

**QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY 2021 HONOURS AND AWARDS INVESTITURE
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**

WYNYARD RSL, TUESDAY 25 JANUARY 2022

[VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED]

Please be seated. I warmly welcome you to this Investiture for recipients announced in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours List. This is the first time that we have conducted such a ceremony away from Government House. I am especially pleased to be able to be with you to celebrate this historic inaugural event.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community. I recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of colonisation upon our First People. I stand for a future that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal stories, culture, language and history.

Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Investitures have a most important function, namely, investing Australians with insignia in recognition of your achievements and contributions to the community.

The Investiture held here today and at Government Houses across the country have been quite different from past years because of ongoing Covid-19 restrictions. These restrictions require additional measures to keep ourselves and our communities safe. The wearing of our masks is a visible example of these measures. I hope that our ceremony in our smaller group, away from Government House, will be memorable for you.

Our Australian Honours System was inaugurated in 1975 by the creation of the Order of Australia. Awards in our Order are designed to recognise excellence, achievement or meritorious service by individual citizens. The Order helps to define, encourage and reinforce national ideals and values.¹

¹ <https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-11/FINAL%20Honours%20and%20Awards%20Branch%20-%20Five%20Year%20Statistical%20Report%202017-21.pdf> accessed 10 Jan 22

Our National Honours and Awards system relies entirely on nominations from within the community. Each recipient being recognised today has been nominated. Each nomination is extensively researched, before the nomination is considered by the independent Council for the Order of Australia. If considered suitable by the Council, it is recommended to the Governor-General. This is the system's great strength – it is free from influence and equally open to all. However, this requires nominators to be aware of the system, be motivated to engage with it and be able to access it.

Statistics show that indigenous people, women and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are underrepresented in our awards at all levels. The breadth of Australian society should be reflected in the outcomes of the Order of Australia and therefore should be represented in the nominations that are received.

I therefore encourage everyone to look around your communities and to consider whether there are people doing great work in the background. Usually these people would never consider themselves worthy of recognition. If there are, take the time to submit a nomination and provide the opportunity for all of that fine work to be acknowledged by a grateful community. Our award system relies on nominations from within our community.

As the booklet for this afternoon's Investiture demonstrates, our recipients have all invested a great deal of their time, energy and enthusiasm in the community and in national endeavours. We thank each of them for that work and commitment.

Deputy Official Secretary ...[David announces the three recipients one by one, per run sheet]