

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
PRESENTATION OF THE 2025 MR BANKS MEDAL
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2026**

VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to this award 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.

The first award tonight is a doctoral award certificate for excellence in research in any field within the Society's purview.

Dr Katie Marx completed doctoral studies in Antarctic Studies before gaining a position as a postdoctoral researcher in our University's Antarctic Tourism Research Program. Her doctoral research focused on the concept of place attachment in Hobart, an Antarctic gateway city.

Dr Marx is the current co-lead of the Public Engagement with the Antarctic Research Action Group within the international Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research.

The second award is the MR Banks Medal, awarded to a scholar of distinction in their mid-career in any field within the Society's purview. The research is to have been largely carried out in Tasmania or under the aegis of a Tasmanian-based organisation. The medal is named in honour of Maxwell Robert Banks, who was an expert on the geology and resources of Tasmania.¹

¹ <https://rst.org.au/award-busary/mr-banks-medal/> accessed 16 Apr 26

The MR Banks Medal for 2025 has been awarded to Associate Professor Jacqueline Halpin, geologist at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS). Her research mainly examines dynamic processes occurring in the Earth's crust, including crustal growth and architecture; continental rifting, breakup and exhumation; and tectonic cycles and supercontinent configurations. Jacqueline is currently working on Antarctic geoscience themes, including past ice sheet change and Earth-cryosphere interactions. This is part of the ARC Australian Centre for Excellence in the Antarctic Science Special Research Initiative.

May I congratulate both of our recipients.

David ...