

**AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE RESERVES AND EMPLOYER SUPPORT  
PRINCE OF WALES AWARD 2024 PRESENTATION  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
DRAWING ROOM, TUESDAY 9 APRIL 2024**

Good evening, everyone, and a very warm welcome to this presentation of the Prince of Wales Awards for 2024 to our Tasmanian recipients.

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 wish to acknowledge all veterans and serving members present and those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have served in our Defence Force.

The Prince of Wales Award is administered by the Joint Reserve and Cadet Division. An Award provides an opportunity for reservists to undertake a training or development activity, which is related to and directly benefits their civilian occupation or profession. The unique development opportunity is tailored by the Reserve Member to best benefit their future career, supported by Defence. The intent is that their experiences and enhanced knowledge will provide ongoing benefits to the civilian employer and the workplace.<sup>1</sup>

The Prince of Wales Award received Royal Decree in 1984 and active Reserve members and their civilian employers were selected for their dedication and commitment to Australian Defence Force service. Since the inception of the scheme, Defence has been honoured to recognise over 350 reservists, with over 20 successful recipients in Tasmania from across all three services.

The selection process is competitive. The Scheme provides reservists with up to \$10,000 in funding to undertake training and develop new skills beneficial to their civilian career.<sup>2</sup> Those funds may be applied to allow the recipient to

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.reserveemployersupport.gov.au/reservists/awards-and-recognition/> accessed 7 Feb 23

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.reserveemployersupport.gov.au/news-and-events/news/prince-of-wales-award-winners-2022/> accessed 7 Feb 23

undertake an activity of their choosing, such as a training course or conference attendance, either in Australia or overseas.

Activities over the past 40 years have ranged from business courses/graduate certificates in management to unique activities such as a research tour to study FBI use of remotely piloted aerial systems in the USA, and a 12-day Yukon Raft Guide Training at the International Wilderness Leadership Course in Alaska.

Many Tasmanian award recipients have confirmed the value and once-in-a-lifetime opportunity provided by their Award and for their workplace.<sup>3</sup>

2024 is the 40<sup>th</sup> year of these awards. Defence is celebrating this history and a number of Tasmanian recipients will participate in the celebrations.

I would like to thank you all for being here for this presentation. May we now recognise Leading Seaman Caleb Wilson and Corporal Scott McCarthy for their outstanding achievements.

David ...

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<sup>3</sup> Email Karen Harriss / David Hughes 26 Mar 24