

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA  
PRESENTATION OF THE 2024 PETER SMITH MEDAL AND  
TWO LOUISA ANNE MEREDITH MEDALS**

**REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 2025**

**VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED**

Please be seated. Good evening, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to this medal presentation ceremony.

May I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose land we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of country. I recognise their enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, sky, and waters.

Tonight, I shall be presenting three medals; the Peter Smith Medal and two Louisa Anne Meredith medals. You will hear from each recipient later, however, may I acknowledge each recipient.

The Peter Smith Medal is awarded biennially by our Royal Society of Tasmania to an outstanding early career researcher in any field. The medal is named in honour of the late Peter Warnock Smith, an inorganic Chemist, former President of the Royal Society of Tasmania and a great supporter of the Royal Society.

The Peter Smith Medal for 2024 has been awarded to Dr Edward Doddridge. Dr Doddridge is a Physical Oceanographer at the University of Tasmania working at the ocean-ice interface with the Australian Antarctic Program Partnership.

The Louisa Anne Meredith Medal was announced in this room on 28 September 2023 at an event we hosted titled 'An Evening with Louisa'. It is the first Royal Society of Tasmania Medal to be named in honor of a female member of the Society, and the first awarded in the arts and humanities disciplines. Louisa Meredith came to Tasmania in 1840 and was a prolific artist,

writer, and social commentator. She was the first woman to be granted honorary membership of the Royal Society of Tasmania.

There are two recipients for this inaugural presentation.

Professor Cassandra Pybus is a distinguished historian, and the author of thirteen books. She is known for her exhaustive historical research and for her creation of compelling alternative narratives of the past. Professor Pybus is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and the recipient of several fellowships and awards.

Fiona Hall is internationally respected as a visual artist who works across a range of media. She is best known for extraordinary works that, and I quote, “transform quotidian materials into vital organic forms with both historical and contemporary resonances.”

She was recognised in the 2013 Queen’s Birthday Honours List as an Officer of the Order of Australia for “distinguished service to the visual arts as a painter, sculptor and photographer, and to art education.”

We are very fortunate indeed to have three such eminent leaders in the fields of science and the humanities residing or working in Tasmania. Their endeavours add materially and significantly to the international and national reputation of our teaching and research facilities. I congratulate all of our recipients.

Paula ...