

**DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD IN AUSTRALIA
(TASMANIA DIVISION)
PRESENTATION OF GOLD AWARDS
REMARKS BY
OFFICIAL SECRETARY COLONEL DAVID HUGHES CSC, REPRESENTING
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, HOBART, FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2025**

Good evening, everyone. On behalf of Her Excellency, I warmly welcome you to Government House and this annual ceremony to present Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

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, we celebrate the achievements of members of the Duke of Edinburgh community. Three members will receive long service medals, and we will also acknowledge 20 young Tasmanians who have embraced the challenges and opportunities of this Award. They have demonstrated their resilience, commitment, and adventurous spirit.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is more than a recognition of accomplishment; it equips young people with essential life skills and fosters creativity and innovation.

Shortly, we will present three exceptional leaders within the Duke of Edinburgh community. In 2015, the National Board of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in Australia approved the Long Service Medal. Significantly, the medal recognises 10 years of service to this Award in a voluntary or paid capacity.¹

¹ <https://dukeofed.com.au/resource/long-service-medal/> accessed 19 Nov 25

Twenty Gold Award recipients will receive their certificates as well. Each Gold Award recipient has mastered new skills to enhance their physical wellbeing, volunteered in their communities, or embarked on adventurous journeys. At this Gold level, each has participated in residential projects that foster collaboration, cultural understanding, and personal growth. That has required at least five days and four nights away from home and in the company of others not already known to the candidate.²

As we celebrate our recipients' achievements, may we also acknowledge the support that has made their success possible. To the parents, mentors, and Award leaders, your guidance and encouragement have shaped these journeys. This evening's celebration acknowledges your efforts as well as the perseverance of our recipients.

In March of this year, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Australia introduced digital badging, providing verifiable, micro-credentialed recognition of participants' non-formal education. This initiative reflects the growing value that educational institutions and employers place on the skills cultivated through this program and is evidence of the continued evolution of the Duke of Edinburgh Award system to provide faster, simpler and more trusted mechanisms for young people to share proof of their achievements.³

I congratulate each of the Medal and Gold Award recipients. Each of you, with a spirit of determination and service, is an ambassador for Tasmania. I am sure you will all carry forward the lessons you have learned.

Congratulations again to all recipients, and I hope you all enjoy this well-deserved celebration of your success.

² <https://dukeofed.com.au/use-it/framework/> accessed 19 Nov 25

³ <https://dukeofed.com.au/introducing-duke-of-ed-digital-credentialing/> accessed 19 Nov 25