

**OGILVIE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI RECEPTION
MARKING THE YEARS 1937-2021
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2021**

Good evening everyone and welcome to this reception to celebrate the achievements of Ogilvie High School from 1937 to 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.

May I acknowledge among us:

- Senator Catryna Bilyk, Senator for Tasmania;
- Deb Day, Ogilvie High School Principal;
- Robyn Moore AM, from whom we will hear shortly.

This year marks a significant milestone for Ogilvie High School, being both the 84th anniversary of its opening and the final year as an all-girls school.

The School started as the New Town Commercial High School on the site of the Hobart High School in Letitia Street. In 1936 the foundation stone of a new building on the current site was laid by Education Minister the Hon EJ Ogilvie, who later in 1937 opened the School. At that time, there was a faculty of 13 teachers, 323 students – 216 girls and 107 boys.

It was not until 1940, following the death of Premier AG Ogilvie that the School changed its name to Ogilvie High School, a name synonymous with Hobart and the education of young women. That followed the decision to cease the enrollment of boys in 1960 and the last male graduates in 1963.

Ogilvie has a significant history of achievement amongst the alumni. The School has produced no less than three Rhodes Scholars – Dorothy Steane, Susan Dando and Jessica Trebilco. Howard Florey Fellow, Fiona Stennard, was another

old scholar, who went on to study in the UK and subsequently returned to Australia to the Victor Chang Heart Research Centre.

In sport, two girls – Melissa Carlton and Kerry Hore – gained medals in the Paralympic and Olympic Games. World Medallists, Bianca Langham and Kate Hornsey also demonstrate the success of the Ogilvie sports program. I represented Tasmania in hockey and so I am well aware of Bianca's prowess in that sport. And to round out the achievements, a large number of graduates have gone on to be recognised within the Order of Australia for their outstanding commitment to the community.

Ogilvie High School will merge with New Town High School in 2022 to become a co-educational school, the Hobart City High School. In collaboration with Elizabeth College, the planned merged schools would consist of three campuses of the school catering for different year levels.

To quote then Principal Duncan Groves¹ talking about the move:

"There's going to be a mixed bag of emotions. You'll get some people that will welcome the change and the opportunities that change will bring to the students but you will still have some members of the greater Hobart community that will mourn the loss of single-sex education in Hobart."

It will be a significant change and there will no longer be a girls-only public high school in Hobart. But change is a constant and, judging by the achievements to date, the School will adapt and overcome any obstacles to continue to provide quality education outcomes and produce well rounded citizens of our great State.

To take from your School song² (which will shortly be sung by the Choir as part of a musical performance for us all):

Others who went before
Showed us our duty
Ours be their heritage
Now on its way.
Those who follow us
Theirs be the future
Ours 'the best school of all'
Ours for today.

¹ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-25/remaining-hobart-single-sex-schools-to-merge/12916236>
accessed 26 Nov 21

² Ogilvie High School Celebrating 70 Years 1937 – 2007, p101

So, congratulations to you all for the achievements of the School over the last 84 years. Ogilvie High School has been a major part of Hobart's history but is now engaging on a new journey. We must continue to honour the heritage and tradition, while embracing that new beginning and allow those who follow to be the future of the School. They have a significant legacy to live up to.

Thank you.

David... [David invites Robyn Moore to the stage to respond]

[After which – David invites Joan Wright to introduce the musical performance]

[After which – refreshments at the rear of the Ball Room]

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