

**RECEPTION TO CELEBRATE THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FORMATION OF THE ABRUZZESE ASSOCIATION OF HOBART AND
THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SISTER CITY AGREEMENT BETWEEN
HOBART AND L'AQUILA**

REMARKS BY

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

BALL ROOM, FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER 2022

VICE-REGAL SALUTE

Welcome to our beautiful Government House and to this reception to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the formation of the Abruzzese Association of Tasmania and the 25th anniversary of the signing of the sister city agreement of Hobart with L'Aquila in 1997.

I pay my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community and recognise their continued connection to land, sea, and 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.

I also acknowledge:

- Hon Elise Archer MP, Attorney-General
- Aldermen Peter Bull, Sue Hickey and Marti Zucco
- President Antonio De Cesare
- Past and present committee and association members

Your Abruzzese Association of Hobart was founded in 1987. As is usually the case, a dedicated management committee was required, both to set up and then run your Association, especially in the beginning.

I am informed that you had a novel way of achieving your set up. Your first meetings were held in inaugural President Umberto "Berti" Tucceri's, Berti's Pasta restaurant. I am also informed that the initial officers of your Association were listed on one of Berti's restaurant order pads! What a lovely way and a very Italian way to start in a restaurant!

Your association has three life members, Ann Tucceri, Angela D’Ettorre and Aurelio D’Ettorre. Present tonight at Government House are three generations of the D’Ettorre family, as Lee-Anne, Angela and Aurelio’s daughter, and Lee-Anne’s two daughters, Ruby and Zoe, are all here.

The Abruzzo region of Italy is home to industries and research and educational institutions. Research into nuclear and high-energy astrophysics is carried out in one of the world’s biggest underground laboratories, alongside small agricultural holdings and motor vehicle production.

Your University of L’Aquila traces its origins back to 1592. Currently the University has more than 19,000 students.

There are a lot of similarities between the province of Abruzzo and our State of Tasmania. Large parts of both have been declared national parks; both are considered green and clean; both have picturesque countryside and mountains for tourism. Our agricultural sectors are based on small holdings producing quality wine, cereals, olives, vegetables, fruit and cheeses.

Your Association would be well aware of the significant migration of Italians to Australia and throughout the world after the Second World War.

Many immigrants worked on important projects, including the original Snowy River hydro-electricity scheme. You brought your love of food, wine and celebration that enhanced and changed our wider society.

Hobart has just two sister cities; Yaizu City in Japan and L’Aquila in Abruzzo. Your second President, Nicola Ranalli, who served for 20 years, was the driver of the Hobart/L’Aquila sister city agreement, along with Marti Zucco and Lord Mayor John Freeman. Our relationship was drawn closer after the 2009 L’Aquila earthquake and the 2016 Amatrice earthquake in Norcia. Our sister city relationship has provided opportunities for a conduit for exchanges. There is now a Youth exchange program and deepening business links between the two cities.

I am also told that your Association and our Hobart City Council are working towards a scholarship to send a young person of Abruzzese heritage to visit the region, and to practice the language. This is a significant way to ensure that our communities in Tasmania and in L’Aquila continue our sister city relationship.

Your Abruzzese Association has achieved much in the past 35 years. You have much to be proud of. I commend you all for the work for our sister city relationship and the local community. May I mention on a personal note that Don and I on one of our trips to Italy visited L'Aquila and the region before the earthquake. It is a beautiful city.

Welcome again and please now enjoy some refreshments in our beautiful State Rooms of Government House.

Thank you.