

**ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE HOBART — BASTILLE DAY CELEBRATION**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC,**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA,**  
**MT STUART MEMORIAL HALL, THURSDAY 14 JULY 2022**

Bonsoir et merci to the committee of Alliance Française de Hobart for the invitation to celebrate Bastille Day with you.

I pay 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.

The storming and capture of the Bastille on 14 July 1789 and the release of the seven aged prisoners was the symbolic start of the French Revolution. This was the first of many events over a ten-year period that became the foundation of the current French Republic. We know that celebrations in Paris, across France and their overseas departments on this public holiday include military parades, fireworks, and the traditional time with family and friends.

At Government House over the past few weeks, we have been hosting, in collaboration with the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, special ‘French Connection’ tours to emphasise and signify the long association between France and Tasmania.

Earlier today, there was a very special tour, being held on this Bastille Day and under the guidance of distinguished astrophysicist and researcher, Jean-Phillipe Beaulieu. He shared his understanding of the French Garden at Recherche Bay and linked it to the Lahaye Garden planted in 2016 in our Government House grounds, a replica of the Recherche Bay garden.

As your President, Caroline, wrote in your most recent newsletter, Hobart hosted the recent visit by the Ambassador of the French Republic, His Excellency Jean-Pierre Thébault. As is our Tasmanian custom, His Excellency stayed at Government House during his visit. During his time here, we discussed ways that we may increase the knowledge and understanding of French language and culture. I understand that is a key objective of our Hobart Alliance. The work of your Alliance in providing language classes, conversation groups and events of significance such as tonight are celebrations of French culture. Your work continues to improve the understanding of our shared history and culture.

Tonight, let’s celebrate the best of French wine, food and conversation with fellow francophones and francophiles on this Bastille Day 2022. Merci et à bientôt.