

**QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS AND AWARDS INVESTITURE
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
BALL ROOM, 10.00 am WEDNESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**[VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED BY
AUSTRALIAN ARMY BAND TASMANIA]**

Please be seated. I warmly welcome you to this Investiture at Government House.

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, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

The Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Investitures held here, and at Government Houses across the country, are markedly different from past years in all but its most important function, namely, investing Australians with insignia in recognition of your achievements and contributions to the community.

The Investitures are different because ongoing Covid-19 restrictions dictate that we restrict numbers of recipients and guests. This means that instead of holding one large Queen's Birthday Investiture here in the Ball Room, early in September, this year we are hosting four.

Nevertheless, I hope that our being together in this smaller group will be memorable, for you and for its own sake. The fact that we are able to gather at all is perhaps a reminder that we are more fortunate than many other parts of Australia and other countries combating this insidious disease.

At the conclusion of the investiture formalities, we will enjoy a reception. This time last year, the severity of our lockdown meant no reception at all. Instead, each guest was provided with a small box of edibles and a refreshment. That too was memorable – particularly when one guest remarked loudly that she had never before had a picnic in a Ball Room!

Of course, we are all very thankful for the exceptional efforts of our health professionals and other officials contributing to our State Government response to the coronavirus disease.

Last Friday, Don and I hosted a reception to acknowledge new General Practice Fellows of the Tasmanian Branch of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. This gave me, on your behalf, an opportunity to thank them for their efforts in dealing with all the Covid-related issues.

Tele-health has been a big challenge for them and last year they had to do their examinations online. I discovered that part way through one exam, the computer system crashed so they were requested to do the exam all over again.

Our Australian Honours System was inaugurated in 1975 by the creation of the Order of Australia. Awards in the Order are designed to recognise excellence, achievement or meritorious service by individual citizens.

The Order of Australia helps to define, encourage and reinforce national aspirations, ideals and standards.

Accordingly, honours are awarded to express thanks to those who make a difference, to those who achieve their best and those who serve others.

Among those being invested this week, including some who are not here today, are honours in fields as diverse as agriculture, public speaking, sport, veterans' service, education, medicine and many more.

And during this ceremony, it is my privilege to invest with insignia six Tasmanians with Order of Australia Medals.

Official Secretary ...

[David announces the recipients one by one, per run sheet]