

**RHODES SCHOLAR FOR TASMANIA FOR 2025  
ANNOUNCEMENT BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 1 OCTOBER 2024**

Good afternoon and thank you all for attending this announcement of the Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar for 2025.

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.

This year, our Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee agreed on five applicants for consideration at the interview stage.

We commend each of you for reaching this interview stage. We agree that each of you was a pleasure to meet, to dine with last night, to interview today, and that you each demonstrated academic excellence in your fields.

As is almost always the case, the task of the Committee was very difficult. The members of our Committee wish me to assure the unsuccessful candidates that each of you has the academic capacity, the skills and the enthusiasm to succeed. We want you to remember that the Rhodes Scholarship is not the only pathway to achieve your ambitions.

May I now announce that the Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar for 2025 is:

Sam Watson

*[Applause]*

I have an additional announcement to make. As well as sending a Rhodes Scholar from each State, the Rhodes Trust sends scholars from what is called 'Australia-at-Large'.

Each State and Territory is permitted to nominate one or two persons for this Australia-at-Large Rhodes Scholarship and the nominees from around the country are interviewed for selection by a National Selection Panel.

The Tasmanian Selection Committee has not always nominated an applicant for the National Rhodes Scholarship, but this year we have decided to send two applicants:

George Grover

and

Sigourney Chirnakorn-Costa

*[Applause]*

Please enjoy the afternoon tea.