

**AUSTRALIA DAY 2022 INVESTITURE
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
BALL ROOM, 2.30 PM THURSDAY 5 MAY 2022**

[VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED BY AABT – MINSTRELS' GALLERY]

PLEASE BE SEATED

It is with great pleasure that my husband and I welcome you to this Australia Day investiture ceremony 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. 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.

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

The Order of Australia helps to define, encourage and reinforce national aspirations, ideals and standards by identifying role models.

Accordingly, honours are awarded to recognise, to celebrate and to say thank you to those who make a difference, to those who achieve their best and to those who serve others.

Australian honours are unique in that they were designed for nominations made by the community. Our Australian honours system is free of patronage or political influence. Anyone can nominate an Australian citizen for an honour.

There are some 58 awards¹ in the Australian Honours System – of which the best known are the awards in the Order of Australia, which will be conferred today.

Our ceremony today is restricted in numbers of guests attending, due to ongoing COVID safety measures. However, this in no way diminishes the importance and significance of these proceedings. In the text in your Investiture booklets on each of today's recipients, you will see they work in areas that are of great community assistance, highly inspirational, and often challenging and complex.

You have detailed information about their wonderful contributions, however I would like to say a few words about each of them.

Mrs Betty Laverty has spent her life in music, with both her parents being musical. She has had an extensive career volunteering in a number of positions, including the original Launceston Festivale Committee, and schools and clubs her two sons were a part of. She was Secretary for the Tasmanian Branch of the Australian Pipe Bands Association for 10 years. She was Secretary of the St Andrews Caledonian Pipe Band, for which she was head-hunted, and was Secretary for 21 years of the Launceston School for Seniors. She still holds a tutor role with the school and has been a life member since 2015.

(The Examiner, 26 January 2022, pages 4, 5.)

Mr Andrew McGregor has been a hardworking member of the Break O'Day community, including the St Helen's community, providing outstanding service. He has been a member of many different organisations in the Break O'Day area, including a Board member for the Tasmanian Community Fund since 2018, Chair of the Medea Park Residential Care for 8 years, and Chair since 2018 of the Break O'Day Community Financial Services Limited, among many other contributions to the community.

(The Examiner, 26 January 2022, page 4.)

Mrs Elizabeth Perkins is a returned soldier. She was recruited and served in Singapore from 1971-1972 with Top Secret Clearance and tasked with decrypting and encrypting messages during the Vietnam War. She has worked with the Ulverstone RSL since 2004, being President between 2010 and 2012. She has spent years volunteering at the Ulverstone Visitor Information Centre, registering as a Justice of the Peace, managing a TAFE student bookshop and generally contributing to her community. *(The Advocate, 26 January 2022, page 15.)*

Mr John Phillips was only in his twenties when he started his first cooperative housing society, using his finance skills to try and help those from a lower socio-economic background into secure housing. In 1973 he took on the role of General Manager for Bass Permanent Building Society for nearly two decades. He then founded Tassie Home Loans in Devonport. In 1992 he became a committee member of Food Plant Solutions Program, being President in 2004-2005. He also chaired the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal for the Devonport area and spent 10 years at the Devonport Lions Club.

(The Advocate, 26 January 2022, page 15.)

Mrs Vicki Purnell founded Bridie's Blossoms and Blessings through which she creates hand-made care packages for families and small outfits for stillborn and miscarried babies. She uses her sewing skills to bring comfort to those experiencing some of the hardest times of their lives. She advocated for changes to the Stillborn Baby Payment legislation to allow more families to give their child a dignified farewell. Mrs Purnell has brought comfort to many families during times of immense grief.

(The Advocate, 26 January 2022, page 15.)

I warmly congratulate you all.

And so, it is now my privilege to invest with insignia these worthy Tasmanians.

Official Secretary ...

<https://www.pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/government/pictorial-guide-awards-australian-honours-system>