

Victoria's most remote police station is now one of the newest

The new Woods Point police station stands on what was the basketball court for the local school, before it was closed. It might be isolated but dignitaries came from near and far to attend the official opening last month.

The Police Minister, Tim Holding was there. So was Bill Sykes, the member for Benalla. Graeme Stoney, the Member for Central Highlands made the journey across the dirt roads as did Assistant Commissioner Bob Hastings.

It was an occasion not to be missed and the locals were out in force – the whole 19 of them. The SES was there, along with the CFA and the ambulance paramedic. Woods Point a tight knit community and they are all very



Senior Constable Ken Dwight

proud of their new station.

The first Woods Point station was opened in 1862 and the first member to serve there was Sergeant Henry Baber, number 51.

Life was tough in those early years. Sergeant Baber was seriously injured when his horse crashed into a tree when he was taking part in a gold escort. While he probably didn't see it at the time, Sergeant Baber was lucky. Some police had to walk the long road to Mansfield through the snow, escorting up to

9,000 ounces of gold from the local mines.

Police escorting another gold shipment in 1869 lost a pack horse en-route to Jamieson. The bank tried to blame the police for the loss but the Chief Commissioner would have none of it. The police responsibility was to protect the treasure from robbers – not lead the pack horses! Constable Sault from Jamieson subsequently found the horse, still carrying its precious cargo.

The gold shipments still come out of Woods Point but they are no longer the responsibility of the local policeman, Senior Constable Ken Dwight. Ken patrols the surrounding mountains that are a popular spot for deer hunters and four-wheel drivers. Many get a surprise when they come across Ken in the middle of nowhere!

The police residence is still next door to the old police station, further up the hillside. "Now I have to travel a kilometre to work," jokes Ken Dwight, as he sits in his new police station.



The old



The new