

**NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY 2021**  
**ADDRESS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC,**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA,**  
**TASMANIA POLICE ACADEMY, ROKEBY**  
**WEDNESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Good morning. It is a privilege for me to be with you on this important day. Thank you very much for inviting me.

I wish to begin by paying my respects to the traditional owners of this land – the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

I wish to acknowledge among us:

- Deputy Police Commissioner Donna Adams
- Ms Madeleine Ogilvie, representing the Premier of Tasmania
- The Honourable Jacque Petrusma, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
- The Honourable Craig Farrell, President of the Legislative Council,
- The Honourable Mark Shelton, Speaker of the House of Assembly
- Ms Jen Butler, representing the Honourable Rebecca White, Leader of the Opposition
- Dr Rosalie Woodruff, Greens Party
- Other Distinguished Guests; and
- All Tasmanian Police, Ladies and Gentlemen

September 29 is the day when all across Australia, New Zealand, and countries in the Pacific, we remember those officers who have lost their lives in the course of their duty. It is a day when we express to the family, friends, and colleagues of those officers that their sacrifice is not forgotten. I was saddened to learn that in these last 12 months, you have lost a much loved and valued colleague, Robert Cooke — I offer my sincere condolences. Sadly, officers from Queensland, New South Wales, Western Australia, and Papua New Guinea have also lost their lives in the course of their duties.

September 29 is also a day when we, as a community, recognise and acknowledge the courage and dedication of our police to their duty and to the protection of our community.

The police officer's job is not an easy one; you are sworn to "cause the peace to be kept and preserved and prevent all offences against persons and properties in Tasmania, and that to the best of [your] ability, skill and knowledge, [you] will discharge all the duties of a police officer according to the law".<sup>1</sup>

We expect much of you: you are charged with the protection of the Tasmanian community; you are responsible for the prevention, detection, and prosecution of crime; you deal with family violence, road trauma, horrific injury, public disorder; you respond to natural disasters, and much more. Your duties regularly place you in unexpected, confronting and, at times, dangerous situations that are physically demanding with significant risk and stress.

Over the last 18 months, your role of police officer has been complicated with the additional challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Daily policing now extends to enforcement of compliance with COVID restrictions, quarantine and stay at home requirements and border restrictions, to protect Tasmania from the debilitating effects of a COVID outbreak. Since March 2020, our Tasmania Police have carried out over 66,000 quarantine compliance checks, processed 120,000 applications to enter Tasmania, and overseen 1 million arrivals.<sup>2</sup>

These duties can be met with aggression and resentment from those who feel their civil liberties have been curtailed, those who feel the impact on their businesses and livelihoods, or those who feel the loss of what was normal. Unfortunately, police officers have been injured, most notably when maintaining public order during COVID anti-lockdown protests.

You have a difficult job that often goes unrecognised, unrewarded, and sometimes criticised; your commitment, courage, and resilience is always

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<sup>1</sup> Police Service Act 2003, Schedule 1, Part 3

<sup>2</sup> COVID-19 Coordination Centre Statistical Report, 14 September 2021

expected. You carry out routinely your duties to keep our Tasmanian community safe, every day of the year. As a community we expect a lot of you; you face the challenges of your responsibilities and execute your duties with not only courage, dedication, professionalism, and integrity, but also with patience, empathy, and compassion. I wish to acknowledge with gratitude, the courage and dedication of every police officer. We are indebted to you. Thank you for all that you do.

As you do your work, you look to your family and friends for support. I acknowledge our gratitude to them also, for their support in enabling you to continue to carry out your duties.

On this day of remembrance, we remember and honour all those officers who have lost their lives in the course of their duties. To their family, friends and colleagues, we offer our condolences for their loss. We express our gratitude for their contributions to our society and the protection of our community.

We will remember them.

Thank you.