



**RHODES SCHOLARSHIP FOR TASMANIA
SOCIAL EVENT FOR THE
SELECTION COMMITTEE AND CANDIDATES
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE CAROLINE WELLS
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER 2026**

Good evening and welcome to Government House for this social evening as part of the selection process to choose Tasmania's 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.

I would like to recognise from the outset the significant achievement of our candidates in reaching the final round. So sincere congratulations to you all.

Tonight's reception is about providing an occasion in which you can meet and interact with the selection committee in a less formal setting than the interviews tomorrow. It's an opportunity for us to get to know you, hear about your experience and what matters to you, while also helping you feel as comfortable as possible and to just have a relaxed conversation.

Much of my energy during these first few months as Governor has gone into finding the balance between honouring an office with a long history and bringing my whole self to the role.

I strongly believe authenticity is paramount and that's something I've tried to bring to all my roles. People see when you aren't being genuine. **They** notice. Remember, authenticity will trump 'interview-ability' throughout the process.¹

We are all very interested in getting to know you, so please enjoy the reception, enjoy each other's company, and trust that who you are is exactly who we want to meet.

Wishing you all the very best for tomorrow.

Thank you.

¹ Rhodes Memorandum for Chairs of Selection Committees, Sept 2025