

**BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY**  
**MORNING TEA TO PRESENT A 100-YEAR EXCELLENCE AWARD**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 9 DECEMBER 2024**

Good morning, everyone. I warmly welcome you to Government House to present a Bureau of Meteorology 100-year Excellence Award.

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 enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, sky, and waters.

Volunteers have been undertaking observations and recording weather data for the Bureau of Meteorology since it was founded on 1 January 1908, following the passage of the Commonwealth *Meteorology Act* 1906. The Bureau's mission is to "provide Australians with the information that they need to live safely and sustainably within their natural environment."<sup>1</sup>

In 2017, the Bureau of Meteorology instituted Excellence Awards to recognise successful projects, initiatives, or service delivery during extreme weather. These awards recognise the excellent work of individual staff, volunteers, and teams who assist with the Bureau's delivery of trusted, reliable, and responsive services that encompass weather, water, climate, ocean, and space weather reports to all Australians.<sup>2</sup>

One such mechanism is the Volunteer Rainfall Observer Excellence Awards. Many may not be aware, but the majority of observations around Australia that make such an important contribution to the recording and forecasting of our weather are not taken by professional staff. Rather, a significant cohort of around 4,600 volunteers undertake these tasks. These volunteers are eligible for excellence awards for 50 and 100 years of service.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://media.bom.gov.au/social/blog/10/a-short-history-of-the-bureau-of-meteorology/> accessed 29 Nov 24

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.transparency.gov.au/publications/environment-and-energy/bureau-of-meteorology/bureau-of-meteorology-annual-report-2022-23/section-3---group-performance/recognition-of-performance> accessed 29 Nov 24

Today, we recognise the Nichols family team with 100 years of service to volunteer observations. At the property known as “Brookbank” on Grasstree Hill Road near Richmond, your Nichols family has been undertaking observations at station 94055 since 1916. Your family has recorded rainfall, which has provided long-term data on local climate and rainfall patterns in the Richmond area.

From then property owner, Hobart Nichols, to current owners, Richie and Kristina and your three children, Annika, Lisel, and Askel, your family has always been unfailingly meticulous in your daily measurements. As a result, the Bureau of Meteorology reports, “the consistency and accuracy of the measurements taken at Brookbank have made the farm an important and reliable source for long-term climate data in Tasmania.”<sup>3</sup>

Today, I have the pleasure to present the Nichols Family with a 100-year Excellence Award in recognition of their history and commitment to accuracy in support of the Bureau of Meteorology.

May I thank each and every member of your Nichols family for your work and diligence in maintaining and adding to the records of a century of observations.

Thank you.

David ... *(OS to read citation, HE to present award)*

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<sup>3</sup> Email Brian (BoM)/David Hughes 5 Nov 24