

**COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION IN TASMANIA (INC)**  
**87<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY PICNIC**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**GOVERNMENT HOUSE BALL ROOM & TENNIS PAVILION**  
**TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2023**

**[VICE-REGAL SALUTE]**

Good morning everyone. I warmly welcome you all to Government House and to your celebratory picnic to mark the 87<sup>th</sup> birthday of our Country Women's Association in Tasmania. We are very excited to be part of your celebrations and look forward to spending the afternoon with you in our beautiful gardens.

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 continued connection to land, sea, and waters. I acknowledge the impacts of colonisation upon our First People and commit to a future that listens to and respects Aboriginal stories, culture and history.

I would like to acknowledge among us here today:

- Maureen Hindley, CWA State President
- Madeline Thompson, Past President
- Sandra Bingham, State Secretary
- Lesley Young AO, State Treasurer
- Shirley Morrisby, Life Member and today's Guest Speaker
- and all CWA Members here today

My first engagement as Governor with our CWA was in October 2021, at the Lindisfarne Branch's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday which was a huge pleasure, and such a significant anniversary to celebrate.

I next engaged with you at the Nubeena Branch for a 'light lunch' as part of my Official Visit to the Tasman Municipality. There was nothing light about it! There was more delicious food than I could ever hope to eat. I could not do the spread justice, but my accompanying Honorary Aide de Camp, Inspector Glen Woolley, here today,

fell on the sword for me, and heartily enjoyed the fare. Thank you, Glen! Although I'm certain that all my Aides enjoy your cooking and compete to accompany me to any CWA events throughout the year.

In September last year, I opened your 85<sup>th</sup> annual state conference via Zoom. Also, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November we celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of the CWA Gift Shop here with an afternoon tea. May I just say that our kitchen team were most anxious about baking for you! Apparently, they did OK and got the thumbs up from you all; as I knew they would.

However, you are not all about delicious scones, lamingtons and perfectly fluffy sponges; our CWA is an organisation that has found real purpose from the earliest days, working hard to effect change through advocacy, education and community service. You are a treasured part of our Tasmanian community, committed to supporting the lives of women, their families and also communities in both the country and the city.

Through sharing your skills and using your talents you provide fundraising, and moral and material support during times of crisis and emergency.

Among other important principles, you promote inclusion, good mental health and countering the effects of isolation. Members enjoy strong friendships and networks within the community. Having all experienced the effects of isolation in some form over the last few years of the pandemic, we know and understand just how important support networks such as these are.

My congratulations to each of you on your hard work and contributions that sustain the life of this wonderful organisation. May I conclude by saying how proud I am to be patron of CWA Tasmania and everything that you represent. I wish you all a wonderful 87<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, and Don and I, and all our Government House team sincerely hope you enjoy the picnic.

Thank you.