

TASMANIAN AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS FOR 2019
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2018

Please be seated.

Good afternoon and welcome to the Tasmanian Australian of the Year Awards for 2019.

Auntie Brenda Hodge will shortly be giving a Welcome to Country and in addition I would like to begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land— the Mouheneener people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

I am delighted to be co-hosting this auspicious event this year with the Honourable Will Hodgman MP, Premier of Tasmania.

And I warmly acknowledge among you:

- The Honourable Rebecca White MP, Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party;
- Cassie O'Connor MP, Leader of the Tasmanian Greens;
- Aunty Brenda Hodge;
- Scott Rankin, 2018 Tasmanian Australian of the Year;
- Karlie Brand and Danni Roche, National Australia Day Council Chair and CEO;
- Jenny Gale, Secretary Department of Premier and Cabinet;
- Selection Panel members present;
- and, of course, the wonderful finalists whom they have selected.

Ladies and gentlemen, I shall be brief, 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, despite the obstacles of a demanding career or study regime, a tragedy or a debilitating accident.

And their examples to us instil in us a natural sense of national pride.

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.