

**QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS AND AWARDS INVESTITURE
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
BALL ROOM, 2.30 pm 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 have a most important function, namely, investing Australians with insignia in recognition of your achievements and contributions to the community.

The Investitures held here and at Government Houses across the country are different from past years 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, 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, with background music performed by members of the Australian Army Band Tasmania.

And with the weather being pleasant on this first day of spring, you are most welcome to enjoy a stroll in the gardens after the reception.

Mention of the Government House estate reminds me that one of this year's 24 recipients received an honour in the field of ornithology, and that we have plenty of resident and transient birds in the grounds. So much so that in conjunction with Birdlife Australia we have set up two bird monitoring sites.

Some 40 species have been identified over the years including many of our favourite locals, which you might see if you go for a stroll: native hens, cockatoos, Quarry Pond ducks, ravens, lorikeets, and tiny migrating swallows who have been nesting in the stone eaves of the Dry Moat for many generations.

As the booklet for this afternoon's Investiture shows, our recipients have invested a great deal of their time and energy and enthusiasm in community and national endeavours. And it is fitting that we are able to remember and honour the late Mr Ian Paton today.

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 ideals and values.

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

And because the Order of Australia recognises Australians who have demonstrated outstanding service or exceptional achievement, I think it is appropriate to acknowledge those who nominated today's recipients. Nominating someone is a chance to recognise a peer for their hard-work, service and dedication. It is an opportunity to celebrate those inspiring people who make our nation what it is.

Official Secretary ...

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