

TASMANIA POLICE GRADUATION CEREMONY
RECRUIT COURSE 3/2021
ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
TASMANIA POLICE ACADEMY, ROKEBY, FRIDAY 17 JUNE 2022

Thank you, Commissioner, for your kind introduction.

I too acknowledge the traditional and original owners of this land — the palawa people, and the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community. I also pay my respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have served as first responders and contributed to the protection of the Tasmanian and national community.

I am privileged to have been invited to review today's graduation parade and to present the graduation certificates. This is an important day not only for the 24 members of Graduating Course 3 of 2021, their families and loved ones, and our Tasmania Police, but also for our broader Tasmanian community.

I say this because I have worked in our Justice System for many years, I am very aware that the career that you have chosen is both rewarding and challenging.

You will serve and protect our Tasmanian community that is diverse in terms of gender, age, social, cultural and economic backgrounds. The needs and demands of the people who call for your assistance will be challenging, unique and, at times threatening. You will witness and attend incidents that the community you serve will never experience.

Your chosen career requires you to make sound decisions quickly for the protection of the public and for yourself. It is expected that you will always react with complete professionalism and the utmost integrity.

Your new role brings with it a conspicuous and public profile; your actions and decisions will always be subject to public scrutiny; you will be held to higher standards than the public, not only in your professional roles, but also in your private lives. At times you are likely to be provoked; and your professionalism, patience and tolerance will be tested.

May I offer a personal example. Driving home with a passenger some years ago after a Law Society function, I noticed that a police car that had been following me since I left the function. My passenger had enjoyed a few drinks. The police

car's lights were flashing, so I pulled over. It was obvious to me that this was a random breath test. My passenger being, as he modestly claimed, a brilliant and incredibly accomplished legal mind, took it upon himself to lecture the two officers, claiming "that the police had no right to stop me and this was illegal breathalysing". I was very grateful that the officers demonstrated much tolerance and patience for my protesting and rather rude passenger and that they acted with utmost professionalism. As your Governor, I think I should declare that I blew point zero, zero. It was the first day of *Febfast*, in which I was participating!

As graduates, you have demonstrated tertiary level standards and competencies across a diverse range of topics required. You have studied across a range of law and ethics to operational and tactical aspects of your role. You are now equipped with the skills and knowledge you need to start your careers as first responders.

Through Tasmania Police, you will have access to further opportunities to continue your education and professional development. I encourage you to take these opportunities and make the most of them.

Next week, as you commence your duties in Police stations across our State, you will get to know that Tasmania Police continues to enjoy high levels of public confidence. It is renowned for its integrity, professionalism, reliability, and leadership. This has been demonstrated especially in the Covid crisis over the past two years.

May we reflect further on your personal leadership, Commissioner. This is my first graduation ceremony as Governor, and this is your last as you conclude your career with Tasmania Police.

You have served for 42 years. I am informed that in your time as Commissioner you have officiated at 36 graduations. You have sworn in some 647 new Officers, which equates to almost 50% of the current Tasmania Police Force, an extraordinary achievement.

As Commissioner, through your dedication and your dignified, progressive leadership, you have promoted a culture of integrity, diversity, equality, and professionalism through education within our Tasmania Police. A most impressive legacy. I wish to thank you Commissioner, not only on behalf of all here today, but also on behalf of all Tasmanians for your exemplary service. Please join me in acknowledging our Commissioner.

Graduates, I would now like to extend my congratulations to your families and loved ones who have supported you, believed in you, rallied you, *[and I am reliably informed for many of you, done your washing...]* Do not forget that they will continue to be there with you throughout your policing careers.

Finally, I offer my sincerest congratulations to each of you for graduating from our Tasmania Police Academy.

I warmly wish you every success in your policing careers. On behalf of our Tasmanian community, thank you for your commitment to this vitally important public role.