

**TREE PLANTING TO MARK THE PLATINUM JUBILEE OF
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN ON BEHALF OF THE
DOGS' HOMES OF TASMANIA
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
DOGS' HOMES OF TASMANIA, WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2022**

Good morning, everyone and welcome to this tree planting ceremony to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen on behalf of the Dogs' Homes of Tasmania.

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 enduring culture and 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 would also like to acknowledge:

- Ms Carol Hughes, President Dogs' Homes Tasmania, and
- Ms Denise Bower, Vice President Dogs' Homes Tasmania

Despite the fact that the death of Her Majesty on the 8th of September has cast a pall over her triumphant Platinum Jubilee, it is a great pleasure to be here at the Dogs' Home and to be involved with this tree planting.

It is a delightful coincidence that the Dogs' Home is also celebrating its platinum anniversary. The Dogs' Home was established by Gladys Rawson, who was the founder in 1952 of the Tasmanian Canine Defence League, which operates the Dogs' Homes of Tasmania. Apparently, she was famous for driving around and collecting stray dogs and established the first home on borrowed land in Degraes Street, South Hobart. The dogs housed there used old car bodies as kennels. Needless to say, the Hobart City Council was unimpressed.

Since then, happily, the Home has grown in Hobart and across the State. Ten Councils pay the Dogs' Home to act as their pound, although the home receives no regular government funding. This site was opened in December of 1991. It has not been without its issues. In 1993, significant flooding occurred.

In 1994 and 1995, more than 1,000 trees were planted to assist with erosion control.

Don and I have links to the Dogs' Home, including adopting our two precious dogs, Molly and Ben, who were once residents here. Our current dogs, Oscar and Nala, are also rescue dogs, albeit from Queensland, brought to Tasmania by our daughter. While it is heartbreaking to see so many dogs in the adoption kennels, it is nonetheless uplifting to know that they will all be rehomed.

Like many of us here today, I had never known a time when Her Majesty had not been Monarch. She represented stability for all the nations of the Commonwealth and has inspired us with her graciousness, firmness and good humour, despite many challenges. 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 stoicism and commitment to duty were emulated by her son, now King Charles III, as he shared his grief at the loss of his mother and Monarch with the rest of the world. Her Majesty had fulfilled the pledge she made 75 years ago when she declared 'before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service'.

This tree planting follows in the vein of Commemorative trees planted at Franklin House in Youngtown and in our own Government House grounds.

We shall also be opening a new viewing platform over our Quarry Pond named in memory of Her Majesty as part of our Open Day activities on the 6th of November.

It gives me great pleasure to now plant a commemorative tree to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and our Dogs' Homes of Tasmania's platinum anniversary and unveil the plaque marking the occasion.

Thank you all for the significant work that has been, and continues to be, done to look after the dogs that, for whatever reason, are unable to stay with their owners. I commend you for your dedication and resolve and look forward to supporting another 70 years of the Dogs' Homes of Tasmania.

Thank you.