

**DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S GOLD AWARDS 2022**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2022**

**VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED**

Good evening and welcome to the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Ceremony for 2022.

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 and recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea, and waters. I recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of colonisation upon our First People. I commit to a future that listens to and respects Aboriginal stories, culture and history.

I welcome our official guests:

- Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Tasmania Board Member, Billy Blackett; and
- State Manager, Steve Halloran.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award was inaugurated in Tasmania on 24 October 1962. This year is the 60th Anniversary of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in Tasmania.

This is a significant anniversary to thank the Award Leaders and Award Centres for their support and contribution to the lives of so many young Australians over these 60 years.

Over 775,000 young people have completed the Award in Australia. In addition, there are around 60,000 volunteers helping young people undertake their Award challenge every year.

The Award program was first introduced in the United Kingdom in 1956, as The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The aim was to encourage and motivate boys, aged between 15 and 18, to become involved in a balanced program of voluntary self-development activities, which aimed to take them through the potentially difficult period between adolescence and adulthood.

The program was designed with great care by a small team, led by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh; Dr Kurt Hahn, German educationalist and founder of Outward Bound and the United World Colleges; and Sir John (later Lord) Hunt, the leader of the first Mount Everest team, conquered by Edmund Hilary.

Within the first year of its establishment the lower age limit was reduced to 14, where it has stayed ever since. A girls' scheme was launched in 1958. These two separate schemes were amalgamated in 1969. In 1957, the upper age limit was increased to 19, increased again in 1965 to 20, in 1969 to 21, and finally in 1980 to 25.

One of the unique features of the Award is its flexibility. It has, therefore, been relatively easy to adapt to and incorporate different cultural and societal needs. The programme has developed and grown and now reaches young people in over 120 countries.

The Award's philosophy is based on principles of non-competitiveness, voluntary participation and access for all. Progress is based on the assessment of each participant's effort and improvement, so young people of all abilities and backgrounds can participate. Academic prowess or expensive equipment are not required.

The Awards aim to encourage personal discovery and growth, self-reliance, and perseverance in the value of community service.

These young people gain important leadership and physical skills; and the benefits of resilience, commitment and dedication to achievement continue.

The wider community benefits through the voluntary service provided while recipients earn their Awards. These benefits continue to reverberate through the community for years after the Awards have been presented.

Building on previous success, Tasmania has achieved fine participation rates two years in a row. The addition of seven new Award Centres in 2022 indicates a strong interest in the program and indicates likely expansion in 2023.

This afternoon, we are here to recognise the achievements of ten young people who have earned their Gold Award. I am sure we all admire the diversity of the activities undertaken. We are all looking forward to hearing more about these ten young Tasmanians and their stories.

In conclusion, I congratulate all those who give their time to run the scheme in Tasmania; all the volunteer supporters, all the sponsors and the members of the State Award Committee. Your work not only benefits the individual participants but also the future of our community.

David ... [invites Steve Halloran, State Manager, to make the ten presentations.]