

**COUNCIL OF UNITED COMMONWEALTH SOCIETIES OF TASMANIA
LUNCHEON TO MARK THE BIRTHDAY OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
REMARKS BY**

**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**

ROYAL YACHT CLUB OF TASMANIA, TUESDAY 7 JUNE 2022

Good afternoon everyone, and thank you for this opportunity to celebrate the 96th birthday of Her Majesty The Queen with you all. The Royal and Loyal Societies and Associations represented by the Council of United Commonwealth Societies assists with the maintenance of links between the Crown and the Realm. I am very pleased to retain Vice-Regal support as the Patron of the Council.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community. I recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of colonisation upon our First People. I stand for a future that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal stories, culture, language and history.

I would also like to acknowledge Mr Barry Smith, Chair of the Council, for his invitation to attend this luncheon. Also with us are representatives from Tasmanian Loyal Societies:

- Frank McGregor, Honorary UK Consul Tasmania
- Alastair Douglas, Chairman, The Order of Australia Association Tasmania
- Stephen Jones, Chairman, The Royal Over-Seas League Tasmania
- Reg Watson, Australian National Flag Association Tasmania
- Daniel Chan, President, The Chinese Community Association Tasmania and
- Pamela Watkins, Vice-President, The Royal Commonwealth Society Northern Tasmania Branch.

I am delighted to be with you today to celebrate the 96th birthday of Her Majesty in this, her Platinum Jubilee year. We all acknowledge that we have been very well served by Her Majesty's continued dedication to the Commonwealth. Her devotion was foreshadowed in her memorable speech on her 21st birthday in Cape Town, when she stated: 'I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service'.

It has been quite clear that Her Majesty has fulfilled this pledge. Her Majesty sees public and voluntary service as the most important element of her work. Her links with over 600 charities, military associations, professional bodies and public service organisations are a testament to her sense of duty and tireless work ethic.

On the 6th of February this year, Her Majesty The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth. Her Majesty has added stability to our constitutional democracy and modelled a consistent theme of service to others above self.

We have just witnessed what has been termed “The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Central Weekend.” Over the period 2 – 5 June there have been events across the Commonwealth to celebrate this historic milestone.

Thousands have observed or participated in significant events such as the Queen’s Birthday Parade, where the Colour was trooped by the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards. More than 1200 officers and soldiers from the Household Division of the Horse Guards took part in the Horse Guard Parade.

The Principal Beacon – made up of a 21-metre high ‘Tree of Trees’, constructed of some 350 smaller trees – was lit up at Buckingham Palace at 9:00 pm on the 2nd of June. As you may be aware, beacons have been a part of Jubilee and significant birthdays of the Monarch since 1897. In that year, beacons were first lit to celebrate Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee.

To coincide with the Palace and many other parts of the United Kingdom and the capital cities of the Commonwealth, a beacon was also lit in Canberra.

At a Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul’s Cathedral, Great Paul, the largest church bell in Great Britain, was rung for the Service. It was cast in 1882 but fell silent in the 1970s due to a broken mechanism. Restored in 2021, it has been rung on eight occasions; however, this will be its first peals for a royal occasion.

On the weekend, Her Majesty hosted a Platinum Party at the Palace. Many participated in the Big Jubilee Lunch as part of a nationwide act of community friendship. At the evening concert, an array of popstars, aging and young, performed. A video of the Queen having afternoon tea with Paddington Bear was a delight to watch, especially as I had been reading Paddington Bear to my grandson that morning!

Here in Australia, there have been illuminations in Royal Purple of significant buildings across our Nation, including our Government House over the weekend, as part of the commemoration. We are also holding two fundraising concerts this week for Eat Well Tasmania and Hobart City Mission as part of the Jubilee celebrations. Trees have also been planted; at Franklin House in Launceston and here at our Government House grounds, some of you here having helped plant the tree.

In Her Majesty's 96th year, may we all celebrate all The Queen has done, and continues to do, in our service. Long may she reign.

And on a personal note, I am still hopeful of presenting to Her Majesty in the next six months.

May I now ask everyone to stand for the Loyal Toast:

Her Majesty The Queen