

**BOYS' BRIGADE TASMANIA QUEEN'S BADGES PRESENTATION
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA, WEDNESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2018**

Good evening and welcome to this Queen's Badge presentation ceremony for The Boys' Brigade Australia in Tasmania.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land— the Mouheneener people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

May I acknowledge among you:

- Andrew Mclean, Boys' Brigade Victoria / Tasmania President;
- Noel Pinkerton, No. 1 Brisbane Battalion President;
- Scott Ambrose, Boys' Brigade Captain 19th Hobart;
- Nicholas Eduljee, Boy's Brigade Captain 1st Clarence and Tasmanian State Representative;
- Timothy Dunn, past Captain 19th Hobart Company;
- Lucinda Glover, Girls' Brigade State Commissioner and State Secretary Jane Banham.

This is the first Queen's Badge ceremony Dick and I are hosting. And indeed the first Government House presentation for some considerable period of time.

Our records indicate that the-then Governor Sir Phillip Bennet and Lady Bennet held a few Boys' Brigade ceremonies here in the early 1990s. So it was that in May 1992 there were two recipients – Sergeant Andrew Fletcher and Sergeant Andrew Thompson – one of whom went on to attend the World Conference in the Bahamas in June.

And in a November 1994 ceremony there were seven recipients – again, in this Drawing Room.

Today we will witness the presentation of three Queen's Badges. I have read with much interest the numerous criteria involved in order to be assessed for this highest award of the Boys' Brigade. It may well look daunting for some – lots of criteria, and at least 400 hours over three years – but that is well and truly balanced out by the fact that any individual involved in BB is capable of applying themselves to the task. So it is a matter of individual determination and decision-making rather than individual academic or physical skills.

This is important in a world that is in so many ways super-competitive. The very word "competition" implies a winner and therefore a loser, which is clearly not what you are about. The fundamental Christian ethos of the Boys' Brigade mitigates against competitiveness in favour of friendship, collective support, and appropriate personal development as boys develop from age five through to late teens.

I have noted also the original linkages and ongoing similarities between the Sout movement and the Boys' Brigade. Government House hosts numerous Scout and Guide events including award presentations; just as we host ceremonies for a raft of other organisations. Some of these are: the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards; university environment scholarships; volunteering awards; human rights awards; life saving awards; the Tasmanian Australian of the Year Awards and Rhodes Scholarships.

What these have in common with each other and with your Queen's Badge is that as well as recognising an individual's effort, they are community-oriented and require a demonstration of leadership. They are manifest expressions of the positive things that individuals can do to assist their communities in many ways.

And so that is what I would like to say to the three recipients today is: well done through your efforts and realise that as you develop into adulthood there is enormous scope for you to use this award as a springboard to go on to strive to help make our world a better place.

Thank you.