

**THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION TASMANIAN BRANCH —
NORTHERN REGION COCKTAIL FUNCTION
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
LAUNCESTON CLUB
FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2021**

Thank you, Sue, for your introduction. Don and I are honoured to have been invited to this cocktail function to meet members of the Order of Australia Association, Tasmanian Branch, Northern Region.

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

May I acknowledge:

- Mrs Sue Shea OAM, Chair of the Northern Region Committee
- Mr Gary Carr OAM, Deputy Chair
- Committee Members, members of the Order of Australia Association and guests

As the Patron of The Order of Australia Association, Tasmanian Branch, this is one of the first occasions that I have had the honour of being in the company of members of the Order.

Previously, I had the enjoyable privilege of investing eight members from the north and northwest with the insignia of their awards at the Queen's Birthday Investiture at Government House in September this year.

Membership¹ of the Order of Australia Association is restricted to recipients of the Order of Australia Honours. It is a privilege which provides members with opportunities to:

- be part of a national-wide association of more than 8,000 community-minded, motivated, high-achieving members;
- participate in and give further service to the community through Branch projects;

¹ <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/membership/> accessed 8 Nov 21

- encourage and assist with honours nominations for Australians who have made significant contributions for their community;
- sponsor or mentor young people to achieve in their goals; and
- develop future leaders in our community through education scholarships, student awards and projects.

The Tasmanian Branch of the Association first met in Hobart in December 1980. It has since grown to encompass three regional committees in the northwest, north and south of our State. The growth of the Association is a testament to the motivation and contribution of members. I congratulate you all on reaching the 41st anniversary of our Association in Tasmania.

This is my first year as Governor and there have already been many highlights for me personally. Among these has been the honour of being appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours List. We have had some experience with the Order following Don's award, announced on Australia Day 2019.

I was very pleased to learn that the Association in the northern region is working closely with local councils to further the objectives of the Association. In particular, I note the efforts to promote the Order and encourage nominations from a wider cross-section of our community.

These efforts align closely with the advocacy of our Governor General. As National Patron of the Order of Australia Association, His Excellency has been making a personal effort to promote greater diversity of nominees and to highlight the work of multicultural communities, of women and of people who are currently under-represented in our pre-eminent national award system.

In line with those efforts, I am pleased to report that almost half of those awards in the Order of Australia, and invested at Government House in September this year, were from the north and northwest of our State. Seven women represented around 30% of the total number. That is indicative of the success of your efforts, as well as the significant community contributions of those recipients. We still have work to do, however, to include those from more culturally diverse backgrounds to be nominated and receive awards for their work.

In conclusion, I wish you all the very best in your endeavours and work for The Northern Regional Group of The Order of Australia Association, Tasmanian Branch.