

**RECEPTION FOR THE
GENERAL SIR JOHN MONASH FOUNDATION
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 6 MAY 2026**

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to Government House for this reception for the General Sir John Monash Foundation.

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.

As we all know, Sir John Monash was one of Australia's greatest leaders both in military and civilian life. I quote, "a true renaissance man, Monash sought diversity in his education, completing a Master of Engineering, a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Laws and a Doctorate of Engineering from the University of Melbourne."¹

Monash was remarkable, moving between the varied worlds of military, technical, civic, and academic endeavour. He understood that achievement is built carefully with preparation and care for the people doing the work.

More than three hundred outstanding Australians have been named John Monash Scholars. They have attended the world's leading universities in every discipline and in every corner of national life.²

We welcome Tasmanian scholars, Anita George³, Dr Jarrah Dale⁴ and this year's Wesfarmers John Monash scholar, Sarah Leary⁵. It is a pleasure to have you here tonight.

¹ <https://www.johnmonash.com/about/inspiration/> accessed 4 May 26

² <https://www.johnmonash.com/scholarship/> accessed 4 May 26

³ <https://www.johnmonash.com/scholar/anita-george/> accessed 4 May 26

⁴ <https://www.johnmonash.com/scholar/jarrah-dale/> accessed 4 May 26

⁵ <https://www.johnmonash.com/scholar/sarah-leary/> accessed 4 May 26

Monash is quoted as saying, “The privilege of education carries great responsibilities – it is given not for individual benefit alone, but to benefit persons for the higher duties of citizenship and for roles of leadership in all fields”.⁶ That responsibility is shouldered by all Monash scholars.

May I thank the families and friends for supporting the scholars and thank the Foundation's collaborative supporters. Your support enables us to build a brighter, more promising future for our State and Australia.

Please now enjoy your reception.

⁶ <https://www.johnmonash.com/about/> accessed 4 May 26