

NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK SOUTHERN TASMANIA 2023
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 14 AUGUST 2023

VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED

Good evening and a very warm welcome to this reception to mark National Science Week Southern Tasmania 2023.

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.

Tonight here, you will all recognise leaders in their fields, and have the opportunity to talk to them about our island's scientific endeavours and achievements. They may perhaps help you shape your science journey. One of the main reasons for this reception is to allow students, mentors and leaders in science to meet, to interact, and to share ideas.

Government House hosts this reception each year for this major national initiative of the Commonwealth Government through Inspiring Australia. We are proud to be associated with this reception for such a critically important element of our education system, namely the STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine) subjects.

This year the theme for National Science Week is *Innovation: Powering Future Industries*. That theme incorporates the advancement in technology in all industries, especially using artificial intelligence.¹ The program developed by the Elizabeth College team reflects that theme.

¹ <https://inspiringnsw.org.au/2023/07/19/national-science-week-2023-for-schools/> accessed 9 Aug 23

In addition, the National Science Week website² has some great ideas for DIY science projects. There are projects including how to trap a laser beam in a stream of water, to find out how enzymes work to clean our clothes and to help digest our food, and how to use the sun and stars to navigate and calculate times.

This is the 23rd year that Elizabeth College has been engaged in promoting science during Science Week Southern Tasmania. That's an excellent record. The College can be justly proud of its efforts to increase public understanding and appreciation of science, innovation, engineering and technology.

Elizabeth College usually gains funding to assist with the cost of the outreach programs each year. This year, unfortunately, there was no funding but that has not stopped a significant expansion with activities every day this week. The Elizabeth College team has been able to continue to provide opportunities for students to experience science in an engaging format.

The success of Tasmanian applicants in receiving grants to support Science Week has enabled events to be held across our State, in diverse areas such as artificial intelligence, sounds in space, coding and robotics, the nipaluna Nursery, and looking at our bodies, as stardust, using yoga.

We're now going to enjoy some live music.

The Elizabeth College Clarinet ensemble will shortly perform for us *You've Got a Friend* composed by Randy Newman and arranged for clarinet ensemble by Eric Abramovitz.

Congratulations to Elizabeth College and the National Science Week Committee members for organising such a varied and interesting program. I now invite you to enjoy the reception.

Thank you.

² <https://www.scienceweek.net.au/diy-science/> accessed 9 Aug 23