

**AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS TASMANIA
2021 ANNUAL LECTURE
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC,
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2021**

Please be seated.

Good evening and welcome to this annual Government House lecture of the Australian Institute of International Affairs Tasmania.

I pay 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.

I am sure we are all looking forward to hearing from Dr Sue Boyd and Kim Boyer, in what will be a conversation-style presentation this evening.

This is the seventh Government House lecture in this AIIA Tasmania series.

I am sure those of you who attended last year's lecture will recall with a degree of amusement the switching of the lecture from Government House to the Republic Bar! It turns out that was quite appropriate, the bar having been called the Rose and Crown until the 1930s when its name was changed to the Empire Hotel until the 1990s.

I am honoured to be your Patron and I continue a relatively longstanding tradition of Governors' Patronage of the AIIA in Tasmania dating back to the 1980s and Sir James Plimsoll;¹ our Federal body itself dates back to the 1930s.

The objectives of the Institute are to provide a forum for debate; promote the dissemination of ideas; and undertake an educational role on international issues —while however being “precluded by its constitution from expressing any opinion of its own on international affairs”.²

This independent and impartial role, I have no doubt, enables the provision of high quality empirical and intellectual analysis, free of the strictures of party-political dogma or alignment to a particular political leaning.

We are therefore privileged to be able to enjoy and appreciate lectures and conversational exchanges, such as the one we are about to hear.

We are especially privileged to have here tonight, Dr Sue Boyd. I managed to read much of Sue's very informative book over the last few days. Your stories about treatment of women in External Affairs, later to be Foreign Affairs, and the gender pay gap resonated very much with me, as the treatment of women in the legal profession in the 80s and 90s was much the same. You have been a role model for many women following you in diplomacy, and no doubt made it easier for them, as the Department got used to the idea of women in these positions. It was a fabulous read, especially about your experiences in the many different countries you worked in. I am very impressed, but very envious of your language skills!

Thank you. David ...

[OS invites Kim Boyer to facilitate the presentation]

¹ Since at least 1985, Sir James Plimsoll.

² <http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/about-us/about-the-aiia/>, accessed 18 November 2021.