

**AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE  
PRINCE OF WALES AWARD 2023 PRESENTATION  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
DRAWING ROOM, WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2023**

I warmly welcome you all to this presentation for the Tasmania recipient of the Prince of Wales Award for 2023, Flight Lieutenant David North.

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

May I also acknowledge:

- Air Commodore David Paddison and Wing Commander Andrew Johnson, Senior Air Force Officer and Commanding Officer No 29 (City of Hobart) Squadron
- Lieutenant Colonel Neil Grierson, Senior ADF Officer – Tasmania and Army Area Representative
- Commander Mark Tandy, Commander, Navy Headquarters Tasmania
- Acting Assistant Commissioner Mark Mewis, representing the Commissioner of Police
- and the North family, who have supported David for so long.

The Prince of Wales Award recognises defence reservists and their civilian employers for their outstanding contribution to the Australian Defence Force.

The Award provides an opportunity for reservists to undertake a training or development activity that is related to and directly benefits their civilian occupation or profession. The aim is that the experiences and enhanced knowledge from the Award will provide ongoing benefits to the civilian employer and the workplace.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.reserveemployersupport.gov.au/reservists/awards-and-recognition/> accessed 7 Feb 23

The selection process is competitive. Significantly, this is the first time a Tasmanian has received the award since 2019. The Scheme provides reservists with up to \$8000 in funding to undertake training and develop new skills beneficial to their civilian career.<sup>2</sup> The funds may be applied to enable the recipient to undertake a chosen activity, such as a training course or conference attendance, within Australia or overseas.

You will hear shortly about the activity, selected by Flight Lieutenant North, for his project.

I am particularly thrilled to make this presentation, as David serves as one of my Honorary Aides-de-Camp as part of his reserve service.

I very much appreciate his service and am aware that his duties here and as a member of the RAAF Police must be balanced with his primary employment as a Sergeant with Tasmania Police.

According to Lieutenant General John Frewen, Chief of Joint Capabilities: “The Prince of Wales Awards recognises the dedication of our ADF reservists and the valued support they receive from their civilian employers.”<sup>3</sup> I am therefore particularly delighted that the Commissioner has been able to send her representative, Acting Assistant Commissioner Specialist Support Mark Mewis, to join us. He will receive a certificate to acknowledge the support of Tasmania Police to Sergeant North.

I would like to thank you all for being here for this presentation and to recognise Flight Lieutenant North for his outstanding achievement.

David...

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.reserveemployersupport.gov.au/news-and-events/news/prince-of-wales-award-winners-2022/> accessed 7 Feb 23

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/releases/2022-12-13/adf-reservists-civilian-careers-and-employers-receive-boost-through-prince-wales-awards#:~:text=%E2%80%9CThe%20Prince%20of%20Wales%20Awards,skills%20and%20undertake%20additional%20training.> Accessed 7 Feb 23