

**RECEPTION TO MARK THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
TASMANIA CHINESE SCHOOL  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE BALL ROOM, FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2023**

**[VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED]**

I warmly welcome you all to this reception to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tasmania Chinese School. It is a pleasure to be able to host this event in this magnificent ballroom.

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 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 acknowledge among us:

- Kim Phong, the Tasmania Chinese School Principal
- Gar Foong, the School Administrator
- and volunteers, supporters and friends of the school

The Tasmania Chinese School was founded in 1997. Its goals are to sponsor and promote traditional Chinese culture and student interest in learning Chinese, and to provide students with the optimum learning environment conditions and opportunities to learn Chinese, leading to improved student standards in oral and written Chinese.

Since its foundation, the school enrolment has continued to increase. Many non-ethnic Chinese also come to the school to learn about Chinese language and culture.

I have been informed that the youngest student is just two and a half years old, and that the student body spans the range from children to adults. That is an impressive cross section of age and societal demographics.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cstas.com/> accessed 15 Feb 23

May I also acknowledge the significant support provided to your school by the Chinese Community Association of Tasmania. The aims and objectives of the Association are outlined in your Constitution:

To further the general welfare of members;

To provide facilities for cultural, social and sports functions and to promote the study and appreciation of the Chinese language and culture for members;

To provide hospitality and assistance to ethnic Chinese migrants and students from Overseas;

And, to promote friendship and co-operation between members and members of other communities in Australia.<sup>2</sup>

These objectives clearly extend to support for the Tasmania Chinese School.

May I thank all the teachers and volunteers for their work to establish and maintain the operations of the school which also benefits our entire Tasmanian community.

Shortly we shall be treated to a dance performance by students Anna Wang and Jennifer Wong. They will perform a dance “Xiao” which translates as “Brave”. The dance is based on the song of the same name, that praises the great rivers and mountains of China. The song is a blend of pop and traditional Chinese music.

Before their performance, may I congratulate everyone associated with our Tasmania Chinese School on this 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their operation. With all the support and interest that has been generated, the school is in a fine position to operate for another 25 years.

Thank you.

David [OS introduces performance]

[dance]

[applause]

Thank you, Anna and Jennifer, for that performance. Let’s show our appreciation again. [applause]

I now invite you all to enjoy the reception, and to look around our beautiful State Rooms while you are here.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ccat.au/about-us/> accessed 15 Feb 23