

**ROTARY CLUB OF SALAMANCA 30TH ANNIVERSARY
REMARKS BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE ALAN BLOW AO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
DRAWING ROOM, GOVERNMENT HOUSE TASMANIA
2.00 PM, THURSDAY 18 May 2023**

[no Vice-Regal Salute]

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. My wife Margaret and I welcome you to Government House for this celebration of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Rotary Club of Salamanca.

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 and sea.

May I acknowledge among us:

- Bob Calvert, District Governor for Rotary 9830
- Anne Palmer, Salamanca Rotary Club President
- Past Presidents, Ruth Temple-Smith, Michael Woods and our own Ainstie Wagner, Government House Executive Chef and Community Engagement Facilitator.

It is also well worth noting that David Wallace and Wolf Ebert are the only founding members of the Club who are still members – congratulations on that. No doubt you have fond memories of the Club being chartered on the 15th of May 1993, as Tasmania’s first breakfast Club and first mixed gender Club.¹

I have it on good authority that as a small and active club – currently with 26 members, 14 women and 12 men – you are like a family, with everyone giving service and having fun in doing so.

¹ Notes for these remarks supplied by Anne Palmer, her email to Ainstie Wagner dated 16 May 2023.

Service locally and globally is a key Rotary ethos and your Club is active in many areas. As small as your Club is, you truly represent all that is good about Rotary, and it is impressive to know that you do so while not feeling obligated to follow such formalities as saying the Rotary Grace, or singing the National Anthem.

At this anniversary event I would like to do a roll call of some of the areas in which you are engaged and projects that you support. They are remarkable in their diversity:

- John Opie House, which provides friendly and safe accommodation for Tasmanians requiring medical treatment in Hobart, or supporting those receiving treatment, who live away from Hobart. That support includes donating basic kitchen and laundry supplies, and also books and refurbishments to the Murray Street premises.
- Colony 47 in its commitment to addressing the barriers to housing, education and employment.
- The Migrant Resource Centre
- Australian Rotary Health
- The National Youth Science Forum
- Rotary Youth Driving Awareness
- Catering at the Lea and Bunnings BBQs
- Clarence Plains Community Centre
- Bursaries to schools
- The biennial Australian Wooden Boat Festival
- Your Bookfest and BookEnz Stall, the highly successful Club fundraisers

- And supporting disadvantaged children in Sri Lanka in association with Rotary in Kandy.

With such a small Club membership, with such a variety of projects and constant fundraising, no wonder your President tells us that you are “active and busy”!

And that brings us back to your fundamental purposes, as with all Rotarians, no matter where they are in the world: voluntary service to help those in need; to encourage achievement; to help make events big and small run well.

Government House has long had a close relationship with Rotary in Tasmania, not least because we are a good fit together in working for the community. As you know from what Ainstie does and has done over many years, Government House has a full community engagement program, which is growing incrementally.

Government House provides many community meals and other consumables from our Kitchen Garden and our dedicated Garden and Kitchen staff. During the lockdown period of the Covid pandemic, Government House staff travelled widely across the State delivering consumables and flowers, particularly to aged care homes. Her Excellency the Governor and her staff maintain close links with organisations working in the areas of adult literacy, and extra-curricular education for young people.²

I will conclude by congratulating you on your marvellous Club. And Margaret and I look forward to enjoying afternoon tea with you, before you begin your tour.

Thank you.

² Three examples are 26TEN; the Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment; and outreach art projects to selected primary schools, in which students are provided art materials to make paintings from photographs of Government House – buildings, interior objects, gardens, fountains etc. The works are then displayed in the Ball Room.