# Episode 10 - Harriet Green - v1.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.

**John Pratt:** [00:00:48] Today on This is Tas Police we're talking to Senior Constable Harriet Green from Kingston Uniform Branch in southern Tasmania. Harriet has worked in Launceston and Glenorchy police stations and is now based at Kingston Station, where she works as a uniform officer conducting general duties. We're going to talk to her about what it's like working in a smaller community after her experiences in the busy city stations. Thanks for joining us today Harriet. Let's start our chat with a bit of an overview of your career so far. When did you join Tas Police? What motivated you to join and what has your career looked like to this point?

**Speaker2:** [00:01:18] Thanks, Inspector. So I joined Tas Police as a recruit in 2017 and I graduated to Launceston Watch in June of 2018, where I spent the first two years of my career in Launni, which was very, very busy on the watch. After my two years there, I transferred down south to where I grew up. I did about two years at Glenorchy, took a little bit of time off in between when I had my first baby, and then in May of this year, I transferred to Kingston. I've not done a huge amount of time at Kingston because in recent months I've been seconded back into Hobart to assist with some frontline numbers and I've done a few secondments in the last few months also.

**Harriet Green:** [00:01:59] My motivation to join the job had a really good family friend who was a former police officer and I grew up with his daughter, so that was always something that motivated me to want to join the job. I applied when I was much younger and didn't get through. I had just finished school. So I moved away interstate and worked in mining for a period of time and I realised after some time that I wanted to move back home to Tassie and find a career that I could use my personality traits to help people, which probably sounds a bit cliche, but I wanted to find a career that I could work outdoors and do something different every day.

**John Pratt:** [00:02:34] Fair enough. So as you've just explained, you've worked in both the city and now a smaller police station. And as I know, there's some pretty big differences between the two. Can you tell us what it's like to work in the city station like Hobart or Glenorchy?

**Speaker2:** [00:02:46] Yeah, absolutely. So the biggest adjustment for me was the numbers at the station. Kingston's a lot smaller than Glenorchy and Launceston, so that was quite a big change for me to move to a smaller station. But with less people there's also less work. A big difference between the stations for me is the smaller station that I'm at now, Kingston, means that we can engage with the community a lot more. We are able to get out and be proactive as opposed to sometimes being a bit more reactive in the bigger stations. Working down at Kingston, we work in a very big division and we have the opportunity to backfill the smaller country stations like Huonville, Woodbridge, Bruny Island, Dover and Cygnet. So I've had the opportunity to duck down to Huonville a few times, get out and drive around and see the countryside, which I wasn't really afforded the opportunity when I worked at the big city stations.

**John Pratt:** [00:03:38] So what about just the numbers of police that are there? Do you find that you're working with the same people more and more as opposed to when you're in the city stations when you'd have more people to work with?

**Harriet Green:** [00:03:47] Yeah, absolutely. When I was in Launceston, our numbers would be 2 sergeants and anywhere between 6 to 8 constables. Now at Kingston I work on a line with 2 to 3 people. So you really develop those relationships with the people that you work closely with.

**John Pratt:** [00:04:01] What do you prefer? Do you prefer the quieter country style policing or do you like the city busier policing?

**Harriet Green:** [00:04:07] I definitely like the camaraderie that comes with any kind of size team that you work with. I liked the variety of working with different people every day in the bigger city stations, but I do also enjoy really getting to know the people that you work with, with smaller numbers and just getting to work really as a team.

**John Pratt:** [00:04:25] What about the shifts that you work, Harriet? Is there a big difference between what you worked in, say, Launceston and Glenorchy as opposed to what you work in Kingston?

**Harriet Green:** [00:04:32] Yeah, so now I'm at Kingston. It's a non 24 hour station, so I do a combination of two days and two afternoons. We do four shifts on, four shifts off, which makes a much better work-life balance for me, having a young child.

**John Pratt:** [00:04:46] What about the actual work? Is there a big difference? Like obviously there's always traffic related incidents and that whether it's country or city stations, but what about other work trends? Is there a difference?

**Harriet Green:** [00:04:57] I found working in the city, especially in Hobart recently, we deal with a lot more public order related policing down at the waterfront. In Launceston, having the CBD so close, we dealt with a lot of shoplifting and stealing matters in comparison to Kingston. We do a lot more community policing where we're dealing with school issues, traffic related issues and so forth.

**John Pratt:** [00:05:19] At Kingston you've got Bruny Island as part of your area. Have you had the opportunity to work over there at all?

**Harriet Green:** [00:05:24] No, I haven't as of yet, but it's definitely something that I'd like to do in the future. They often offer secondments over summer when they would need a few more numbers down there.

**John Pratt:** [00:05:32] I'm sure you're aware that we're on a recruitment drive for our biggest ever intake of police recruits at present. What or who do you think makes a great police officer?

**Harriet Green:** [00:05:39] In my eyes, I think a great police officer is somebody who is empathetic, somebody who is a good listener and can be a really contributive team player. Someone who's assertive, which assists with decision making and someone with a good sense of humour, always makes life easier to work with too.

**John Pratt:** [00:05:56] What about an age? Do you think there's an ideal age for someone to be a police officer?

**Harriet Green:** [00:06:00] I think that there's definitely space for people of all ages. I was 28 when I joined and I thought that I was quite old. But there's been plenty of people who have joined after me and also in my course that were a lot older. I think that everybody brings something different to the job as a police officer, and varying ages bring varying life experience.

**John Pratt:** [00:06:20] I understand that you've got a young child at home and that you're also expecting a child. So congratulations on that.

**Harriet Green:** [00:06:25] Thank you.

**John Pratt:** [00:06:26] How have you found raising a family whilst working as a police officer?

**Harriet Green:** [00:06:28] So I have found my work-life balance has certainly improved since transferring to a smaller station like Kingston. I live quite close to the station. My partner is also in the job and so transferring to a smaller station with a non 24 hour roster has made it a lot easier to raise a child. We have our daycare nice and close, and we work in a very supportive station where our supervisors are happy for us to amend hours for daycare, drop off and so forth. So yeah, it's definitely been a lot easier being at a smaller station than a 24 hour station to raise a family.

**John Pratt:** [00:07:03] And since you've been in the job, have you sort of noticed any differences about how people in your circumstances, like with a young family and expecting a child, are treated?

**Harriet Green:** [00:07:11] Yeah, absolutely. I'm actually part of a working group that Tas Pol has developed over the last almost two years in relation to just becoming more involved in assisting early parenting and first time parenting people within the job, both mums and dads. So it's definitely been something that I've seen a massive improvement with since joining four or five years ago.

**John Pratt:** [00:07:33] So in that respect, do you feel supported as far as a mother and a parent?

**Harriet Green:** [00:07:38] Yeah, absolutely. My experience from my first baby and also now is that I've been well and truly supported in both my primary role and then the opportunities I've been afforded whilst I've been non-operational. The maternity entitlements, that Tas Pol offer are excellent. So I was able to take a period of time off with my first baby. And upon my return to work, my supervisors were very flexible with my wishes and how I wanted to return. For me, I personally returned full time as my partner works in CIB, so he does opposite hours to me. So we were able to find a really good balance with our rostering. I do have a lot of other friends in the job who had babies around the same time and they experienced the same support and were able to return on a part time basis.

**Harriet Green:** [00:08:23] And just in relation to this pregnancy, when I informed my supervisors that I was pregnant, I was afforded the opportunity to undertake secondments in other areas. I'm currently in the Southern Family Violence Unit in a non-operational role, so I just find that another great support to still fulfil my job within Tasmania Police and do some meaningful work.

**Harriet Green:** [00:08:46] When I had my first baby, I was able to connect with a lot of mothers who I was friends with prior to being pregnant but also became friends with whilst pregnant. So there was a group of about 7 to 10 of us that all happened to be on maternity leave at the same time, and we became a bit of a support network for each other, as most of us had our babies through the peak of COVID. So just having that network of people that we could rely on for support and given that we're all like-minded mothers or working for Tas Pol, most of us having partners within TasPol too, it was just a good network to have each other. We were a good sounding board for each other and what our plans before returning to work and what we were entitled to and how we could manage returning to work as frontline police officers with newborn babies.

**John Pratt:** [00:09:31] So just before we come to the end of our chat today, are there any bits of advice that you've got to anyone out there that may be looking at joining Tasmania Police?

**Harriet Green:** [00:09:39] Yeah, definitely. I think if it's something that you've always thought of doing to come and have a crack, I know that I have always wanted to be a police officer and I spent a fair amount of my time working in mining before I joined the job and it was always something that I had in the back of my mind that I wanted to come back for. So if it's a career that you really want to get involved in, now is definitely the time to join because we've got a great bunch of people to learn from. So my tips for future recruits would be if joining TasPol is something that you've always wanted to do, put in an application and come down and have a crack. If you're lucky to get through the recruiting process and get a spot within TasPol, my tips would be to find a good work-life balance and maintain those friendship groups both in and outside the job because there'll be a bigger supports if you become a recruit.

**John Pratt:** [00:10:28] Thanks very much for your time this afternoon. Harriet, It's been good to hear about your experiences both in city police stations and country stations. I think your career is a great example of how a person can join Tasmania Police and they can benefit from the variations between working in a city and also working in a country. So it's really like having many jobs but having the one job. Thanks very much for your time.

**Harriet Green:** [00:10:49] Thanks, Inspector.

**John Pratt:** [00:10:50] Next week on This is Tas Police, we'll be talking to some Marine police. Senior Constable Matthew Smith and Constable Fiona Russell will chat about what it's like to work on the water and they'll explain how they move from uniform policing into that specialist area.

**John Pratt:** [00:11:07] So far on This is Tas Police podcast we've chatted to our former commissioner Darren Hine, and our new commissioner, Donna Adams. We've also heard from our recruitment services team and some new recruits. There have been some interesting and inspiring conversations from people who have experienced everything Tasmania Police has to offer, and this is just the beginning.

**John Pratt:** [00:11:26] 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 writing 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.