

**WAIMEA HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL
OPENING OF THE YOUNG ICT EXPLORERS EXPO
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
SANDY BAY, WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2024**

Good morning, everyone! It is a pleasure to be here with you today at Waimea Heights Primary School to launch the Young ICT Explorers Day.

May 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 thrilled to see so many students, all ready to show your good ideas and inventions. Today is a celebration of creativity, innovation, and technology.

For the past nine years, your school has been a keen participant in the Young ICT Explorers competition, a fantastic effort. This event is not just a competition; it is an opportunity for you, our Year 5 and 6 students, to use your imagination and skills to make a difference in the world around you.

This competition challenges you to find real problems and to solve them using digital technology. The problems you are tackling this year are diverse and complex, ranging from climate change, homelessness, mental health support, to road safety, bushfire prevention, and water management.

I am impressed by how you have taken on the challenge to think creatively and use technology—whether through sensors, controllers like Makey Makeys and MicroBits, or using your own coding skills. You should also be able to communicate your ideas, to persuade others, and to design solutions that stand out.

To the teachers, especially those who have guided and mentored these young students, thank you. A special mention to David Titherley, your

Digital Technologies teacher, for his leadership in providing technical and design support to you all. David also has musical talents. Recently, I was fortunate to hear him play the trumpet at a Scouts and Girl Guides Show. Well done to David and to all other teachers.

May I also acknowledge the families and friends who have come to support our young explorers. Your encouragement and support are invaluable.

The judges will have a difficult task evaluating these projects. Choosing just five teams to advance to the national YICTE competition will not be easy. Whatever the outcome, every student here today should be congratulated for participating. Your willingness to work as a team is commendable.

On a personal note, I am also delighted to share that I have fond memories of my own time here as a primary school student; in the classrooms, learning; and running around the spacious grounds, playing softball, netball and tennis. It was then, and still is, a wonderful school.

So, let's get started. I look forward to visiting each booth, seeing your inventions, and hearing about how you brought them to life.

Congratulations to all of you for being here and for being part of this fantastic event. I wish you all the best, not only in today's competition but for your future endeavours.

Thank you.