

**QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS AND AWARDS INVESTITURE
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
BALL ROOM, 10.00 am THURSDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**[VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED BY
AUSTRALIAN ARMY BAND TASMANIA]**

Please be seated. I warmly welcome you to this Investiture at Government House.

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, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

The Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Investitures held here, and at Government Houses across the country, are markedly different from past years in all but its most important function, namely, investing Australians with insignia in recognition of your achievements and contributions to the community.

The Investitures are different because ongoing Covid-19 restrictions dictate that we restrict numbers of recipients and guests. This means that instead of holding one large Queen's Birthday Investiture, this year we are hosting four.

Nevertheless, I hope that our being together in this smaller group will be memorable, for you and for its own sake. The fact that we are able to gather at all is perhaps a reminder that we are more fortunate than many other parts of Australia and other countries combating this insidious disease.

At the conclusion of the investiture formalities, we will enjoy a reception in the Drawing Room, with background music performed today by members of the Australian Army Band Tasmania. We thank the ADF for the many occasions on which members of the Army and Navy perform at Government House events.

The band's principal role is to enhance the image of the Australian Army through community and military engagements, and to provide musical support to ceremonial occasions. In addition, the band regularly supports charitable organisations and appears at major sporting and significant community events.

At the conclusion of the reception and because this second day of spring is such a splendid one, you are most welcome to walk in the Government House gardens. The daffodils in particular look wonderful. As you can see here and in the Main Hallway, our garden staff and florist cultivate and arrange a variety of beautiful flowers.

Mention of the gardens reminds me that one of this year's 24 recipients received an honour in the field of ornithology. If you have a stroll, you may see native hens, cockatoos, Quarry pond ducks, ravens, lorikeets, and tiny migrating swallows, which have been nesting in the stone eaves of the Dry Moat for many generations.

Our Australian Honours System was inaugurated in 1975 by the creation of the Order of Australia. Awards in the Order are designed to recognise excellence, achievement or meritorious service by individual citizens.

The Order of Australia helps to define, encourage and reinforce national ideals and values. Accordingly, honours are awarded to express thanks to those who make a difference, to those who achieve their best and to those who serve others.

Among those being invested this week, including some who are not here today, are honours in fields as diverse as local government, oceanographic research, law, sport, ornithology, agriculture, and more.

And during this morning's ceremony, it is my privilege to invest with insignia six Tasmanians with Order of Australia Medals.

Official Secretary ...

[David announces the recipients one by one, per run sheet]