

POPULAR POLICE OFFICER.

Constable O'Shannessy for Orange.

A large and representative gathering from all parts of the district filled Attunga Hall to farewell Constable and Mrs. W. J. O'Shannessy prior to their departure for Orange.

During the early part of the evening, Attunga Police Boys' Club gave a demonstration of tumbling, boxing, wrestling, etc., under the direction of Mr. Lindsay Evans, Mrs. Magennis providing the musical background.

The club was formed by Constable O'Shannessy in October, 1924, and is therefore the oldest Police Boys' Club in New South Wales.

At the conclusion of the display the boys lined up as a guard of honor.

Mr. J. Phelan, president of the club, praised the work of Mr. O'Shannessy which, he said, stamped him as a man of vision and high ideals who realized that the development of right attitudes through club activities was the best means of preventing anti-social tendencies in juveniles. Added to his technical skill in boxing and wrestling had been his fine quality of understanding boys' nature and his power of appealing to their sense of sportsmanship and co-operative spirit.

Mr. O'Shannessy said that having to leave the boys was one of his saddest experiences, but he felt happy in the fact that the club would continue to function as before under the supervision of Mr. Evans, one of his old "pupils."

Mr. Evans spoke of the grand feeling that had always existed in the club and thanked Mr. O'Shannessy for the splendid guidance he had given them. He was supported by Mr. Alex. Wiseman, on behalf of the parents.

Mr. Keane stated that Attunga was the first Police Boys' Club in the State, and this claim was later borne out by Superintendent Ferguson.

Bill Carey, on behalf of the boys, said there was one way in which they could repay Mr. O'Shannessy for the interest he had taken and that was by sticking to that fine sense of sportsmanship which he had moulded into their lives and by growing up to be good, law-abiding young men. They would try to do that. He presented a silver cake tray to Mr. and Mrs. O'Shannessy from club members.

Mr. G. S. R. Park, president of Cockburn Shire Council, congratulated Mr. O'Shannessy on his transfer and spoke of his good work as a vice-president of the Shire Central Patriotic Fund.

Superintendent Ferguson spoke of Constable O'Shannessy's high qualities as a police officer, and thanked him for the loyalty, efficiency and common sense he had shown in handling all police matters. Superintendent Ferguson also referred to the work of Mr. O'Shannessy in the Police

Ferguson also referred to the work of Mr. O'Shannessy in the Police Boys' Club, and the fine family of boys that Mr. and Mrs. O'Shannessy were bringing up.

Mr. A. E. Quick, president of Attunga P. and C. Association, spoke of Mr. O'Shannessy's organising ability and co-operation. He was an active vice-president of the district council of the P. and C. Association and had achieved remarkable success on deputations connected with school transport.

Mr. Magennis thanked Mr. O'Shannessy for his co-operation with the school and his work as deputy chief observer of the V.A.O.C. and Attunga hospital auxiliary.

Mr. E. Cleary, president of Tamworth Base Hospital Board, expressed the hope that Mr. O'Shannessy would be able to help in some way the hospital at Attunga as he had done in Tamworth.

On behalf of the public, Mr. Carey then presented a Westminster chime clock suitably inscribed to Mrs. O'Shannessy.

Mr. Phelan made the presentation to Mr. O'Shannessy of a travelling bag and wallet.

Mr. Quick on behalf of the P. and C. members presented Mr. O'Shannessy with a shaving compact.

Mr. W. Coleman, secretary of

Attunga Patriotic Fund, presented a brush and comb set on the fund's behalf.

Constable Ewin presented a set of carvers on behalf of members of the Tamworth Police Boys' Club.

The Very Rev. Dr. Dunne presented prayer books to each member of the family on behalf of the Catholic community at Attunga. He said they had been an exemplary family and that Mr. O'Shannessy could always be relied upon to save him time and worry in connection with church matters.

Mr. O'Shannessy, responding, said it would be impossible for him to express his thanks adequately to the public and the speakers. It was a sad occasion for him in many ways, as he had lived nine and a half years among them. He hoped that he would in some measure be able to live up to the high expectations of his superior officers, as expressed by Superintendent Ferguson and Sergeant Canning. Any success he had, he said, was attributable in large measure to the type of people with whom he worked and the unselfish devotion of his wife to home affairs.