

**RECEPTION TO MARK THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF
CPA AUSTRALIA TASMANIA DIVISION
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
BALL ROOM, THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2022**

VICE-REGAL SALUTE

Good evening and welcome to Government House for this reception to mark the 110th anniversary and, may I say the second century of the formation of CPA Tasmania.

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 and recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea, and waters. 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:

- National President, Merran Kelsall
- Tasmanian President, Professor Gary O'Donovan and Council members
- Members and supporters

According to your history, on 12 April 1886, the founders met to discuss the future of accounting, recognising the need for greater rigour and substance in your profession.

A decision was made to form the Incorporated Institute of Accountants, Victoria (IIAV – now known as CPA Australia), with a foundation membership of 45.

A gentleman named Ebenezer Cox, a rather splendid name for an accountant, was present at the inaugural meeting, but he was deemed ineligible for membership as he had not been in practice for long enough.¹

The Tasmania records show that the IIAV established a Tasmanian Branch in 1912, which started with eight members. Seven of them served on the branch council. I cannot name the absent eighth member, who skived off!

¹ <https://www.cpaaustralia.com.au/about-cpa-australia/our-organisation/our-history/our-founders> accessed 17 Nov 22

An extract from Annual IIAV Report for 1911-12 stated: *“HOBART.—Following upon a visit to Hobart by your President, where he met a large and representative gathering and explained the advantages of such an Institute to Accountants, a branch has been formed in that city, and much enthusiasm prevails amongst those who have charge of it.*

A Students' Society has already been formed, and several interesting and useful meetings have been held.

Mr. W. H. Cummins has been appointed Hon Secretary to the branch.”

Historically, there is a direct connection between that original Tasmania branch and the current CPA Tasmania. Ms Suzanne Cox, who is inaugural Honorary Secretary W.H. Cummins' granddaughter, is here with us this evening.²

In 1921, the IIAV had a name change to the Commonwealth Institute of Accountants. Branches were opened in other states. The name was again changed in 1953 to the Australian Society of Accountants before its current title of CPA Australia was adopted in 2000.³

CPAs are recognised in Australia and around the world as professionals who not only have gone beyond basic training, but who also have additional knowledge and experience that makes you particularly well qualified to operate in the modern dynamic business environment. Your CPA program also provides your candidates with a deep understanding of the issues that organisations face every day.⁴

Qualification as a CPA requires considerable additional work beyond what is required for your tertiary qualification. You also have an ongoing professional development program that is part of the essential requirements to maintain your CPA membership and certification.

You have the distinction as a profession of having a quote by Elvis Presley:

‘I have no use for bodyguards, but I have very specific use for two highly trained certified public accountants.’⁵

² Email Olivia Best / David Hughes 8 Nov 22

³ <https://www.cpaaustralia.com.au/about-cpa-australia/our-organisation/our-history/historical-timeline-and-milestones> accessed 16 Nov 22

⁴ <https://www.cpaaustralia.com.au/become-a-cpa/about-the-cpa-program> accessed 17 Nov 22

⁵ <https://www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/accountants.html> accessed 17 Nov 22

Elvis obviously had more complicated affairs than I have. In my Office of the Governor, I have only one CPA in our employ.

Congratulations to all the Certified Practising Accountants here this evening. I have the pleasure of knowing a few of you, including Peter Tracey and Mike Harris, who both worked with me at Murdoch Clarke, many years ago!

I also congratulate our Tasmanian Branch on achieving your significant milestone of 110 years of operation. There are few organisations, professional or otherwise, that have maintained and, indeed, increase their membership over such a period.

It is a great pleasure to share in this celebration with you. On another personal note, my husband Don served on your Ethics Committee some years ago.

While you are here, please take the opportunity to look through our magnificent State Rooms.

Thank you.