



OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE CITY OF CLARENCE
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE CAROLINE WELLS
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
RICHMOND, WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2026

Good evening, everyone. I am delighted to join you here in beautiful Richmond, following an extremely interesting and jam-packed afternoon visiting the municipality of Clarence.

Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge the Palawa people as the First Peoples of Lutruwita/Tasmania and the Traditional Custodians of this land. For countless generations, they have cared for and nurtured this remarkable island, its landscapes, waterways and communities.

I pay my respects to Elders past and present and recognise the enduring contribution of Aboriginal Tasmanians to the cultural, social and spiritual life of our State.

As Governor I am committed to championing Tasmania, and doing all I, and the Office of the Governor, can do to support tourism, trade and investment.

It's about promoting Tasmania's unique strengths, enhancing our reputation and creating opportunities for sustainable economic growth.

That story is not told through words alone; it's told through the achievements of Tasmanian people and businesses whose excellence, ingenuity and commitment to quality enhance our state's reputation every day and, wow, have we seen that today.

So, what a lovely way to finish our day here at Killara Distillery, which embodies Tasmania's proud tradition of creating exceptional products and showcasing them to the world. Thank you, Kristy, for hosting us.

I have recently had the opportunity to learn more about how we brand Tasmania. It is not a logo or a catchphrase; it's a story. A story about determination, quality, quiet confidence and connection – a story about 'the quiet pursuit of the extraordinary'.

In fact, our visit this afternoon to 7 Mile Beach, like Killara Distillery exemplifies our Tasmanian brand. This amazing golf course has added to our State's outstanding reputation for golf tourism. It was so great to see golfers coming off the course and saying how unique their experience was and that there is nothing like this in Victoria!

The Clarence municipality more broadly certainly embodies this story of Tasmania, although perhaps at times "quiet" isn't quite the right word when we think about Clarence! There is a vibrancy, energy and confidence here that is distinctly its own.

It may be a well-worn phrase, but we certainly do punch above our weight in this State.

My congratulations to everyone for what you do for your municipality and for our beautiful State. This region is home to innovative businesses and outstanding attractions which are driving investment and tourism.

We heard about the City Heart Plan and its 20-year vision to shape the social, cultural and economic centre of Clarence. I was particularly interested to learn about two key aspects of the Plan:

- greener, healthier places
- inclusive and liveable spaces.

With my background in public health and advocacy, I have a strong understanding of the importance of the environments in which people live, work, play and connect, and the role they play in shaping health and wellbeing.

Healthy communities are supported not only by access to health services, but also by safe, inclusive and connected places that encourage people to be active, engaged and connected with others. For me, this is an important part of community development.

Creating greener, healthier and more inclusive spaces can strengthen community connection, promote wellbeing and contribute to better health outcomes for residents. The importance of this work cannot be underestimated.

But ultimately, community is about people, and throughout our visit to Clarence today, we have seen the many ways people are supporting one another, creating opportunities for connection, and helping others feel that they belong.

When I became Governor, I made a commitment to lead with compassion, kindness and purpose because I believe strong communities are built on those same values. Today has been a powerful reminder of their importance.

At the heart of every strong community is a sense of belonging. We all want to feel valued, supported and connected to the people and places around us. Today has been a wonderful reminder of just how important that is.

At Rosny Farm, we heard about the exciting plans to develop the site into an even more vibrant arts and cultural precinct, including a dedicated youth hub. It was also wonderful to see the work underway to rewild the Rosny Parklands. We had the opportunity to meet some young people from the

Youth Network Advisory Group plus some emerging artists hanging their work and ‘wrapping a room’ as part of their upcoming art exhibition.

What struck me about Rosny Farm is that it is not simply a place for arts and culture—it is a place that brings people together. It creates opportunities for creativity, participation and connection.

We saw that same spirit at the Risdon Vale Neighbourhood Centre. The breadth of programs and activities on offer is very impressive—from the Breakfast Program and community lunches, to the Men’s Shed and so much more. It was great to sit and have a coffee with some volunteers and then a tour of the amazing community garden. There was not a weed in sight!

But while the programs themselves are important, I think what matters most is what happens because of them. People come through the doors, they meet one another, friendships are formed, and people know there is somewhere they can go where they will be welcomed.

And finally, it was a privilege to spend time with members of the Military Brotherhood and to hear about the support and camaraderie they provide to serving and ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Forces, as well as their families, friends and supporters.

Dr Walters found this particularly interesting having spent 47 years in the military.

There is something very powerful about mateship—knowing that there are people who understand, who will listen, and who will stand beside you when you need them.

Throughout the afternoon, both Dr Walters and I have been delighted to meet so many people who live and work in the Clarence municipality. It’s been great to chat with everyone and hear what they have been up to.

Since I took on this role, each day I have had my eyes opened to the many wonderful things taking place around Tasmania. So much important work often flies under the radar, and as Governor I want to bring this out into the light.

So, as we leave Clarence today, I think the strongest message we take with us is the importance of connection.

Connection to community.

Connection to place.

And, most importantly, connection to one another.

Thank you to everyone we have met today for making us feel so welcome and for sharing a little of 'your Clarence' with us. It has been wonderful to see first-hand the care, commitment and community spirit that exists right across Clarence, and to hear the stories behind the people and organisations that make this place so special.

A very special thank you to Mayor Brendan Blomeley and the Clarence City Council staff for helping make our visit possible, and to everyone who generously opened their doors, shared their experiences and took the time to speak with us.

Today has given us some wonderful memories, a deeper appreciation for this community, and an even greater sense of the warmth and generosity of the people who call Clarence home.

Thank you.