

**TASMANIAN AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2020**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER 2019**

**VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED**

Please be seated.

Good afternoon and welcome to the Tasmanian Australian of the Year Awards for 2020.

May I warmly acknowledge among you:

- representing the Premier of Tasmania, the Honourable Elise Archer MP, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Building and Construction, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Racing;
- Karlie Brand, National Australia Day Council CEO, and Board Member Norman Schueler;
- Jenny Gale, Secretary Department of Premier and Cabinet;
- Mayors and representatives of numerous Tasmanian Councils;
- Trish Hodge, a palawa woman of lutrawita Tasmania, who will be shortly giving a welcome to country;
- Bernadette Black, 2019 Tasmanian Australian of the Year;
- Eddie Woo, guest speaker, and 2018 Australian Local Hero;
- Ryk Goddard, our MC today;
- representatives of the many corporate partners, whose support for this high profile Australian Government initiative is key to its success;

- this year's eminent Selection panel;
- and, of course, the sixteen wonderful finalists who they have selected.

Ladies and gentlemen, I shall be brief in my remarks, because a wonderful afternoon awaits us.

What I would like to say is that, past and present – and indeed into the future – Australians chosen in one of the four categories are, individually and collectively, inspirational role models. They exemplify what can be done in multiple ways to contribute unselfishly to our community and in my almost five years as Governor I have observed how recipients have capitalised on the award to further their work.

In my role as Governor I meet very many Tasmanians from all walks of life and I can say unhesitatingly that the finalists here this afternoon are a great credit to our island State. To each of you I say: your nomination is in itself an achievement of which you can be proud.

Congratulations to you all.

Thank you.