

**THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD
AUSTRALIA – TASMANIA GOLD AWARDS PRESENTATIONS
GOVERNMENT HOUSE DRAWING ROOM, FRIDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2018**

Good afternoon and welcome to the 2018 presentation of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Gold Awards for Tasmania, the world's leading youth achievement award.

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:

- Bob Rutherford, Chair of the Tasmanian Division of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award;
- Steve Halloran, State Manager of the Tasmanian Division;
- Peter Dalkin, former Chair in Tasmania;
- Geoff O'Hara, former Chair in Tasmania;
- and Board Member Marcelle Ottaway.

As we know, this Award encourages young people aged between 14 and 24 to learn practical skills which become valuable in terms of their personal and professional development.

In my capacity as the Patron of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Tasmania, I find it most gratifying to know that this scheme continues to attract determined and enthusiastic young individuals who see the value in personal development; while also undertaking projects and activities which benefit others as much as themselves. This engenders the very important trait of selflessness and also, for the future, potential leadership.

And as we also know, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh chose to step down from public engagements last year, having personally attended more than 500 Duke of Ed Gold Award ceremonies, including 11 in Australia.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, now under the International Ambassadorship of HRH The Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, continues to grow, with over one million young people now doing their Award worldwide.

In my remarks at this ceremony last year, I said that "I have little doubt that before too long we'll have the honour of hosting your new Chairman, Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex."

And that of course came to pass when, in his capacity as the International Ambassador for the Award, Prince Edward visited Tasmania for the first time in April this year.

During his visit, the Earl met with 110 Award Participants from six different Award Units; he launched Tasmania's Duke of Ed Employer Program; engaged in fundraising events to support disadvantaged youth participation in the Award; presented three Long Service Medals; and generally he raised the profile of the Award through the press coverage and publicity received during the visit.

Dick and I were honoured to host the Duke and his entourage overnight, which included a banquet in the Ball Room attended by many associated with the Duke of Ed program, Tasmanian MPs and other dignitaries; and lots of people associated with Real Tennis, which is a passion of the Duke's: he made a point of playing the game on each of Australia's Real tennis courts while he was here to officially attend the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast.

2019 will be the 60th anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award operating in Australia and it is fitting that the future looks bright for the Award in Tasmania in its anniversary year.

Today we are here to recognise the achievements of six young people, who have earned their Gold Award; and to also award a Medal of recognition for Long Service.

My sincere congratulations to you all.