

**SCIENCE WEEK SOUTHERN TASMANIA 2025  
RECEPTION REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 11 AUGUST 2025**

**VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED**

Good evening and a warm welcome to this reception to mark National Science Week Southern Tasmania 2025.

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

I am pleased to host what has become an annual fixture at Government House each August. Elizabeth College takes the lead in a number of events for the week and this year is no different.

National Science Week is about fostering curiosity and about capturing the imaginations of young people. Some of you may not yet realise you are budding scientists within STEM fields.

Tasmania has a fine record in national and international science, in Antarctic and climate science, in marine and environmental research, in quantum computing and in renewable energy. We need more bright young minds to continue this work, to ask new questions, and to find new answers.

This year's theme, *"Decoding the Universe"*, invites you to explore some of the most exciting and complex frontiers of science and the essential role that science and mathematics play in helping us understand the big questions about the nature of matter, the origins of life, the dynamics of climate change, and the future of our planet.

Tasmanian grant recipients<sup>1</sup> demonstrate the importance of these endeavours. The Beaker Street Festival has been funded to allow people to experience “scientifically proven fun” including workshops, feature talks, interactive installations, and, of course, our Tasmanian food.

Young Tassie scientists are taking their research across Tasmania. Some 40 early career researchers volunteer to talk about topics that last year included hunting bugs, tracking cats, creating black holes, and exploring how ice shelves collapse.

And the Hive takes science to the northwest in Penguin and Ulverstone, talking about space and terrestrial weather, guiding stargazing sessions and a pub trivia night.

Elizabeth College has made a significant contribution to this national celebration. For 25 consecutive years, through the commitment of science staff and students, the College has brought science to life through innovative, inclusive, and hands-on programs. This year’s program is as impressive and includes:

- Over 500 primary school students from grades 1 to 6, as well as Year 10 students from Cosgrove High School, are participating in workshops led by Elizabeth College students.
- Students are taking part in the Royal Australian Chemistry Institute’s titration competition and sitting international chemistry and physics Olympiad exams.
- The College will again have a strong presence at the Festival of Bright Ideas with an impressive delegation of 74 senior students.
- And earlier this year, advanced academic students had the opportunity to learn from Dr Sol Jacobsen about the complexities of quantum physics—a topic central to the technologies shaping our future.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.scienceweek.net.au/national-grant-round-recipients-for-2025-announced/> accessed 4 Aug 25

<sup>2</sup> Email Karen Drysdale / Amanda Banks 28 Jul 25

As this is a Silver Anniversary, we shall cut a cake to acknowledge 25 years of dedication, creativity, and impact.

Thank you all for being here, and for all you do to advance scientific understanding in Tasmania.

I wish you all a successful National Science Week.

Shortly, we shall enjoy some live music on the stage from Elizabeth College Jazz Band, performing “Bouncing with Bud.” And later we will hear from the College New Orleans band as background music.

David ...

*[OS invites Dr Beswick and Ms Drysdale forward to cut the cake with HE]*

*[OS then invites Jazz band musicians to the stage to perform]*