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Governor pays tribute to Australian sacrifice

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TASMANIA'S governor Kate Warner has acknowledged every Australian who served in World War II in her address marking the 75th anniversary of Victory in the Pacific Day.

Professor Warner said the anniversary of the official end of the Second World War was not a time of celebration, but a commemorative day "to remind us of the sacrifices of our fellow Australians who did not come home and those who did, but were forever changed by the experience".

She said the courage of Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheean, who was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for valour during the week, "exemplified what was for millions of soldiers and civilians a terrible period in history".

Coronavirus restrictions prevented a public commemoration at the Hobart Cenotaph and the wreath-laying ceremony was instead held in the gardens of Government House. Army bugler Benjamin Lim sounded Last Post and at-



tendees included six teens who were recipients of the Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize.

The Year 10 students, who each wrote a winning essay about the meaning of the Anzac spirit, were supposed to be rewarded with a visit to the Western Front in Europe this year. Riverside High School student Amelia Hanson said it had been a positive experience despite the cancelled study tour. "I didn't know much at all about Australia's war history before I started my research and it's a lot more engaging, with more sides to the story than I expected," she said.

SOMBRE DAY: Tasmanian Governor Kate Warner joins the service and lays a wreath, right, to mark the 75th anniversary of VP Day at Government House. Picture: NIKKI DAVIS-JONES

Veterans Affairs Minister Guy Barnett recognised the 30,000 Tasmanians who fought in World War II.

"It is also estimated that nearly 16,000 people, including 5000 women, worked in factories and on the land to support the war effort and supply the armed forces with vegetables, dairy and meat products," Mr Barnett said.

VP Day is the anniversary of the Imperial Japanese Army's surrender to the Allies on August 15, 1945, which marked the end of World War II.

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