

**THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION, TASMANIA BRANCH
THE KING'S CORONATION DINNER
ADDRESS BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE ALAN BLOW AO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
ROYAL YACHT CLUB OF TASMANIA, FRIDAY 5 MAY 2023**

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 waters.

It is a great pleasure for me to be with you all tonight in my role as Lieutenant Governor to celebrate the coming Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

We know, of course, that King Charles acceded to the throne immediately on the death of his mother, Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Indeed, some of you here tonight were present at Government House on 11 September last year when Her Excellency the Governor read a proclamation which included this: "...the Crown has solely and rightfully come to Prince Charles Philip Arthur George. We, therefore, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania, and members of the Executive Council, do now proclaim Prince Charles Philip Arthur George to be King Charles III by the Grace of God King of Australia and his other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth, and, with hearty and humble affection, we promise him faith and obedience."

The accession and proclamation were part of the formal, legal requirement for the continuity of the Royal line and its place in constitutional monarchy.

This weekend we will witness the first coronation in 70 years, and the first where both a King and Queen are crowned since 1937, at the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

The United Kingdom is the only remaining monarchy in Europe that maintains the tradition of a Coronation. The ceremonial and ritual crowning and anointing of the new King and Queen is often seen as a public proclamation and recognition of the King's authority and legitimacy.

I am particularly delighted to share in this celebratory dinner with you as the Coronation marks that ceremonial recognition of His Majesty's authority and

status as the Sovereign Head of the Order of Australia, as ordained in the Constitution of the Order.

The Order was, of course, instituted in 1975 by Her Majesty The Queen as a uniquely “Australian society of honour for the purpose of according recognition to Australian citizens and other persons for achievement or for meritorious service”.

All of you present this evening are well aware of the commitment, dedication, service and sacrifices that are required to be nominated for and found worthy of receiving an honour as part of the Order of Australia. It is an important feature of the Australian Honours and Awards system that political patronage is not considered. Any member of the Australian public may nominate any other member considered worthy of recognition. Nominations are rigorously scrutinised and investigated before a recommendation is provided to the Governor-General to make an award at an appropriate level.

While none undertake such significant public service with the intent of receiving recognition, the fact that you have been awarded honours is a testament to all that you have done on behalf of a grateful community. As I look around the room, I acknowledge the support of partners and families in the work done by recipients well.

On the eve of the Coronation of our King and Sovereign Head, we celebrate all that is positive and good in our community and look forward to His reign continuing to bring stability to the Commonwealth and our Nation.

Long live The King