



**RHODES SCHOLARSHIP FOR TASMANIA FOR 2027
ANNOUNCEMENT BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE CAROLINE WELLS
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER 2026**

Good afternoon and welcome to Government House for the announcement of the Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar for 2027.

I'd like to begin by acknowledging the Palawa people as the First Peoples of lutruwita/Tasmania and the Traditional Custodians of the land we're gathered on today.

For countless generations, they have cared for this island, its landscapes, its waterways and its communities, and I'm grateful to be able to live, work and meet here.

I pay my respects to Elders past and present, and to any Aboriginal people with us today. Your continuing contribution to the cultural, social and spiritual life of our State is deeply valued.

This year, the selection committee brought six applicants to the interview stage. All have demonstrated academic excellence in their various fields as well as significant leadership and community service. As is almost always the case, the task of the selection committee was very difficult. We commend each of you for making it to this interview stage.

The Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar for 2027 is:

Ash Burke

[Applause]

I have an additional announcement to make. As well as sending a Rhodes Scholar from each State, the Rhodes Trust sends scholars from what is called 'Australia-at-Large'.

Each State and Territory is permitted to nominate one or two people for this Rhodes Scholarship and the nominees from around the country are interviewed for selection by a National Selection Panel.

The Tasmanian Selection Committee has not always nominated an applicant for the National Rhodes Scholarship, but this year we have decided to send one candidate to the National Selection process to be held in Canberra later this month. The candidate we have selected is:

May Hensher

[Applause]

Congratulations to our Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar, and all of our applicants. You have all demonstrated that you have the capability to make a difference in our community and I encourage you to take up all of the opportunities presented to you.

Now, please, enjoy the afternoon tea together.

Thank you.