

NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE
ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
TASMANIA POLICE ACADEMY, ROKEBY
THURSDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2022

Good morning to you all. I am most honoured to be here with you today.

I begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathered, and pay my respects to their Elders, past, and present. I would also like to pay my respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who serve and have served as police officers both here in Tasmania, and nationally, and who have contributed to the safety and protection of the Tasmanian and national community.

I would like to acknowledge here among us:

- Commissioner Darren Hine,
- Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Higgins,
- Family members, friends, and colleagues.

It is a privilege to be here to honour and remember the police officers who have lost their lives in the course of carrying out their duties.

Having worked in the justice system for many years, I am aware that policing is a rewarding career, but it is also a challenging and demanding one. Our Tasmanian community relies not only on your hard work, dedication, integrity and professionalism, but also importantly, on your bravery and courage. Your duties regularly place you in unexpected, confronting and, at times, dangerous situations that are physically demanding and involving significant risk and stress.

You have a difficult job that often goes unrecognised, unrewarded, and is sometimes criticised; your commitment, courage, and resilience is expected. I acknowledge with gratitude the courage and dedication of each and every policer officer.

This day reminds us of the sacrifices ordinary people have made in extraordinary circumstances and ensures that they, and their families, will not be forgotten.

It was with great sadness that I learned of the passing of Constable Sam Allen on Sunday. His exemplary dedication and commitment to our community was evident throughout his service, both as a police officer and as a volunteer firefighter.

I express my greatest sympathy to Sam's wife, Andrea, and family for your loss. I also express my condolences to Sam's colleagues and friends. His loss has been felt not only throughout the police and volunteer firefighter organisations, but also in our community. This is a testament to the caring and generous person he was.

Commissioner, as this is your last Police Remembrance Day as Commissioner, may I, as Governor of Tasmania, thank you on behalf of all Tasmanians for your dedication and your dignified and progressive leadership. We thank you for leading us through state emergencies, the pandemic, and for promoting equality and diversity within the organisation.

Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of investing you with a Meritorious Award, the Public Service Medal. As State Emergency Management Controller, you coordinated the whole of Tasmanian government emergency response to COVID-19. You had to coordinate all the government agencies and the Australian Defence Force response.

We have been fortunate to have had your leadership and the culture you created. You are an exemplary role model for all within our emergency services and within our broader community. You leave a legacy of integrity, commitment to education, equality, diversity, and professionalism. This organisation will benefit from your legacy for many years to come.

May I conclude, on this important day of remembrance, that we honour and remember all those officers who have given their lives in the course of their duties. To their family, friends and colleagues bereaved by their loss, we offer our condolences and we express our gratitude for their contribution to our society and protection of our community.

We shall remember them.