

TASMANIAN AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2023
SPEECH BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
CROWNE PLAZA, HOBART, FRIDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2022

Thank you Ryk. *[Ryk Goddard, MC, introducing HE]*

I pay 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 culture. 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.

May I, as co-host with the Premier and on behalf of us all again, congratulate the finalists. May we also congratulate the winners of the categories announced so far this afternoon.

In my role as Governor, I have the opportunity and the privilege to meet many Tasmanians from all walks of life. I am constantly inspired by the generosity, constant commitment and good nature of many Tasmanians. We help others and provide community and other services in so many ways, all without thought of reward. So, these awards are important, and represent and acknowledge our spirit of generosity and selflessness.

Each finalist nominated is an ambassador of our State, and an inspirational role model. Each of you exemplify what can be done in different ways to enrich and contribute to our community. Your nomination is an achievement of which you can be personally proud.

An example of generosity and how these Awards generate and provide another worthy benefit is that of one of the Award recipients, our 2022 Tasmanian Australian of the Year, Craig Leeson, next month will talk and provide a film screening, pro bono, at a fundraising evening hosted by Government House. All funds raised will be donated to the not-for-profit, apolitical, science and

community-based Tasmanian Land Conservancy. This organisation protects rare Tasmanian ecosystems by buying, conserving and managing areas of private land.¹

Congratulations again to all the award nominees and winners, and, indeed, to all those who support these Awards, including those who made the nominations.

Thank you, and over to you, Ryk ...

¹ <https://tasland.org.au/about-the-tlc/>, accessed 3 November 2022.