

**LAUNCH OF A JOURNAL TO MARK THE CENTENARY OF THE
POLICE ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, HOBART, THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2023**

Good afternoon, everyone, and a very warm welcome to Government House, both to mark the Centenary of the Police Association of Tasmania, and also to launch your Centenary Journal.

I pay my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community and recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea and waters.

In recognising the significance of this event, may I acknowledge the presence of the President of the Police Federation of Australia, Ian Leavers, our Commissioner of Police, Donna Adams, and the President of the Police Association of Tasmania, Shane Tilley.

Policing in Tasmania had its genesis with the appointment of three voluntary Constables and one Chief Constable, in 1804. They formed a municipal police force at Port Dalrymple. At the same time, a civilian Night Watch was established in Hobart.¹

In these early days, it is not well reported that the colony was quite a difficult place in which to live. There were widespread criminal activities. Settlers at that time did not feel adequately protected by a small force that was composed largely of convicts.

It was not until nearly a century later that the *Police Regulation Act* of 1898 established a statewide organisation, under an appointed Commissioner, who reported to the Attorney-General and who was accountable to the Parliament.²

¹ <https://www.police.tas.gov.au/about-us/100-years-women-policing-tasmania-police/history-timeline/> accessed 8 Nov 23

² https://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history/P/Police.htm accessed 8 Nov 23

By 1922, there were 235 police officers, whose conditions of service were not commensurate with their work and duties. Attempts to negotiate with the Police Department and the Government met with little interest.

The Police Association was formed a year later in 1923, with the objective of establishing a representative body, like those on the mainland states. Those police associations made representations on behalf of police officers and made formal applications to Government for better salaries and conditions of service.

The workload of the Association steadily increased. By 2004, a President, who had to be a serving police officer, was appointed on a full-time basis and was seconded from Tasmania Police to the Association for the term of their Presidency.³

The journal, *100 years 1923-2023 – The Police Association of Tasmania*, includes a historical record of the operations of the Tasmanian Association since its formation.

Included are interesting anecdotes of service through the years, with examples of the benefits that the Association has brought to members. The journal articles are interspersed with some caricatures and cartoons created by Mick Ward. Wardy, as he is well known in the force, has produced many of his cartoons while on standby as a member of our State's Tactical Operations Group.

The work of the Police Association of Tasmania has not only been of immense benefit to members of Tasmania Police, but also to the entire Tasmanian community. I thank all involved in the work of the Association. I also acknowledge the work of the committee that oversaw the production of this journal to mark the significant milestone of your Centenary.

It now gives me great pleasure to declare the launch of *100 years 1923-2023 – The Police Association of Tasmania*.

Please now enjoy the afternoon tea.

Thank you.

³ <https://pat.asn.au/about-us/> accessed 8 Nov 23