

ZONTA CLUB OF HOBART INC
RECEPTION TO MARK UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
DRAWING ROOM, TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2025

Good evening, everyone, and a very warm welcome to Government House to mark United Nations International Day for Women and Girls in Science and celebrate our scientists of the future.

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.

Today, we celebrate the 10th International Day for Women and Girls in Science. It is a chance to consider the role that women and girls play in science and technology communities and the need to strengthen their participation in these communities.¹

When we look at gender equality in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics – STEM – fields, the facts are stark. Despite a global shortage of skills in many sectors, women still account for only 28 percent of engineering graduates, 40 percent of computer science graduates² and 20 percent in the field of artificial intelligence.³

We should aim to use all talent, which means encouraging and supporting more women and girls to build careers in STEM.⁴

¹ [International Day for Women and Girls in Science](#), accessed 3 February 2025

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ [International Day for Women and Girls in Science](#), accessed 3 February 2025

Zonta International recognises this and works towards equality for all women through a range of initiatives, including education programs.⁵

The *International Zonta Women in STEM Award* encourages women to pursue education, career opportunities, and leadership roles in STEM fields.⁶ This Award is targeted at women at the tertiary level. Members of the Zonta Club of Hobart recognised the need to support women earlier in their studies.⁷ So, they offer an Award for girls in Year 12 who are committed to continuing their STEM studies at university. We shall present this Award today.

May I congratulate Zonta Hobart and all the sponsors for supporting this Award to promote study in STEM. It is particularly fitting as we mark the International Day for Women and Girls in Science.

We shall now present certificates to our winner, runners-up, and all our finalists.

David ...

[OS announces names of winner, two runners up and three finalists who will each come forward separately to accept their certificate from HE]

On conclusion of presentations:

Let's have another round of applause for recipients. And now, I invite you all to join us for some refreshments.

⁵ Information provided by Zonta Hobart to DOS, 4 February 2025

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.