

**AUSTRALIA DAY 2022 INVESTITURE
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
BALL ROOM, 10 AM THURSDAY 5 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 to be 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 of guests 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 their wonderful contributions; however, I would like to say a few words about each of them.

Ms Rose-Anne Emmerton has over 13 years provided diligent and distinguished service to the SES and her community, in response to emergencies and disasters. She contributed a significant effort to the SES response to the 2016 bushfires and to COVID compliance operations along the NW coast. She has also deployed interstate. She is a professional ambassador for the SES. She is a wonderful advocate for women and a great role model.

Mr Graydon O'Halloran has demonstrated a myriad of skills and competencies as a responding emergency volunteer since he joined the Northern SES in 2005. Across the State he has attended many search and rescue operations, both on land and in water, storm and flood-related incidents, serious and fatal crash responses and COVID-19 compliance. He is an inspirational and natural leader and is devoted to the ethos of the organisation.

Mr Adrian Webster has had a long career of 39 years of dedicated and committed service in the emergency service area. He has considerable skill in all operational disciplines, including road crash rescue, general rescue, storm response, roping and land search. He has trained SES volunteer units, he has trained other agency staff such as Police and Fire Service. He deployed to Queensland in support of cyclone and flood response and coordinated SES Tasmanian volunteer teams. This required significant management skills.

Dr Alison Dean has provided exceptional leadership as a station leader at all four of Australia's research stations in Antarctica and the sub-Antarctic, over six winters. She has provided leadership through a number of high intensity operations to expeditioners on station and more broadly to the Australian Antarctic Program.

Dr Nicholas Gales has made a significant and exceptional contribution to the Australian Antarctic Program over four decades. He was responsible for developing the Australian Mammal Centre at the Australian Antarctic Division. He contributed directly to and developed a strong conservation agenda for the International Whaling Commission. He was a witness for Australia in the International Court of Justice finding against Japan's Southern Ocean whaling program. He led the first dedicated non-lethal whale research expedition, which provided a scientific basis for sound conservation and management of Southern Ocean whales.

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>