

NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE
ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
TASMANIA POLICE ACADEMY, ROKEBY, FRIDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2023

Good morning. I am honoured to be with you all this morning.

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.

May we pause to remember and acknowledge those who are no longer with us, those who have lost their lives while carrying out their duties, and those who have lost their lives through illness or other circumstances.

In 1903, Trooper John Crocket died from a blow to the head when his horse stumbled and fell. Since then, more than 40 Tasmanian Police officers have lost their lives while carrying out their duties.¹

Each of these lives is a reminder that the role and duties of a police officer are attended with risk and with danger. They are also a reminder that the sworn Police Officer's Oath is a commitment to placing the safety and lives of others ahead of their own.

We are truly grateful that no Tasmanian officers have died this year in the course of their duties.

Today is also a day for our community to recognise and acknowledge the courage of our police, and their dedication to their duty.

We recognise the dangers associated with your role, and that policing requires the management of complex and varied situations.

Often, you deal with the most difficult aspects of our communities. Frequently, you are there in the saddest or hardest days of people's lives. You deal with fatalities, family violence, protecting children and the vulnerable, and violent offenders.

¹ <https://npm.org.au/honour-roll/?pageVal=24&surname=&yearofdeath=&jurisdiction=tasmania>

We also recognise that, at times, your role as a police officer may come at a great cost both physically or mentally; we expect a great deal of you. You may sometimes be criticised. You have a difficult job that sometimes goes unrecognised.

Today, as a community, we acknowledge with gratitude the service of every police officer. We acknowledge your contributions and your protection of our community.

May I acknowledge that in Tasmania, community satisfaction with our police services is high. This has been so for several years.² Our community understands that you have a difficult job to do, and that you carry out your duties with dedication, courage, integrity, empathy and professionalism.

May I also acknowledge that in your job you rely on the love and support of your family and friends. We thank the family and friends of police officers here today. May I acknowledge with gratitude the role you all play in supporting our officers in their continued service.

Today, we remember those who have passed and honour their service, courage, and legacy.

Thank you.

² <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgicfindmkaj/https://www.police.tas.gov.au/uploads/DPFEM-Annual-Report-2021-22-Accessible-Version.pdf>