

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S GOLD AWARDS 2021 PRESENTATIONS
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE BALLROOM, FRIDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2021

Good evening and welcome to this presentation of the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Awards for 2021.

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 Aboriginal People. I stand for a future that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal stories, culture, language and history.

This is the 62nd anniversary of the operation of these Awards in Australia. As we know, the longstanding and prestigious Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a globally recognised program for young people to build their skills and equip them for life and work. The Award creates opportunities for young people to develop skills, undertake community service and experience adventure.

Members of the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards family, and people around the world, were saddened by the loss of the Founder, His Royal Highness Prince Phillip earlier this year. From their inception in 1956 in the UK, the International Awards have spread to 144 countries. In Australia, more than 775,000 young people have completed Awards at one of the three levels.

It is a fitting legacy for the Awards to continue following Prince Phillip's death with his son, His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, taking over the role of Chair of the International Award Foundation.

Prince Edward has been committed to the organisation's work ever since achieving his own Gold Award in 1986. The following year, His Royal Highness became a UK Trustee of the charity and of the International Award Association. He was Chair of its International Council for 17 years. Since 2015, Prince Edward has been Chair of the Trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation. In these roles, Prince Edward travels widely within the UK and overseas, attending events and presenting Gold Awards. In 1999, he established the International Special Projects Group, to broaden the reach of the Award, especially to young people considered to be at risk or marginalised in society.¹

¹ <https://www.royal.uk/the-earl-of-wessex> accessed 18 Nov 21

The choice to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh program is entirely voluntary and every Award is different. Each participant chooses their own activities for each Section. It is a very personal program that offers young people an opportunity to structure their own program in a way that suits them. The award program is able to be inclusive of people with differing abilities because the programs are set, based on individual goals and interests.

The Gold Award takes at least 12 months to complete and often longer. It is a significant commitment of time and energy with lasting results for participants and the communities they serve.

To achieve the Gold Award, there are five challenges²:

- Service: to challenge yourself to be a responsible, caring member of the community.
- Physical Recreation: to challenge yourself to improve your health, fitness and performance.
- Skills: to challenge yourself to improve your skills and widen your interests.
- Adventurous Journey: to challenge yourself to journey and explore with your eyes open.
- And, for Gold Awards only, the Gold Residential Project: to broaden participants' horizons through involvement with others in a residential setting.

Thank you to the award leaders who worked with participants to develop their own individual set of challenging but achievable goals.

This evening I look forward to presenting 11 Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Awards. You will hear more of the impressive range of their activities and achievements shortly from the State Manager, Mr Steve Halloran, who will read their citations.

My congratulations to you all. As the Patron of the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards in Tasmania, I am delighted to present Gold Awards to these exceptional young people.

David ...[David presents Mr Steve Halloran, State Manager, to read citations and present recipients]

² <https://dukeofed.com.au/about-the-award/award-framework/> accessed 19 Nov 21