

**TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION  
OF POLICE AND COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUBS (PCYC)  
RECEPTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE  
STAFF, VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH 2023**

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to this reception to acknowledge the work of volunteers, staff and supporters of the Tasmanian Association of Police and Community Youth Clubs (PCYC).

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 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 among us:

- the Honourable Felix Ellis, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
- Glenorchy City Council Deputy Mayor Sue Hickey
- Assistant Commissioners of Police Adrian Bodnar and Robert Blackmore
- Tasmanian Association of the PCYC Board Members, including President Debra Thurley, Liz Makin, Sam Thompson and Ben Shaw
- Representatives of the PCYC in Burnie, Huonville and Bridgewater
- and all the supporters of the work of our Tasmanian Association of PCYC across our State.

We know that PCYCs have been active in Tasmania for over 70 years. They began in Tasmania soon after World War II in 1948. They were established to address the needs of youth following that conflict, which left many without fathers.

The Clubs are the largest youth organisation in Australia. They provide a wide range of sporting and recreational activities for youths with an aim to reduce crime by providing positive relationships between young people and our police.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.police.tas.gov.au/programs/pcyc/> accessed 21 Feb 23

The Tasmanian Association of Police and Community Youth Clubs Inc (TAPCYC) is a not-for-profit youth-based community organisation that was first incorporated in the early 1980s. It is the peak body for affiliated PCYCs currently operating throughout Tasmania. The focus of PCYCs historically has been to provide programs from the local PCYC building.

One initiative has been to broaden the role to provide outreach programs to youth from outlying areas. This has seen the creation of the Mobile Activity Centre, which is a trailer equipped to provide numerous activities and health and welfare information in identified areas of need.

We know that PCYCs are exceptionally well run. Samantha and Justin from the Bridgewater PCYC have been recognised in the Telstra Business Awards 2023 'Building Communities' category. This award celebrates small and medium-sized businesses and organisations that make a positive impact on their communities in a way that benefits everyone.<sup>2</sup>

The Telstra Business Award follows on from an earlier award in 2019<sup>3</sup> to Bridgewater PCYC, for providing a safe environment for youth and the community to enhance their future career and personal development.

I am sure we all wish Bridgewater every success representing Tasmania in the National Awards this month. *[applause]*

It is important to remember that PCYCs are reliant on volunteers to provide their programs. Significantly, almost 70% of Tasmanians volunteer in some way. This translates to almost 300, 000 people across our State serving their communities.

May I acknowledge one such volunteer, Kim Smith, who has been involved with the PCYC since 1976. He was Tasmanian Local Hero 2022 and was chosen to attend the funeral of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Amongst many contributions, Kim was responsible for the establishment of Reclink, a group who provide sporting opportunities for street youth.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://newnorfolknews.com/2023/02/21126/> accessed 27 Feb 23

<sup>3</sup> <https://exchange.telstra.com.au/have-your-say-on-australias-best-business/> accessed 27 Feb 23

I am pleased to note that there is a connection between Reclink and Government House, where we regularly host groups to play bowls, croquet and tennis on our grounds.

This reception celebrates the work being done by PCYC in partnership with our Tasmania Police and local communities. I am delighted to acknowledge the work of all involved with our PCYC throughout Tasmania. You should all be justifiably proud of your achievements and impact on our at-risk youth.

Thank you for all that you do.

Now, please, enjoy the reception and please look around our beautiful State Rooms that will be opened shortly.