

**AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE RESERVES AND EMPLOYER SUPPORT
PRESENTATION OF 2025 PRINCE OF WALES AWARDS
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
DRAWING ROOM, TUESDAY 24 JUNE 2025**

Good afternoon, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to Government House for this special event to present the 2025 Prince of Wales Awards.

I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose country we gather, and the enduring connection to land, sea, air and waters of today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community. I also 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 was established by Royal Decree in 1984. The Award honours exemplary service by members of the Australian Defence Force Reserves, and acknowledges the critical support provided by their civilian employers. The Award recognises those who go above and beyond, not only in their commitment to national service but also in their pursuit of professional and personal development in the civilian sphere.

The activities funded by the Prince of Wales Award are diverse, and often extraordinary. In past years, Tasmanian recipients have pursued qualifications in leadership and business, explored the use of drones by the FBI, and even completed wilderness expedition training in Alaska. Whatever the activity, the results are consistent—personal enrichment, greater workplace innovation, and a strengthened Reserve Force.

Reservists are a vital component of Australia's defence capability. Their dual roles as uniformed personnel and as professionals across diverse sectors bring considerable value to both their communities and our national interests.

Since its inception, this prestigious Award has recognised over 370 Reserve members, including more than 20 from Tasmania, drawn from the Navy, Army,

and Air Force. Each of them has embarked on a journey of growth that reflects the spirit of the Award; to support self-improvement that strengthens both the individual and the broader community.

This year, 22 recipients were selected from a highly competitive national field. Today, we celebrate the achievements of our two Tasmanian recipients—individuals whose contributions reflect the very best of service and citizenship.

To all our recipients past and present, I extend my congratulations and sincere thanks. Your commitment to excellence—whether in the hospital ward, the engineering field, or on active service—enhances our society.

May I extend my gratitude and that of our wider community to the families, colleagues and employers who support our Reservists: your flexibility, encouragement and understanding are instrumental in making their service possible.

In a few moments, I shall present the awards to recipients and their employers. My congratulations to Lieutenant Cunningham and Captain Probert.

Thank you.

David ...