

**TREE PLANTING TO COMMEMORATE THE PLATINUM JUBILEE OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

REMARKS BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE ALAN BLOW AO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**

ROSETTA PRIMARY SCHOOL, TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2022

Good morning, everyone and welcome to this tree planting to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen in the 'Friendship Grove' at Rosetta Primary School. We are, of course, in your School Hall due to the inclement weather, but will proceed to the Grove for the tree planting in due course.

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.

I would like to acknowledge:

- Hon Elise Archer MP
- Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP
- Mayor of Glenorchy, Bec Thomas
- Parliamentarians, Ella Haddad and Kristie Johnston
- Mr Andrew Wilkie MP
- Principal Deirdre Arendt
- Students and supporters

The Planting Trees for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee grant program provided funding for community groups throughout Australia to plant regionally appropriate species that enhance the local tree canopy. Although originally planned to be a celebration of Her Majesty's Jubilee, the Australian Government announced that, following her death on 8 September, the tree plantings and commemorative events would go ahead as planned in honour of The Queen and her 70 years of service as Australia's Head of State.

Her Majesty added stability to our constitutional democracy and modelled a consistent theme of service to others above self. Her Majesty clearly 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'.

The tree planting program in Australia aligns with The Queen's Green Canopy initiative in the UK and other parts of the Commonwealth. Millions of trees have been or will be planted in Her Majesty's name that serve as a lasting tribute to her extraordinary service to her country, her Realm and her people.

I am told that students and staff agreed that a peaceful area would be set aside for all of the school community to be able to enjoy some respite from the stresses of life and school. The grant has been used to create this Friendship Grove.

You join with an impressive number of groups who have utilised the grants to beautify their surrounds in a sustainable and lasting way. Commemorative trees have been planted at Franklin House in Youngtown, at the Dogs' Homes of Tasmania, and in the grounds of Government House.

Our Governor also dedicated a new viewing platform over the Quarry Pond named for Her Majesty as part of the Government House Open Day activities on the 6th of November.

So, I will shortly have great pleasure to unveil a plaque to declare open the Friendship Grove, following which we will plant a commemorative tree to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second.

Thank you.