

**AUSTRALIA DAY 2022 INVESTITURE
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
BALL ROOM, 2.30 PM WEDNESDAY 4 MAY 2022**

[VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED BY AABT – MINSTRELS' GALLERY]

PLEASE BE SEATED

It is with great pleasure that my husband and I welcome you to this Australia Day investiture ceremony at Government House.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community. I recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of colonisation upon our First People. I stand for a future that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal stories, culture, language and history.

Our Australian Honours System was founded in 1975 by the creation of the Order of Australia. The Order is designed to recognise excellence, achievement or meritorious service by individual citizens.

The Order of Australia helps to define, encourage and reinforce national aspirations, ideals and standards by identifying role models.

Accordingly, honours are awarded to recognise, to celebrate and to say thank you to those who make a difference, to those who achieve their best and to those who serve others.

Australian honours are unique in that they were designed for nominations made by the community. Our Australian honours system is free of patronage or political influence. Anyone can nominate an Australian citizen for an honour.

There are some 58 awards¹ in the Australian Honours System – of which the best known are the awards in the Order of Australia, which will be conferred today.

Our ceremony today is restricted in numbers attending, due to ongoing COVID safety measures. However, this in no way diminishes the importance and significance of this ceremony. In the text in your Investiture booklets on each of today's recipients, you will see they work in areas that are of great community assistance, highly inspirational, and often challenging and complex.

You have detailed information about the wonderful contributions made by each recipient in your Investiture booklet, however I would like to say a few words about each of them.

Matthew Buck's tireless service goes beyond the normal expectation as a volunteer firefighter. He has been committed to many charities and is a figurehead for mental health. About 10 years ago, he formed a chapter in Launceston of the International firefighter motorcycle club, 'Red Knights', of which he is President. The club aims to improve welfare and camaraderie amongst firefighters and raise money for charities. (*The Examiner*, 26 January 2022, page 8.)

Graeme Jones has shown a long-term dedication to the Tasmanian Fire Service. He has also been committed to the broader community with long-term service to local football and cricket clubs. He plays a different role in the Fire Service now, away from the front line, helping organise the crews behind the scenes. He enjoys seeing youngsters learn new skills and come through the ranks. He is stepping back out of the front line to give them an opportunity to gain some experience as the future leaders. He is also running community education workshops. (*The Advocate*, 26 January 2022, page 14.)

Ms Samantha Allender's in-depth knowledge, tireless work ethic and leadership was pivotal in establishing secondary triage for Ambulance Tasmania which went live in 2021. Throughout her career she has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities and has become a role model and mentor to the development of paramedics and registered nurses. She has been committed to ensuring delivery of clinical care to communities she has served over the past 16 years. (Booklet)

Mrs Vicki Knowles is a quiet achiever, reluctant to take credit for her outstanding contribution to the community. She has stated that she is motivated to continue to help from the satisfaction of knowing she is providing a good service to the community, and the companionship with fellow volunteers. (*The Advocate*, 26 January 2022, page 14.) She exemplifies a volunteer ambulance officer going above and beyond stated duties to help others and to provide to the community.

Dr Peter Mulholland has been recognised for his extraordinary commitment to furthering the capacity of the ambulance service to through his own development, and the training and mentoring of other staff in the service. Much of the work he has done throughout his career has been in relation to supporting and promoting the role of volunteer paramedics in the State. He has an ongoing dedication to support and strengthen the paramedicine field and community. (*The Examiner*, 26 January 2022, page 6)

Mrs Rebecca Devine has been dedicated and committed to Corrective Services Tasmania and has greatly improved community safety and offender rehabilitation. Her work and professional ethics have been unwavering throughout her career and she expends enormous energy and enthusiasm in her work with offenders. She mentors and trains new staff and supervises students on placement at Community Corrections. She promotes a positive and supportive work culture.

I warmly congratulate you all.

And so it is now my privilege to invest with insignia these worthy Tasmanians. Official Secretary ...

<https://www.pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/government/pictorial-guide-awards-australian-honours-system>