

SHEFFIELD SCHOOL PRESENTATION DAY 2021
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
SHEFFIELD SCHOOL, TUESDAY 7 DECEMBER 2021

Thank you for that introduction, Principal Daly, and for inviting me and my husband to this Presentation Day assembly.

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.

The Sheffield School has a long history of service to our Kentish community. You have Learning in Families Together, known as LiFT programs, complementing the standard curriculum.

LiFT aims to strengthen the link between school and home for children in the early years. We know that children learn everywhere, not just at school. It is important to recognise the value of parents/carers as the children's first and continuing teachers. When families are actively engaged in their children's learning, a significant improvement in their child's learning outcomes occur.¹

Your farm school is well known around the State. With some 64 hectares, your farm property continues to operate as a successful commercial dairy enterprise, milking 130 cows. Other smaller enterprises are operated such as beef, sheep, and pigs. Your vegetable garden provides practical 'hands on' opportunities for students as part of the Food and Fibre Production learning programs.² You may know that we have two cows at Government House, currently serving as lawn mowers in two paddocks. They are getting used to us and our two border collies and walk up to us at the fence and stare at us, no doubt wanting a feed!

I am often asked how I came to be your Governor. My story started with a good primary and secondary education. This allowed me to go on and study law. I practised as a lawyer for many years before being appointed as a Judge in the Federal Circuit Court, where I served for 13 years before being appointed in June by Her Majesty The Queen as Tasmania's 29th Governor.

¹ <https://sheffield.education.tas.edu.au/learning-in-families-together-lift> accessed 29 Nov 21

² <https://sheffield.education.tas.edu.au/the-school-farm> accessed 29 Nov 21

With a good education, you may have many opportunities. You could go on to further study. You could consider undertaking an apprenticeship. You could come back to the school as a teacher. Perhaps one of you may be appointed as Governor!

A good education opens doors. I urge each one of you to do the best that you can and make the most of your time at school. Take all the opportunities provided by your school so that you are best placed for the future.

I am very pleased to see that your school has an active sporting culture. I played hockey, lawn tennis and real tennis for many years. I encourage you to participate in sports. It is not just for the physical benefits that you get, but also the fact that participation at all levels teaches you teamwork, patience and resilience, all useful life skills.

One of the very best parts of my job is that I am often asked to make presentations of awards to those who have excelled. Recognition over the past year of the outstanding work of our teachers and of our students at schools across the State is a role that I look forward to immensely.

Today, we shall be presenting awards to students who have demonstrated their commitment and perseverance. To those receiving awards I say, 'well done' and that includes your teachers and your families too. I also say 'well done' on completing another year of education to the best of your abilities.

To those who are not receiving an award today, I say keep trying and working hard

Thank you and we will now present the awards.