



NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE
ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE CAROLINE WELLS
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
TASMANIA POLICE ACADEMY, ROKEBY
TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2026

Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge the Palawa people as the First Peoples of Lutruwita/Tasmania and the Traditional Custodians of this land. For countless generations, they have cared for and nurtured this remarkable island — its landscapes, waterways and communities.

I pay my respects to Elders past and present, and recognise the enduring contribution of Aboriginal Tasmanians to the cultural, social and spiritual life of our State.

Each year, Tasmanians come together on this day to remember and honour those police officers who lost their lives while serving our community.

Remembrance carries a **deeper** meaning than simply looking back. It is one of the ways a community expresses what it values — the stories we choose to preserve, the people we choose to honour, and the **events** we choose to hold in our collective memory.

In doing so, we pass something on to future generations: an understanding of who we are, where we have come from, and what we believe is worth remembering.

The Office of Governor carries with it a particular sense of continuity. Governments change, priorities evolve and generations pass, but the Office of Governor sits within a much longer story — connecting the Tasmania of today with the Tasmania of generations before us.

With that continuity comes a responsibility to remember.

To remember not only the achievements of public life or moments of collective celebration, but, **importantly**, to remember service.

To remember duty.

To remember those whose commitment to this State and its people came at the greatest personal cost.

The significance of that service does not diminish with time.

As the years pass, our memories can change. Those who served alongside a fallen colleague may retire. Families grow and change. New generations arrive without personal memories of the people or events we gather here to honour.

But our responsibility to remember remains.

That is why **this day**, and **this ceremony**, matter.

They remind us that a life lived in service to others does not become less significant simply because time has passed. The distance of years does not lessen the value of that service, nor the place those who served hold in the story of our community.

I am sure that this carries a **particular** meaning for the families and loved ones gathered here today.

For you, remembrance is not confined to a single day in September. It lives with you **every day**, regardless of the month or the year.

No ceremony can take away the loss you have experienced, or lessen the place your loved one continues to hold in your life. But what we can do, together, is ensure that the weight of remembrance does not rest with families alone.

It is shared by colleagues, friends, serving officers and the wider Tasmanian community.

I hope that today gives you the reassurance that Tasmania remembers — not simply on this day, and not only on significant anniversaries, but as an enduring part of who we are as a community.

Today, as we remember Keith Smith, our most recently lost officer, and all Tasmanian police officers who have lost their lives in service, we recognise their place in the story of this State.

Their names remain part of Tasmania's memory. Their service remains part of our history. And the contribution they made continues to shape both Tasmania Police and the community they served.

To the women and men serving in Tasmania Police today, **you** are the current custodians of a tradition that reaches across generations.

That tradition continues because, each day, you choose to put on the uniform, to serve others and to stand alongside your colleagues and your community.

For that service, this community is deeply grateful.

The lives and service of those who came before you have helped shape policing today. In the same way, your actions, your dedication and your care for others will help shape the future — not only for those who follow you into policing, but for the Tasmanian community as a whole.

National Police Remembrance Day is therefore not only an opportunity to look back. It is also an opportunity to come together — to honour those we have lost, to support those who carry their memory, and to recognise those who continue to serve.

And, in doing so, we renew a shared commitment: that those who gave their lives in service to this community will not be forgotten.

That is a promise we have come together today to make, and one which we will carry forward together.

Thank you.