# Episode 6 - Shannon Foden\_v2.mp3

**John Pratt:** [00:00:04] Hello and welcome to Tasmania Police's brand new podcast. This is Tas Police. I'm Inspector John Pratt and I'll be your host as we chat to a wide range of Tasmanian police officers about why they joined the job and why others should too. We're coming to you today from Lutruwita, Tasmania. And before we start our conversation, I'd like to respectfully acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional owners of the land upon which we work and pay our respect to elders past and present. We recognise the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the continuing custodians of the rich cultural heritage of Lutruwita, Tasmania.

**Shannon Foden:** [00:00:51] Hi, my name is Shannon. I'm currently a recruit taking part in the fast tracking program, which commenced on the 22nd of August this year. I've currently done seven years experience with Victoria Police. We are currently in our ninth week of training here at the Academy. Our course is 12 weeks long. Up until now we've done a variety of different things, including law, legislations, firearms, defensive tactics as well as just in general get to know the Tasmania way of life down here with the policing. Given our experience from our through our course, we have seven participants of our course who've got a varying years of experience from I think five years is our lowest to 19 years. We're from WA, NT, Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales.

**John Pratt:** [00:01:33] You've just heard from Trainee Constable Shannon Foden, who as she said, is part of the Tasmania Police Fast track course, also known as our Accelerated Training program, or ATP. This program is for experienced police officers or former members of a police service from interstate or New Zealand who want to join Tasmania Police. The ATP is a condensed version of our normal recruit course, which we make sure the officers from other jurisdictions are trained and ready for policing in Tasmania. On a previous episode of This is Tas Police, we spoke with two recruits about their experiences and on this episode we are going to experience a week in the life of an ATP recruit at the Tasmania Police Academy.

**Shannon Foden:** [00:02:13] So today's Monday. Our day starts at about 8.30 this morning and we have Dr. Kate Cashman, who is our law instructor. She's teaching us around relevant legislation and case law that we find here in Tasmania.

**Shannon Foden:** [00:02:24] It's now 12.30. We're heading up to the mill hall to have our lunch. For lunch today, we've got beef rogan josh, with steamed potatoes and some beans. So hopefully that'll be delicious. Beautifully provided by the lovely staff of the Academy kitchen.

**Shannon Foden:** [00:02:40] After lunch. Our next session is at 1.00 where we have body worn cameras, which is something we obviously need to learn. Then after that we've got some victimology to finish off the day.

**John Pratt:** [00:02:51] All of our frontline officers are fitted with body worn cameras, which provides significant operational benefits. Having a body worn camera at an incident scene keeps officers safer. It provides an accurate record of events and enhances the ability for a police officer to gather quality and timely evidence. These cameras are highly visible to anyone interacting with police as they're attached to the front of the officers high visibility vests. Let's check back in with Shannon.

**Shannon Foden:** [00:03:16] Good morning. Today's Tuesday. I'm just grabbing a coffee from our little coffee station we have here at the academy, run by some of the recruits. Can't start your day without a coffee. First up, our lesson is 8.30. We've got drug investigation, which is with Sergeant Nick Brayshaw. After morning tea this morning, we have a lesson on Youth Offences Act, which is via teams with one of the instructors who is based up at the Launceston campus. Just had some lunch in the dining hall. Basically after this we have a Coroner's Act legislation and processes. Again, this one is via teams with an instructor from the Launceston campus and to finish off this afternoon we have a victimology exam. Hopefully that won't be too bad and probably going to about an hour long. So see how we go. Fingers crossed.

**John Pratt:** [00:04:02] For the first time we have a recruit training course, which is training both here at the police academy in Rokeby and at the northern campus in Launceston. We're using WebEx technology that enables a lecture to be delivered to the course from either end of the state. The recruits have both audio and vision, enabling them to actively participate in the lecture, despite being 200 kilometres apart, all of the recruit training courses and accelerated training programs are divided up into modules and there are exams at the end of each module.

**Shannon Foden:** [00:04:32] Good morning. We've made it to Wednesday. Midweek. We have our first lesson of today just coming up. And we have a lesson with our law instructor that I'll go for most of the morning, through morning tea and up until lunch.

**Shannon Foden:** [00:04:45] It's just finished lunch up in the dining hall. Our next lesson is on pursuit, obviously, which includes Tasmania Police policy and legislation. Hopefully, listen sheds a bit more light on what we're allowed to do, what we're not allowed to do, and obviously our justification if we do engage in a pursuit and yeah, what happens the process after that. Obviously how internals look at things. So fingers crossed it sheds a bit more light for us. And to finish off our Wednesday, we have another lesson on drug investigation and exhibit handling. How to package things up, what's most appropriate items to put in what bags, and how to make sure it's obviously got continuity and recording those in specific books. So obviously a bit more for an audit process to make sure everything's accounted for.

**John Pratt:** [00:05:27] As you can see, there's a lot of theory involved in both an ATP and a recruit training course, and this is crucial for our people so they know exactly what they need to do out in the field once they've graduated. In the ATP, this can be even more crucial for the participants to understand because as we mentioned earlier, there are differences between the numerous Australian and New Zealand police jurisdictions.

**Shannon Foden:** [00:05:48] Good morning and welcome to Thursday. This morning, obviously, after you grab our first coffee, we've got to lesson via video link in relation to coroners procedures. This is with one of our instructors from the Launceston campus. Hopefully that'll tie us up from mid-morning to morning tea and after that we have an exam on the content that we've just learnt. So wish us luck.

**Shannon Foden:** [00:06:06] Just finished up with another delicious lunch in the dining hall. This afternoon we have a video link again from our Launceston instructors on Youth and Legislation. And then to finish off this afternoon we have our law exam which could take us up to a couple of hours, so hopefully we've paid enough attention and listened.

**Shannon Foden:** [00:06:23] Welcome to Friday morning, the last obviously day of the week. We have a youth exam this morning to start us off up until probably lunchtime. So yeah, we'll see how we go with that.

**Shannon Foden:** [00:06:32] And to finish off a Friday afternoon, we've got another presentation from one of our course directors, which is Sergeant Nick Pressure that's around the serious and organised crime and gangs. And followed by that. We do have to finish off the day a professional standards discussion to learn all about how the professional standards oversight of Tasmania Police.

**John Pratt:** [00:06:53] Shannon, thank you for taking us through a week in your life as a Tasmania Police fast tracker. It's been really interesting to hear what you've been up to each day. Clearly there are lots of exams and tests as you come to the end of your course and you're obviously getting into the nitty gritty of the course content now you're almost done. I'm curious to know what made you make the move from Victoria Police to Tas Police, and so far, how is the training different and how have you found it?

**Shannon Foden:** [00:07:16] Well, basically I made the decision earlier this year, sort of end of last year, start of this year. Obviously during COVID, everything changed for a lot of people and Melbourne, which is busy and full on, and I just want a different lifestyle change. At the stage of my life where I want to take a step back and enjoy what I do on my days off and things like that. So Tassie was a no brainer for me. Plus I have family down here, so it's a bit of a closing the circle for a better word. I was born in Tassie, so it sort of felt right to sort of come home after many years away.

**Shannon Foden:** [00:07:46] The difference in the training so far it has been very different to what I experienced when I went through the VicPol Academy. In the sense of obviously for us being fast track is there's a little bit less structure, I suppose in the sense of it's not so heavy or full on like it is for the recruits. It was a bit of retraining and a bit refresher and different sort of legislation and things like that. Victoria was you do a week on family violence law, end of that week you'd have an exam. So it was very heavy set weeks when I went through their academy. But I found this to be quite an easy transition and been very helpful with all the instructors we've had so far.

**John Pratt:** [00:08:20] So you've also had the opportunity to do some observation shifts out on the street. How have you found the actual work as a serving police officer different to what you did in Victoria?

**Shannon Foden:** [00:08:28] It's a bit like country policing, I suppose. Down here you're not so full on fast paced with cars going past 2 million miles an hour on a freeway. So you've got a bit more time to sort of take in observations of the local community, what's actually affecting them and targeting your specific demographics in your area rather than just going from job to job to job, You've got a little bit more time to actually balance out your day and target specific things. They'd be a bit more proactive down here, which I actually quite enjoy.

**John Pratt:** [00:08:53] Shannon, it's been great to get to know you and also the other members on your ATP course. It's also excellent to see that they've come down here with their families and are transitioning into the community within Tasmania. I wish you all the very best and hope it goes well for you.

**Shannon Foden:** [00:09:05] Thank you very much.

**John Pratt:** [00:09:10] That's it for this week's episode. I hope you enjoyed the conversation. Join us next time as we speak to Sergeant Felicity Boyd. Felicity has been investigating a long term missing persons case since 2013. We're going to chat to her about what investigating a case like this entails and give you an insight into the role of an investigator with Tas Police.

**John Pratt:** [00:09:29] If you like what you heard today, please subscribe on your favourite podcast app. And while you're there, consider leaving us a review or a rating to let us know how we're going. You can also stay up to date with podcast episodes on our website at recruitment.police.tas.gov.au/podcast.