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# Manhunt trio's life of crime cited

**HELEN KEMPTON**

THREE men involved in a foiled robbery which culminated in a manhunt last year had 160 convictions for crimes of dishonesty between them.

The Supreme Court in Burnie was told Malcolm Joshua Mayne, 21, and Corey Jon Stokes, 18, of Rocherlea, and Timothy Robert John Sagggers, 20, of Deloraine, had spent most of their teenage years in custody.

Yesterday the trio pleaded guilty to a charge of aggravated burglary and stealing relating to the interrupted aggravated burglary on September 17 last year.

Mayne also pleaded guilty to two charges of aggravated assault against Wynyard police sergeant Tony Stewart.

Sgt Stewart was in court yesterday but asked Justice Helen Wood to read his victim impact statement, outlining how the incident had affected him, in private.

The court heard Mayne, who was high on the drug

ice at the time, had raised an axe and pointed a firearm at Sgt Stewart and told his accomplices they could "f...ing take" the officer after he sprang them inside a Table Cape Rd house.

That day, Sgt Stewart pulled his gun from its holster for the first time in his 14-year career.

Mayne was arrested at the scene after a scuffle with Sgt Stewart.

Sagggers and Stokes fled, but were found hiding in a Burnie house after a 24-hour manhunt.

The trio has been in custody since September.

Mayne has 28 prior convictions for burglary, 54 for stealing, 15 for aggravated burglary, eight for motor vehicle stealing and five for escape.

His lawyer Adrian Hall said Mayne acknowledged that he was not a "top bloke" and had an appalling record for crimes of dishonesty.

"But usually he is a burglar who checks that nobody is home. Armed

robbery is not in his modus operandi," Mr Hall said.

"While he was armed, the weapons were carried without premeditation. He did not expect to have to confront anybody."

The court was told Mayne was high on ice when he committed the crimes last September.

The court heard the men had travelled from Launceston to Wynyard in a stolen car before they broke into a house in Table Cape Rd.

Sgt Stewart was alerted to the crime by a member of the public, and attended the scene alone.

Mayne produced a pistol and pointed it at the officer with his finger on the trigger, while demanding the keys to the police car.

Sgt Stewart threw the keys on the road and pulled out his revolver when Mayne bent down to pick them up.

Mayne tried to lock himself in the police car, but Sgt Stewart disabled

him with capsicum spray.

Mayne and his two accomplices ran towards Wynyard, but Sgt Stewart tackled Mayne and arrested him.

The replica pistol used in the assault was found in the driveway.

Justice Wood ordered pre-sentence reports for all three offenders.

The men will be sentenced in Hobart next month.



**FOILED ROBBERY:**  
**Sergeant Tony Stewart**