

**AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,  
TASMANIA BRANCH – ANNUAL LECTURE 2024  
REMARKS BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE ALAN BLOW AO  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2024**

Good evening and a very warm welcome to you all to the 2024 Lecture of the Australian Institute of International Affairs Tasmania Branch.

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.

This is the tenth lecture in the Institute's series at Government House. It is a pleasure for me to represent your Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker, and to continue our tradition of Governors' Patronage of the Institute in Tasmania.<sup>1</sup>

The Australian Institute of International Affairs was founded in 1933 and has become Australia's longest existing private research institute on politics and international relations. With a mission to help Australians to understand and engage more in international affairs, the Institute has an active nationwide and international agenda that is founded on the dual principles of political neutrality and open debate.<sup>2</sup> As a result, the Institute provides high quality empirical, independent, and intellectual analysis.

We are, therefore, privileged that this evening's lecture will be delivered by the Deputy Director-General, Intelligence Services, Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation, Mr Mike Noyes.

Over years, Governors have hosted hundreds of international diplomats. This does not happen elsewhere in Australia. Last month, for example, Her Excellency opened the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of

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<sup>1</sup> Since at least 1985, Sir James Plimsoll

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/about-us/about-the-aiia/> accessed 22 Oct 24

Antarctic Marine Living Resources, hosted the President and Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, and received calls from the Ambassador of Argentina, from a Chargé d’Affaires of the United States Embassy in Canberra and the Consul General of the United States Consulate in Melbourne. Next week, she will host the Ambassador of Belgium as part of his official visit to the State.

These very busy visits to our State give us the opportunity to promote Tasmania’s business, education and cultural activities and to have a formal dinner with guests who have connection with the hosted country.

And so, to host this Lecture adds to our broader global outlook, and I believe is most fitting for the Office of the Governor.

Before I hand over to the Official Secretary, I would also like to make particular note of the work that has been done by Kim Boyer as President of the AIIA Tasmania Branch. I am told that Kim has relinquished the role and that this will be her final, formal event as President. Thank you, Kim, for your work bringing together another successful lecture this year.

Official Secretary ...

*[David invites Kim Boyer, AIIA Tasmania Branch President, to introduce the Lecturer.]*