

**VETERANS CRICKET TASMANIA**  
**OPENING OF A PARKLAND TO COMMEMORATE THE REIGN OF**  
**HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II AND TOSS THE COIN TO START A**  
**VETERANS' CRICKET MATCH**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**ROSS RECREATION GROUND, THURSDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2022**

Good morning everyone and welcome to this Ross Recreation Ground and to this ceremony to open this parkland tree planting, in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second. Welcome also to the tossing of the coin to begin the first match of the Veterans Cricket Australia Over 70s National Championships.

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 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.

May I acknowledge:

- Claude Orlando, President of Veterans Cricket Tasmania
- Rick Hebbard, President of the Ross Community Sports Club
- Ben Dudham, representing Federal Member for Lyons, Brian Mitchell MP
- Mayor Mary Knowles OAM, Northern Midlands Council
- and all of the officials, competitors, families and supporters here today for this first match of the Veterans Cricket Australia Over 70s National Championships.

As part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, numerous community groups were awarded grants to plant trees to mark the occasion. The gardens here are a beautiful example of what can be done when community groups come together in a common cause.

This area was funded by a grant of \$20,000 to plant trees at the Ross Recreation Ground. The majority of the trees were planted by a working bee involving veteran cricketers and locals over three days, in early September.

Nurseryman, Mark Hay, and local tree consultant, Annabel Von Bibra, provided valuable advice on the project. The Northern Midlands Council's works crew assisted with the planting of some 80 trees, which have since been staked and protected with netting. A top dressing of mulch was applied by a group of enthusiastic veteran cricketers, many of whom travelled long distances to support the project. Many of you are here today.

I am delighted to be invited to open this parkland in memory of Her Majesty's reign and her contribution to the Commonwealth.

Like many of us here today, I had never known a time when Her Majesty had not been our Monarch, providing stability for all the nations of the Commonwealth and inspiring us with her graciousness, firmness and delightful sense of humour, despite many challenges.

On February 6, 2022 Her Majesty became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee marking 70 years on the throne. The celebrations have, of course, been restrained since her death in September. There is much to remember and admire about her reign and about her.

In 1952, following the death of her father, King George VI, the young Princess Elizabeth became Queen Elizabeth II. When we think back over her reign, we can consider how much has changed in our world. Her Coronation was broadcast by the BBC. It was the first coronation service to be televised. For most people, it was the first time they had watched an event on television. It is reported that some 27 million people of the 36 million population in the UK, watched the ceremony on television and 11 million listened on the radio.<sup>1</sup>

Since that Coronation, we have travelled into space and to the moon, seen the rise of international travel, the importance of electronics and the spread of the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.royal.uk/50-facts-about-queens-coronation-0> accessed 16 June 22

internet. Through all this, Her Majesty was a steady influence and a shining example of service to others over self.

Her Majesty saw public and voluntary service as the central elements of her work. She was linked with over 600 charities, military associations, professional bodies and public service organisations; a testament to her sense of duty and work ethic.

This parkland is a commemoration of these 70 years of Her Majesty's reign. Here we may reflect on The Queen and on her service. It will be my great pleasure to unveil the plaque to formally open the parkland.

Shortly after that I shall have the honour to toss the coin to begin this first match of our Veterans Cricket Australia, Over 70s National Championships here at Ross.

It is terrific that we are able to host the Championship for the first time in Tasmania. The previous two years' events were cancelled due to the pandemic, and we had quite a scare this last week with a run of bad weather that badly affected the pitch.

Thank you to all who have been involved with organising this event. I wish all competitors every success during the match.

Thank you.