

**SCIENCE WEEK SOUTHERN TASMANIA 2024**  
**RECEPTION REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 12 AUGUST 2024**

**VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED**

Good evening to you all and a very warm welcome to this reception to mark National Science Week Southern Tasmania 2024.

I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose Country we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, and waters.

I am very pleased to host this annual fixture on our Government House program each August. Elizabeth College takes the lead in a number of events for this week and this year is no exception.

The events are the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Primary School Campus workshops partnered with Elizabeth College students; Year 9 workshops for Hobart City High School, Taroon High School and Montrose Bay High School; and the Royal Australian Chemistry Institute Titration Competition, just to name a few of the events to encourage participation in and understanding of science. There are 11 primary schools with some 400 students attending, as well as around 100 high school students. This is a significant undertaking for Elizabeth College. May I commend everyone who is involved in the work and commitment to the program.

National Science Week is a major initiative of our Commonwealth Government through Inspiring Australia. I am proud to be associated with this important element of our education system, supporting our STEMM subjects. This week acknowledges the contributions of our Australian scientists. It also aims to encourage an interest in science pursuits among the general public, and also to encourage younger people to be fascinated by science studies.

This year the National Science Week theme is “Species Survival – more than just sustainability”. The program around our State is truly diverse, with events devoted to marine science, to presentations on space, with planetarium screenings on reptiles, and even a reflection on the physics and chemistry of chocolate at the Chocolate Winterfest in Latrobe!<sup>1</sup>

One of the aims for this reception is to enable students, mentors and leaders in Science to interact and share ideas. So, I shall conclude my remarks, but before you all talk together, we shall enjoy some live music on the stage with the Elizabeth College Jazz Band performing *Moanin’* written by Bobby Timmons. We wish vocalist, Matilda Lewis, all the best, as she was to perform on vocals, but is still recovering from COVID. Let us now enjoy the performance and later some background music from the band.

Thank you.

*[Move to floor to listen to musicians perform.*

*OS to thank band on conclusion and invite guests to enjoy reception.]*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.scienceweek.net.au/tasmanian-grants-awarded-for-national-science-week-2024/> accessed 29 July 24