

**RECEPTION TO MARK THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AWARDING BY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA OF THE
TIM HAWKINS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2024**

Good evening, everyone, and a very warm welcome to commemorate the significant 20th anniversary of the Tim Hawkins Memorial Scholarship. It is an honour to host this celebration and to reflect on the impact this scholarship has had over the past two decades.

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

As we know, Tim Hawkins was one of 88 Australians killed in the Bali bombings in October 2002. Tim had graduated with First Class Honours in Law and Economics a few years earlier. He was in Bali to celebrate with a group of rowing friends.

In the aftermath of Tim's tragic death, Reverend Professor Michael Tate conceived the idea of a scholarship honouring Tim's memory. He discussed this with Bill Ayliffe SC, who is here tonight. They took this idea to an informal meeting gathered at the Lindisfarne Rowing Club. This idea gained early support from the Hawkins family and their friends as an appropriate and additional way to pay tribute to Tim's memory. Our State government, Steve Hawkins and abalone divers, rowing bodies and the UTAS Faculty of Law all became early supporters in funding the scholarship and promoting it to the wider community.¹

There is some connection with Government House. On 1 June 2004, the first meeting of the selection committee was chaired by former Governor, the Honourable Sir Guy Green, who is here tonight. An initial \$8000 grant was funded by the School of Law when my husband was Dean. [the late] James Upcher was awarded the

¹ Email from Michael Tate to Government House dated 20 Aug 24

inaugural Tim Hawkins Memorial Scholarship. His father, John, is with us here tonight.²

This Scholarship Fund has now grown to almost \$800,000 and, each year, awards \$25,000 and a return airfare to the Hague. Since 2004, 18 scholarships have been awarded to support students who aspire to careers in international law, human rights, and justice. Initially, Scholars were placed as interns in Chambers at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). In 2010, Professor Tim McCormack, who is also here tonight, was appointed Special Advisor on War Crimes to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. Since then, Scholars have been placed in the ICC, as legal assistants to Tim.

Following their internships, the Tim Hawkins Scholars have pursued careers in Australia, London and Canada in Law Schools, NGOs, government and private practice.

Over the past twenty years of this Scholarship, the talented young Scholars have had opportunities at some of the world's leading institutions. This has given Scholars opportunities to engage with critical issues, such as crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide.

It is very pleasing that, despite Professor McCormack's term expiring later this year, the Tim Hawkins Memorial Scholarship Committee has secured an agreement that future Scholars be placed as interns at the ICC, either in the Office of the Prosecutor or in Judges' Chambers.

May I thank and congratulate everyone involved in the inception and management of the Tim Hawkins Memorial Scholarship. As we celebrate this 20th anniversary, we look to the next 20 years of scholarships and fostering a legacy of justice that must never fade.

Thank you, and please enjoy the reception.

² Ibid.