

**TASMANIAN COMMUNITY FUND
EMERGING COMMUNITY LEADERS PROGRAM 2022
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2023**

[VICE-REGAL SALUTE]

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to Government House. It is particularly delightful to have you all here tonight for this graduation ceremony to recognise and celebrate your achievements as graduates of the Emerging Community Leaders Program.

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 acknowledge here among us tonight:

- Sally Darke, Chairperson of the Tasmanian Community Fund;
- Tony Chapman and Rikki Mawad, facilitators of the Emerging Community Leaders Program;
- The Honourable Rob Valentine MLC;
- The Honourable Meg Webb MLC;
- Program graduates and their proud families, representatives and friends.

Our Tasmanian Community Fund supports and is actively engaged in developing leaders across our community. This valuable program provides opportunities to participants to learn and develop leadership skills in governance, communication, project management, leadership management and finance.¹ I congratulate Sally Darke and her team for the support and sponsorship of this program.

¹ <https://www.emergingcommunityleaders.org>

Importantly, may I warmly congratulate all of you who have graduated. You now have the privilege of taking on responsibilities to make a difference for the better in your workplaces and in our community.

I thought I would talk briefly about my leadership responsibilities as Governor, which fall into three roles: constitutional, ceremonial, and community.

Constitutionally, I have the final step in our legislative process. I assent to bills passed by both Houses of Parliament so they become law. I also commission the Premier and appoint our Ministers. I preside over Executive Council meetings, where I consider and sign off on delegated legislation.

As Governor, I also have the authority to make a ruling if the Parliament becomes unworkable. This could happen if the Government loses its majority, or if an election fails to produce a majority for any one party. This authority is called a Reserve Power and is rarely required.

Ceremonially, I officiate at formal ceremonies such as this graduation. I also officiate at investiture ceremonies that recognise and publicly acknowledge outstanding, dedicated, and hardworking members of our community. Awards recognise those whose efforts have significantly contributed to the betterment of our Tasmanian and broader Australian community.

However, it is my community role that is the busiest and most enjoyable. I especially value and enjoy interacting with people and as part of my role, I meet and engage with diverse communities across our State. I am currently patron to and support 128 valued charities and community organisations.

In my community role, I can communicate community concerns to state agencies and local governments. I can support and raise awareness for important community causes and projects, as examples, our Cancer Council, Eat Well Tasmania, Hobart Women's Shelter, and 26TEN improving adult literacy and numeracy.

Through my many community engagements, I have been given the privilege of seeing and appreciating the many committed, dedicated, and tireless, Tasmanians who give their time to work and support our communities. I thank

all these volunteers. We are a better and more caring community for their efforts.

An essential aspect and responsibility of being a community leader is developing the next generation of community leaders. The more leaders we have, the more people can consider and work on issues surrounding such as youth, homelessness, mental health, equality, diversity, inclusion, crime reduction, economic growth, and the environment to name a few.

Professor Neville Norman, a patron of Vision Australia, has noted 'sometimes it takes a crisis to bring out innate leadership characteristics'.² We do seem to be constantly navigating from crisis to crisis in recent years.

Our community leaders can help us through these challenges. As emerging leaders, you will no doubt be thinking about how you can apply the skills you have learned and about what impact you can make in your workplace and in our community.

I again congratulate each of you and I wish you all the very best in your efforts to lead our community.

Thank you... David

² https://www.ourcommunity.com.au/leadership/leadership_article.jsp?articleId=2421