

**TASMANIAN AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2024**  
**SPEECH BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**PRINCES WHARF NO. 1, HOBART, FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2023**

Thank you, Ryk, for your welcome. [Goddard, MC, introduced HE]

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.

I am delighted to again be part of our Tasmanian Australian of the Year Awards. These awards are among the most prestigious in the country.

I say this because the recognition factor of these awards is high across our community. They are valuable in recognising significant effort and commitment by individuals across a broad range of areas. You will have appreciated that value, in the descriptions of our sixteen Tasmanian nominees. Dedication is the other significant quality shared by our nominees.

Recognition by the selection panels requires that the selected nominees have an impressive, detailed and intimate understanding of their work and their chosen subject area, and also, how they selflessly benefit others.

Our nominees are recognised for their unwavering dedication and for their willingness to share with others. I thank you all on behalf of all Tasmanians.

Across our country, in each State and Territory, 127<sup>1</sup> Australians are nominees in the four categories: Local Hero; Young Australian; Senior Australian; and Australian of the Year. So, in our State, we are part of a large and dynamic nationwide celebration, that ranges across age, genders and areas of endeavour.

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<sup>1</sup> NSW only 3 Senior nominees.

Each of our nominees is thoroughly engaged with our community, whether in a formal discipline or for social improvement, or a significant cultural activity.

Our Australian of the Year Awards also invite us to go beyond celebration, by Reflecting “on our history, its highs and lows”; and by Respecting “the stories of others.”<sup>2</sup>

Essentially, the purpose of the awards is to recognise individuals, striving for and committed to the common good in our diverse society.

May I conclude by again recognising and congratulating each of our sixteen nominees. Each of you unquestionably deserves your nomination. Through your individual and collective efforts, our State of Tasmania is the ultimate winner tonight.

Thank you.

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<sup>2</sup> [Home - Australia Day](#), accessed 6 November 2023.