

**AUSTRALIA DAY INVESTITURE
AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY DECORATIONS AND
MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS
BALL ROOM, GOVERNMENT HOUSE TASMANIA
2.30 PM, THURSDAY 11 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 through Australian Bravery Decorations, and Meritorious Service Awards.

In announcing this year's Honours List, the Governor-General 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."

A number of today's Tasmanian recipients are recognised for their contribution in support of Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, their names have been added to the national COVID-19 Honour Roll. And although the World Health Organization has recently declared COVID-19 to no longer be a global health emergency, the lessons learned from the pandemic will definitely help us to deal with any future such mass medical emergency.

1975 saw the commencement of the distinctive Australian Honours System with the creation of the Order of Australia to recognise those who have given outstanding service to the nation or humanity.

At the same time the Australian Bravery Decorations and the National Medal were instituted. The Group Bravery Citation was added in 1990.

The Public Service Medal was established in 1989.

The Australian Police Medal for Distinguished Service was instituted in 1986, replacing previous Imperial awards.

The Australian Fire Service Medal was created in 1988 through a merger of previous awards.

The Emergency Services Medal was introduced in 1999.

The Australian Corrections Medal was established in 2017.

Today, 16 individuals will be invested with these Honours.

On behalf of all Tasmanians I thank you for your service and for making a difference to our community and to the lives of others.

Official Secretary ...