

**AUSTRALIA DAY INVESTITURE
ORDER OF AUSTRALIA HONOURS
BALL ROOM, GOVERNMENT HOUSE TASMANIA
2.30 PM, FRIDAY 12 MAY 2023**

[Vice-Regal Salute is played]

Please be seated.

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 the land and sea.

Ladies and Gentlemen, my wife and I extend a very warm welcome to you all to this ceremony at Government House to invest with insignia those who have been awarded 2023 Australia Day Honours.

I would particularly like to welcome:

- The Honourable Craig Farrell MLC, President of the Legislative Council
- Ms Ella Haddad MP, representing the Leader of the Opposition.

1975 saw the commencement of the distinctive Australian Honours System with the creation of the Order of Australia to recognise those who have demonstrated outstanding service or exceptional achievement.

There are four levels of award, and the Order of Australia also has a Military Division.

It is significant that any person may nominate a member of the community for an award in the Order of Australia. This is because nominating someone is a chance to recognise our peers for their hard work, service and dedication. It is an opportunity to celebrate those inspiring people who make our nation what it is.

When His Excellency the Governor-General announced this year's Australia Day Honours List, he said this:

"The recipients have had a significant impact at the local, national and international level and are, quite simply, inspiring. They go above and beyond, are from all over the country, and contribute every day in every way imaginable. These are the people who see us through good times and bad. They're the first to show up and the last to leave."

We have ample evidence of that in today's Investiture of eleven individuals. Their areas of endeavour cover environmental management and protection; youth and disability services; business and corporate governance; aquaculture; the arts; heritage; regional services; and fire prevention services.

It is also worth noting that the historical gender imbalance of Australia Day award recipients is well addressed in this list.¹

And this variety is an excellent indicator of individual dedication to our community through contributing personal expertise in one or more fields of endeavour, and generally over very many years.

Therefore, on behalf of all Tasmanians I thank today's recipients for your inspiring service and for making a difference to our community and to the lives of others.

Official Secretary ...

¹ <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/order-of-australia-biased-against-women-admits-governor-general-20201222-p56pk2.html>, accessed 10 May 2023.