

**DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD IN AUSTRALIA
(TASMANIA DIVISION)
PRESENTATION OF GOLD AWARDS
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, HOBART, FRIDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2024**

VICE-REGAL SALUTE

Good evening, everyone. I warmly welcome you to Government House and this annual ceremony to present Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

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.

Tonight, we celebrate the achievements of young Tasmanians who have embraced the challenges and opportunities of this Award. They have demonstrated their resilience, commitment, and adventurous spirit.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is more than a recognition of accomplishment; it equips young people with essential life skills and fosters creativity and innovation.

Each Gold Award recipient has mastered new skills to enhance their physical wellbeing, volunteered in their communities, or embarked on adventurous journeys. At this Gold level, each has participated in residential projects that foster collaboration, cultural understanding, and personal growth. That has required at least five days and four nights away from home and in the company of others not already known to the candidate.¹

As we celebrate our recipients' achievements, may we also acknowledge the support that has made their success possible. To the parents, mentors, and

¹ <https://dukeofed.com.au/use-it/framework/> accessed 26 Nov 24

Award leaders, your guidance and encouragement have shaped these journeys. This evening's celebration acknowledges your efforts as well as the perseverance of our recipients.

Tonight, we also look to the future. Starting in 2025, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Australia will introduce digital badging, providing verifiable, micro-credentialed recognition of participants' non-formal education. This initiative reflects the growing value that educational institutions and employers place on the skills cultivated through this program.²

I congratulate each of the Gold Award recipients. Each of you, with a spirit of determination and service, is an ambassador for Tasmania. I am sure you will all carry forward the lessons you have learned.

We also have a presentation to three exceptional leaders within the Duke of Edinburgh community. In 2015, the National Board of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in Australia approved the Long Service Medal. Significantly, the medal recognises 10 years of service to this Award in a voluntary or paid capacity.³

Congratulations again to all recipients, and I hope you all enjoy this well-deserved celebration of your success.

David ...

² Email Steve Halloran / David Hughes

³ <https://dukeofed.com.au/resource/long-service-medal/> accessed 26 Nov 24