

**THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II QUARRY POND LOOKOUT
DEDICATION SPEECH BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
QUARRY POND, GOVERNMENT HOUSE
2:00 PM SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2022**

[VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED]

Good afternoon and welcome to this dedication ceremony for the Queen Elizabeth The Second Quarry Pond Lookout.

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.

This north-west aspect of the Quarry Pond has always presented a beautiful view over the water below and towards the main Government House building. Our view includes the magnificent 35-metre-tall¹ giant sequoia tree, and the four residential cottages.

In the Government House collection, we have many images created at this Lookout over the years. The historic and earliest known photograph of Government House, taken in 1858, shows Governor Sir Henry Fox Young and Lady Sophia Fox Young standing approximately at this spot.

Much later, in the early 1930s, the noted Australian artist John Eldershaw, painted a view of this Quarry Pond and main building from this spot. That painting and the early photograph of the Youngs are both on display in the Ball Room.

¹ Height confirmed by David Hughes.

In recent years, our Estate Gardens Manager, Tara Edmondson, and her Garden team carried out work at this spot. They levelled this area. They cleared foliage from the sandstone wall and arranged the seating around us. On the slope on my left, Staff Gardener Barry Blain planted twelve Wollemi Pines. They are one of the world's oldest and rarest plants and Barry is a principal Australian cultivator of this ancient species.

A decision was made to dedicate this Lookout to Queen Elizabeth and to acknowledge her seventy years and seven months as Queen. Today, we dedicate this site to her honour and her legacy with this beautiful and serene Quarry Pond Lookout in the grounds of Government House Tasmania.

This Lookout also acknowledges Her Majesty and Prince Philip's visits to Tasmania on seven occasions, between the years 1954 and 2000. On all those visits they stayed at Government House and their programs took them to many parts of Tasmania.

There are some of the Government House senior staff here who recall, with great fondness, The Queen's last visits in 1988 and in 2000.

In conclusion, may I say that undoubtedly when King Charles and the Queen Consort, and the Prince of Wales and the Princess of Wales, pay their initial visits to Tasmania, they will be invited to spend some time at this dedicated Quarry Pond Lookout.

May I now, on our behalf, officially dedicate this site as the Queen Elizabeth The Second Quarry Pond Lookout.

Thank you all.