

NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
STANLEY BURBURY THEATRE, SANDY BAY, TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2020

Good morning everybody.

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

I wish to acknowledge:

- Commissioner of Police, Darren Hine;
- The Honourable Mark Shelton, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management;
- Members of Parliament and local government;
- Past and serving members of the Tasmania Police Service;
- The family of those police members whom we are remembering today;
- Members of the Australian Defence Force;
- Other distinguished guests.

As you are all aware, National Police Remembrance Day was first observed on 29 September 2006 but was the result of decades of work by police associations around Australia to establish a memorial to all Australian Police Officers who had been killed while on duty.¹

Today, as we have every year since 2006, we come together to commemorate, to honour and remember Police Officers who have lost their lives either in the line of duty or through illness or other circumstances. It is a time for the policing family to reflect on those losses and for the Tasmanian Community to express their condolences and thanks to every member of Tasmania Police and their families for their ongoing service and sacrifice.

¹ <https://npm.org.au/history/> accessed 17 Sep 20

While we are fortunate that there were no fatalities recorded amongst Tasmania Police officers this year, we share with our Victorian colleagues and a heavy heart the loss of four officers while on duty in April.

It is almost certain that those officers were not thinking about being killed while performing their duties that day as they left their homes and families for work, nor when they responded to the call to attend the traffic incident – something many police officers do every day, despite the potential danger.

For families, colleagues and friends left behind there would be a sense that the deaths were unnecessary and that the actions alleged to have occurred in the aftermath of the incident would have made the loss even more difficult.

We acknowledge as well that, despite those tragic losses, police across Australia were still required to be out there on the street, still responding to calls for assistance, and the expectation that you will always be there to protect our community, even though in the back of your minds, you are worried about what endangering yourself means for your families and friends. My husband, Dick, and I acknowledge with respect and humility the ultimate sacrifice of:

- Leading Senior Constable Lynette Taylor
- Senior Constable Kevin King
- Constable Glen Humphris
- Constable Joshua Prestney

Lost but never forgotten.²

While we pause in remembrance, we should also acknowledge that there have been notable positives reported this year. I note from your Annual Report that the introduction of body-worn cameras has helped to protect and reduce the number of assaults against police officers but it is clear that there is more work to do to ensure that police officers are kept as safe as possible while at work. I acknowledge the magnificent work done by all members of Tasmania Police in the community as well. Community satisfaction with policing continues to trend upwards and remains above the national

² <https://npm.org.au/news/> accessed 11 Sep 20

average.³ And you have achieved significant outcomes related to serious and organised crime, outlaw motorcycle gangs and firearms trafficking. I congratulate you all on those outcomes.

But today remains focused as a solemn day of remembrance. We should never forget that, in spite of all of the advances in technology and procedures, there are thirty-nine names on this memorial; thirty-nine officers of Tasmania Police who have paid the ultimate price while protecting and serving our community. Many of you here would feel their loss deeply and very personally. So, in conclusion, and on behalf of the entire Tasmanian community, I thank, honour and remember all of those who police our community, especially those who have died in that service.

Thank you.

³ <https://www.police.tas.gov.au/uploads/DPFEM-Annual-Report-2018-19.pdf> accessed 11 Sep 20