 30 years' service, but Patrick's name was not included in the list of officers nominated. One newspaper report correctly pointed out Patrick's pre-municipal service. The omission was subsequently corrected and the Police Gazette of July 14, 1905 reported that "His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve ... the grant of an Imperial Service Medal to Superintendent Patrick Finnigan. By His Excellency's Command, J.W. Evans, Premier."⁵⁵ Two months later this gazettal was followed by a police parade where members of the police force were drawn up in Franklin Square on Thursday 14 September, where, at approximately 12.30 pm, Patrick was presented with his medal – for long, uninterrupted and faithful service - by the Governor, Sir Gerald Strickland. Following the presentation of the medal and the Governor's inspection of the troops lined up, three cheers were given for each of the Governor and ex-Sub-Inspector Finnigan. Over the next few days a number of newspapers around the state reported on the presentation. While there is no extant photographic record of this parade, the photo shown is of a later parade (1917) but depicts a ceremony similar to that held for Patrick at which he was presented with his long and meritorious service medal in 1905. He also received an Award letter from the Imperial Service Order Office in Whitehall, London.

It is highly likely that Patrick was also presented with a painted, decorative Tasmania Police baton to commemorate his service, probably not at the Franklin Square parade but more likely at another time and place and perhaps by the Commissioner of Police. This presentation was not mentioned in any newspapers or formal reports, supporting the more private nature of the presentation. This baton, with the Queen Victoria crown and decorated with the letters 'VR' ('Victoria Regina') and the words "Tasmania Police" is of the same design and similar to those on display at the Police Museum in Hobart. While in-service, police were issued with wooden batons as their primary means of self-defence. Decorative truncheons were usually of English manufacture with the various makers' engravings on the tip of the ribbed handle - this truncheon has the markings Parker 233 Holborn indicating the period of manufacture as 1842-1877⁵⁶ - and were occasionally presented to dignitaries and retiring police officers. There is no direct evidence that this baton belonged to Patrick but it is currently held within the extended Finnigan family and the circumstances of Patrick's career and the fact that it is held within the family strongly suggest that it is Patrick's baton.

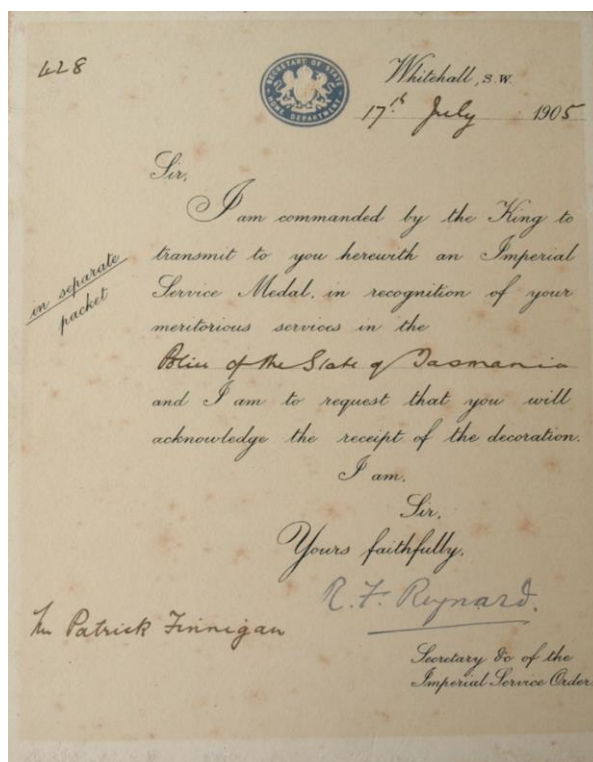
⁵⁴ Territorial Police Provident Fund Compensation Allowances. (No. 18) 1902. Appendix K. P11

⁵⁵ Police Gazette Tasmania. Vol XLIV, No 2399. Friday July 14, 1905.

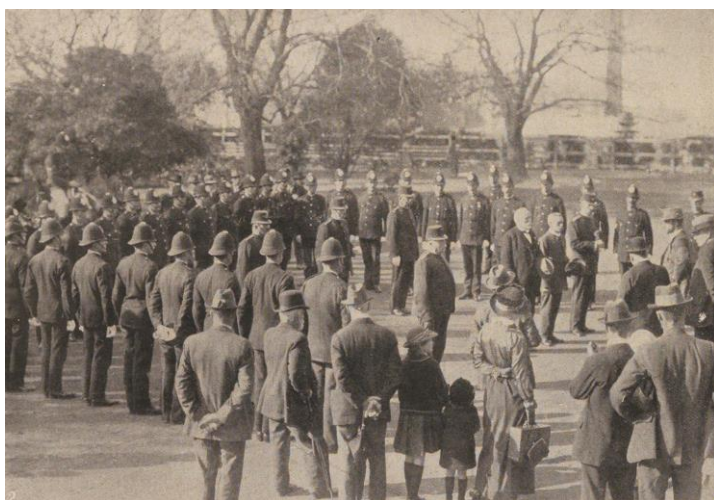
⁵⁶ Cook, Alan. Truncheons and Tipstaves, Makers – Parker, Holborn. <http://www.truncheon.org.uk/makers-names/> Accessed 27 Feb 2019.



Imperial Service Medal awarded to Patrick Finnigan for long and meritorious service and presented on 14 September 1905.



Letter accompanying the award of an Imperial Service Medal to Patrick Finnigan.



Typical police parade in Franklin Square for presentation of Imperial Service medals 1917.



Decorative police baton held within the extended Finnigan family and believed to have belonged to Patrick Finnigan.

Almost concurrently, there were representations to, and discussions within, the government regarding a pension for Patrick and initially the government appeared disinclined to grant this. Patrick wrote letters to the government and these were tabled in the House of Assembly on 12 September 1905. Unfortunately, these letters were not included with the papers to be bound to form part of Hansard, and sadly are lost to us. However, the case for a pension for him was included in a number of newspaper reports of the day and there is a clear trail of reports in *The Mercury* detailing the chain of events in the House of Assembly leading to the conclusion of this matter and it is worth summarising the proceedings:

Friday 8 September. Mr Hodgman moved that all papers from Superintendent Finnigan from Kempton be tabled in the House.

Friday 15 September. Mr Hodgman moved that Superintendent Finnigan should be granted the benefit of the Superannuation Act.

Wednesday 20 September. Mr Hodgman moved for a Committee of the whole House to consider the granting of a pension to Superintendent Finnigan. The Premier stated that it was the Government's duty to oppose the motion but it was for the House to say. The motion was carried and the Committee stage was fixed for the following week.

Thursday 21 September. Mr Hodgman moved that an appropriation of a sum of money sufficient to give a pension to ex-Superintendent Finnigan who entered the service of the state in 1860 before the Pensions Act was abolished, who served continuously and who was only absent from duty some three weeks during which he was ill. He [Mr Hodgman] was aware that legal opinion was against his case, but for all that Superintendent Finnigan had a strong moral claim to a pension. He was in the Police Force for over 40 years and his service was uninterrupted.

The Attorney General spoke on the case and quoted an opinion of Sir Elliott Lewis [the Attorney General at a previous time when a similar case had been put to the Government and he (Lewis) had opposed this case] to the effect that Mr Finnigan had neither a legal nor a moral claim to a pension. The Government therefore reluctantly opposed the motion.

Tuesday 26 September. Mr Hodgman moved for a Committee of the whole House to consider an address to be presented to His Excellency the Governor seeking that, having taken into consideration the correspondence tabled on 12 September, the Governor recommend the appropriation of a sum sufficient for ex-Superintendent Patrick Finnigan to be granted the benefit of the Superannuation Act. The motion was agreed to and the House went into committee and Mr Hodgman moved that ex-Superintendent Patrick Finnigan be granted a pension of 10s. a week. One member felt that the amount was too paltry and moved for 20s. a week, and this was supported by a number of other members, but the Premier opposed this stating that the only reason the Government consented to any sum at all was because of the man's straitened circumstances and Parliament could not give a pension to every worthy

citizen who might be old and in poor circumstances. Eventually the motion was agreed to by the committee and subsequently also by the House.⁵⁷

There were no less than three separate articles in *The Mercury* on Wednesday 27 September reporting on various aspects of Patrick's case. The comment by the Premier regarding not giving a pension "to every worthy citizen who might be old and in poor circumstances" is perhaps now ironic when it was only three years later that the Australian Federal Parliament passed the 'Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act 1908' granting that very thing.

The decision of The Tasmanian Government to ask the Governor to grant a pension resulted in an "Act to entitle certain Persons to receive Pensions upon their retirement from the Public Service of Tasmania". There were three officers who were the beneficiaries of this Act: Sub-Inspector Arthur Colhoun from Stanley, former Sub-Inspector Patrick Finnigan at Green Ponds and Francis Martini Magazine-keeper and Inspector of Explosives at Launceston. The Act received Royal Assent on 20 November 1905 and came into force on that date.

The wording of the relevant part of the Act is interesting:

"... Patrick Finnigan, formerly a Sub-Inspector in the Police Force of Tasmania, was, on the Twenty-third day of May, One thousand eight hundred and sixty, appointed a Police Constable in the Police Force of Tasmania, and stationed in the District of Green Ponds:

And whereas, on the formation of the Rural Municipality of Green Ponds, the said Patrick Finnigan was, on the Seventh day of March, One thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, transferred to a position in the Police Force of that Municipality ..."⁵⁸

So, the Act has Patrick commencing with the Police Force of Tasmania on 23 May 1860 (date of his appointment as per original police records), but stationed at Green Ponds (rather than at Torquay as per original police records) and transferring to the Police Force of the Green Ponds Municipality on 7 Mar 1862 (rather than on 16 Apr 1862, the date Green Ponds was declared a Municipality). The date of 23 May 1860 quoted in the Act for Patrick's first appointment to Police adds further weight to his length of service being 1 year, 10 months and 24 days longer than elsewhere acknowledged. These anomalies simply show that there are occasions when the formal record is not always correct.

Patrick was granted a pension of £26 per year and paid 10s a week or for the remainder of his life. He retired to Hobart and died on 15 March 1915 at the age of 75. He was buried at Cornelian Bay cemetery in the same grave as his second daughter Elizabeth and his wife Bridget who had died on 19 Sep 1905, a week after the presentation of his medal and a week before Parliament passed the legislation for his pension.

⁵⁷ Summary of House of Assembly proceedings compiled from reports in *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954) September 8 P6, 9 P6, 15 P6, 21 P6 and 27 P6 1905.

⁵⁸ UTS and UNSW Faculties of Law. Australasian Legal Information Institute. Tasmanian Numbered Acts. Act to entitle certain Persons to receive Pensions upon their retirement from the Public Service of Tasmania (5 Edw VII, No 40). P438. http://www8.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdb/au/legis/tas/num_act/aatecptuptrftpsot5evn401128/ Accessed 7 Feb 2019.

Appendix 1- Police Appointment Register Pre-Centralisation

TAHO POL324/3, Copy Z180. Archives Office of Tasmania. Register of the Appointment, Transfer, Registration and Dismissal of Members of the Police Establishment, Alphabetical by surname, 01 Jan 1855 to 31 Dec 1955.
(Original ledger entry at the time of Patrick Finnigan's appointment and police history)

Name.	Description				Condition				Educa.				Religion	How Police before when and where
	Age	Height	Build	Native of	Free Col.	Free Col.	Free Col.	Free Col.	Free Col.	Free Col.	Free Col.	Free Col.		
Fabritius, Edward	21	5	7	Irish	Australian	Holland	1	1	1	1	1	1	Protestant	Never
Ford, Thomas	50	5	9	Irish	Galway, Ire.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	R.C.	51-4. 1861
Fawcett, John	23	5	6	Irish	Woolfords, N. York	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	R.C.	1861-52
Finnigan, Patrick	22	5	7	Irish	County Wick	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	R.C.	1861
Forbes, William George	23	5	10	Irish	London	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Protestant	1861
Fleming, Benjamin Elias	20	5	7	Irish	London	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	do	1861
For Thomas	21	5	9	Irish	London	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	R.C.	1861

Ship	Police History
W B Druce	App'd P.C. King's Cross, 14.3.59. Discharged to Hospital 17.9.60. Reappointed to Hospital 22.2.62. Discharged 11.6.62.
W B Druce	App'd of Callanish, 11.2.60. Discharged 22.2.60. Reappointed 18.7.60. Discharged 11.9.60.
Equation	App'd of Callanish, 11.2.60. Discharged 22.2.60. Reappointed 18.7.60. Discharged 11.9.60.
(Prose)	App'd P.C. 21.5.60 Torquay. - Brighton 19.9.60. Reduced on formation Green Ponds Municipality 15.4.62.
W B Druce	App'd P.C. 21.5.60 Torquay. - Brighton 19.9.60. Reduced on formation Green Ponds Municipality 15.4.62.
City of Hobart	App'd P.C. 21.5.60 Torquay. - Brighton 19.9.60. Reduced on formation Green Ponds Municipality 15.4.62.
Shelby	App'd P.C. 21.5.60 Torquay. - Brighton 19.9.60. Reduced on formation Green Ponds Municipality 15.4.62.

Police History for Patrick Finnigan
App'd P.C. 23 5 60 Torquay. - Brighton 19.9.60: Reduced on formation Green Ponds Municipality 15.4.62

Appendix 2 – Police Appointment Register Post-Centralisation

TAHO POL324/3, Copy Z180. Archives Office of Tasmania. Register of the Appointment, Transfer, Registration and Dismissal of Members of the Police Establishment, Alphabetical by surname, 01 Jan 1855 to 31 Dec 1955.

(Ledger entry post Centralisation of Patrick Finnigan's appointment and police history)

[illegible]

Character of Service for Patrick Fenigan

App^d P.C Green Ponds (M) upon its formation – 16.4.62. Sub Insp^r 1.2.66.

Sup^t 1.10.78. Reduced to Sub Insp^r through Centralization 1.4.99. Resigned 3/6/2 ?30/6/2.

Appendix 3 - Career Synopsis – Patrick Finnigan

1858 or 1859	5 August	Arrived at Hobart aboard schooner ‘Creole’ with wife and baby daughter (1859 is more likely)
1860	23 May	Appointed Colonial Police Petty Constable at Torquay
1860	19 September	Appointed Petty Constable at Brighton
1862	15 April	‘Reduced’ (removed) from Colonial Police
1862	16 April	Appointed Petty Constable of Municipal Police at Green Ponds, although he had been working at this office as early as 15 May 1861 while posted at Brighton
1866	1 February	Appointed Sub-Inspector at Green Ponds
1878	1 October	Appointed Superintendent at Green Ponds
1899	1 April	Appointed to Tasmania Police at its inception on 1 Jan but then reduced in rank to Sub-Inspector as part of rationalisation of positions and personnel
1902	30 June	Retired from Tasmania Police
1905	14 September	Presented with Imperial Long and Meritorious Service Medal by the Governor, Sir Gerald Strickland, at a ceremony in Franklin Square, Hobart
1905	26 September	Parliament passed legislation for his pension
1905	20 November	Royal Assent given to the legislation for his pension which commenced from this date.

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