

**NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE FORUM
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2023**

Good morning, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to Government House for this morning tea to mark the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) for 2024.

May I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose Country we gather, who flourished on Country as part of the South-East Nation of Aboriginal people. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country and recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea, and waters.

We have fourteen Tasmanian students who have been selected to participate in the 2024 Forum program. Twelve of you are here today. I congratulate each one of you on your achievement. Each student has been selected on merit and come from around our State.

May I acknowledge the work of Rotary to make the National Youth Science Forum such a success. As a Founding Partner of the Forum, Rotary provides essential support throughout, from student selection to billeting and to transport support.

Our selected Tasmanian participants will join some 600 students from across Australia this year. They are part of the 15,000 strong alumni of this impressive STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) literacy and experiential program.

May I also acknowledge the work of Stephen Porter, NYSF District Chair for District 9830 and his team in selecting the successful students. I also note their continuing support for the Science Forum. You will hear from Stephen shortly.

May I also thank those returning NYSF alumni who gave their time as Student Staff Leaders, to make this program possible.

This year also marks 40 years of the operation of the National Youth Science Foundation as a registered charity. In partnership with the NYSF, Rotary provides financial support to selected students and provides a number of NYSF Access and Equity Scholarships.

This year, the Forum has a participant mix of 66% women and 44% from a regional or remote area.

Residential programs are being held at the Australian National University and at the University of Queensland in January. These programs aim to give students a broader understanding of study and career options in STEM fields and to encourage study in these areas.

Depending on students' preferences, visits will occur to Centres and Institutes of Nanotechnology, Pathology, Microscopy, Optics, Earth Sciences, Astronomy, as well as Biology, Chemistry and drone racing, for those students travelling to Canberra. With such diversity, I am sure that you will all enjoy the experience and find out more about the exciting options for further study.

So, in conclusion, congratulations again to all selected students, and to your families and teachers. I expect that you will all make the most of the Forum and the opportunities it provides.

Thank you.

David ...