

**RHODES SCHOLAR FOR TASMANIA FOR 2024
ANNOUNCEMENT BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER 2023**

Good afternoon and thank you all for attending the announcement of the Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar for 2024.

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.

This year there were five applicants at the interview stage. As is almost always the case, the task of the selection committee was very difficult. We commend each of the five of you for making it to this interview stage.

We agree that you all made up a very strong academic field; and each of you was a pleasure for us to meet and interview.

The members of the selection committee want me to assure the unsuccessful candidates that we are all confident that each of you have the academic capacity, the skills and the enthusiasm to succeed in your chosen field. We want you to remember that the Rhodes Scholarship is not the only pathway to achieve your ambitions.

The Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar for 2024 is:

Billy Blackett.

[Applause]

I have an additional announcement to make. As well as sending a Rhodes Scholar from each State, the Rhodes Trust sends scholars from what is called 'Australia-at-Large'.

Each State and Territory is permitted to nominate one or two persons for this Rhodes Scholarship and the nominees from around the country are interviewed for selection by a National Selection Panel.

The Tasmanian Selection Committee has not always nominated an applicant for the National Rhodes Scholarship, but this year we have decided to send two applicants and the nominees are:

Lilli Ireland and Heath Dimsey.

[Applause]

Thank you.