

LIONS TASMANIA DISTRICT 201 T1
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2022

I warmly welcome you all to our beautiful Government House and to this reception to celebrate the 75th anniversary of service to our community by Lions International Australia.

I pay my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community and their enduring culture. I recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of colonisation upon our First People. I commit to a future that listens to and respects Aboriginal stories, culture, and history.

My husband Don and I are very pleased to be able to host this 75th anniversary celebration. We are also happy to welcome incoming District Governor Paul Cairnduff and his wife Mary. The role of District Governor is an important one, so I wish you all the best in your endeavours over the next few years.

I have come to learn that Tasmania is special within the Lions community as the only place where the District encompasses the entire State, whereas other States consist of several Districts.

Your District is somewhat akin to my jurisdiction as Governor, which encompasses all Tasmania, as well as Macquarie Island in the sub-Antarctic.

I am almost a third of the way through my program of Municipal visits to the 29 municipalities of Tasmania. I have met some members of Lions clubs on these visits.

Lions traces its origins to Chicago businessman, Melvin Jones. He brought together members of the business community in Chicago in response to the many social issues that arose after the First World War. Since then, Lions International has expanded into more than 120 countries across the world. There are some 47,000 active clubs providing an opportunity to serve and support the community for nearly 1.3 million members.

In Australia, our first Lions club was formed in Lismore in 1947. Lions Australia has grown to be Australia's largest service club organisation with a strong history of community service and commitment to improving the lives of others.

Tasmania has 47 Lions clubs and two LEO clubs¹ with a total membership of nearly 1,000.

Lions clubs in Tasmania provide support for a vast range of projects across all areas of our state. Lions work with the youth, elderly and infirm in our community. You have supported responses to floods and fires and taken on projects as diverse as cancer research, eye health programs and hearing dogs.

The Lions Club of Kingborough recently presented \$86,500 to the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation at the 2022 National Convention, a most significant donation and for such a good cause.²

I was impressed to read on your website that 100 % of funds raised by Lions go to the designated causes and are not used to pay administration costs.

Seventy-five years of operation is a significant achievement for any organisation. It is especially so for a volunteer group. We must never take our volunteers for granted. As a community, we must value and support our volunteers.

On behalf of our State, I congratulate everyone on their efforts to keep alive the tradition of Lions, encapsulated in your motto 'Lions serve'.

Thank you all, including all who are not here, for your service. Thank you all too, for the many benefits that your hard work provides to our Tasmanian Community. And, on today, the International Day of Charity, I thank you for your generosity, and for making Tasmania a better place.

We'll now hear from District Governor Paul before enjoying some refreshments together.

David...

¹ LEO clubs are a youth leadership development initiative of Lions <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/discover-our-clubs/about-leos> accessed 29 August 22

² <https://lionsclub.org.au-our-stories/kingborough-lions-make-significant-donation>, accessed 4/09/2022