

**LUNCHEON WITH MEMBERS OF THE
NORTH-WEST REGIONAL GROUP OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
ASSOCIATION TASMANIAN BRANCH
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
HELLYERS ROAD DISTILLERY, BURNIE, SUNDAY 26 JUNE 2022**

Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for inviting me here today. I am very pleased to continue Vice-Regal association with our North-West Regional Group of the Order of Australia Association.

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.

May I also acknowledge Dr Peter Holm, your Group Chairman for his kind invitation to attend this lunch. Also with us is Alastair Douglas, Chairman of The Order of Australia Association Tasmania.

The Order of Australia is the pre-eminent, national honours system that recognises Australians who have demonstrated outstanding service or exceptional achievement.

The Queen is the Sovereign Head of the Order of Australia and the Governor-General is the Chancellor in Australia. Unlike many other countries' honours systems, nominations for our awards in the General Division of the Order of Australia come directly from the community. Nominations are considered by the Council for the Order of Australia which makes recommendations directly to the Governor-General.

As a result, many of our awards reflect grass-roots community service in communities throughout Australia. In the most recent Queen's Birthday Honours List, two men from Sheffield were awarded Medals of the Order of Australia for their service to the community in the arts, tourism, aged care and sports. There are similar commendations here today. I commend you all for

your achievements that were recognised by your awards. I look forward to investing our Tasmanian recipients of awards in the Order of Australia, and for meritorious and conspicuous service, at ceremonies at Government House in September.

At a recent meeting of Governors and the Governor-General, His Excellency indicated his desire to encourage nominations from a wider cross-section of our community. As National Patron of the Order of Australia Association, His Excellency has been making efforts to promote nominations from a greater diversity of people, and from more culturally diverse backgrounds. So, we encourage your association when making efforts to promote the Order to encourage nominations from a wider cross-section of our community.

I am delighted to be with you today, especially as we celebrate the 96th birthday of Her Majesty in this, her Platinum Jubilee year.

The 6th of February this year was an historic day. 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.

Her Majesty has fulfilled her pledge when she declared 75 years ago ‘before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service’.

We witnessed what has been termed “The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Central Weekend,” over the period 2 – 5 June. There were events across the Commonwealth to celebrate this historic milestone.

There were 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.

At an 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 recently been reading Paddington Bear to my grandson!

In Australia, there were illuminations in Royal Purple of significant buildings across our Nation, including our Government House, as part of the commemoration.

We also held two successful fundraising concerts on 8 and 9 June as part of the Jubilee celebrations. The idea for fundraising follows the example set by Her Majesty during her Diamond Jubilee when she emphasised raising funds for worthy charities for the benefit of the whole community.

We have also planted commemorative trees; at Franklin House in Youngtown and in our own Government House grounds.

In Her Majesty's 96th year, may we 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