

**CHURCHILL FELLOWS ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA INC FORUM  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 22 AUGUST 2023**

**[Vice-Regal Salute is played]**

Good evening and a very warm welcome to this Churchill Fellows Association of Tasmania Forum.

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 land, sea and waters.

Vice-Regal patronage of the Churchill Fellows Association of Tasmania extends back many years. We have hosted presentation ceremonies for some hundreds of new and returned Fellows. I am pleased to continue our involvement with your Association, not least because of the value and diversity of the scheme. We shall be able to appreciate this value and diversity, as we hear shortly of the range of Fellows' presentations.

Excellence and innovation are key factors in the selection criteria each year, which is undertaken by our Tasmanian Regional Committee of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.

In Australia, the aim of the Trust is to enable selected individuals to further their professional endeavours overseas. The criterion of Benefit to Australia is a significant factor for selection.

One purpose of this Forum is to publicise the Churchill Fellowships. For those of you who may not know how they came about, may I mention that in 1962, the then Duke of Edinburgh asked Sir Winston Churchill, then aged 88, what memorial he would like to be established in his name. Churchill suggested an award like the prestigious Rhodes Scholarships. He suggested, however, that his

award should be available to a much wider base of applicants. And so, a few years later, the Churchill Trust was established in April 1965.

Today, more than 4,500 Australian Fellowships have been awarded. They have been awarded in just about every conceivable field of endeavour. 'Merit' is the broad and overarching determinant in selection.

May I conclude by referring to a publication about the work of the Churchill Trust. Published in 2016 and launched here in the Ball Room, the book is entitled *Bringing Knowledge Home: Tasmanian Churchill Fellows 1965-2015*. It is worthwhile reading for anyone who may want to find out more about these significant Fellowships, and advised reading for any potential applicant.

Thank you. David ...

[Invites Robert Parker, CFA Tasmania President, to speak and then MC the Forum.]