

**LUNCHEON TO MARK THE BIRTHDAY OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING
WITH MEMBERS OF THE
COMBINED COMMONWEALTH SOCIETIES OF TASMANIA
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
LENAH VALLEY RSL, WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE 2023**

Good afternoon everyone. I thank you for this opportunity to celebrate the 74th Birthday of His Majesty The King.

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.

Our Royal and Loyal Societies and Associations, represented by the Combined Commonwealth Societies of Tasmania, assist with the maintenance of links between the Crown and the Realm. I am very pleased to continue Vice-Regal support as Patron of our Combined Societies.

May I acknowledge Mr Stephen Jones, recently appointed Chair of the newly named Combined Commonwealth Societies of Tasmania.

I am delighted to be with you today to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty in his first Regnal year. Many of you were at Government House on 11 September last year when I read the Proclamation of Accession. That Proclamation formally and legally acknowledged King Charles III as King of Australia, following the death of his mother, the late and beloved Queen Elizabeth.

His Majesty was born at Buckingham Palace on 14 November 1948 during the reign of his grandfather, King George VI. When his mother, Queen Elizabeth, acceded to the throne in 1952, he became heir apparent at the age of three.

As Heir to the Throne, His Majesty took the traditional titles of The Duke of Cornwall under a charter of King Edward III in 1337. He also took the Scottish titles of Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Baron Renfrew, Lord of the Isles, and Prince and Great Steward of Scotland.¹

¹ <https://www.royal.uk/the-king> accessed 31 May 23

His Majesty was also created The Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester by Her Majesty in 1958 when he was nine years old. However, it was not until 1969 that His Majesty was invested at Caernarfon Castle. Prior to his investiture, His Majesty had spent a term at the University College of Wales learning Welsh.

He trained as a jet pilot with the RAF and served with the Royal Navy, carrying on a long tradition of service in his family. He served on a guided missile destroyer and two frigates, before qualifying as a helicopter pilot. The final nine months of his Naval service were as the commanding officer of the coastal minehunter HMS *Bronington* in 1976.

Since then, as well as his official and ceremonial duties as The Prince of Wales, His Majesty has taken a keen and active interest in all areas of public life for decades. His Majesty has been instrumental in establishing more than 20 charities over 40 years.²

His Majesty has a strong personal bond with Australia. He spent two terms in 1966 as an exchange student at Timbertop, Geelong Grammar School. He has been to Tasmania on three occasions and has planted trees at Government House in 1974 and 1994.

The Coronation ceremony of His Majesty King Charles III at Westminster Abbey a few weeks ago was attended by some 2,200 guests including royalty, heads of states, and officials from British dependencies and overseas territories. As Governor, I attended and represented our State. Don and I also attended functions with the Lord Mayor of London, the British Minister of State Indo-Pacific, the Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle and, later, I had an Audience with His Majesty.

Thousands participated in the Coronation weekend celebrations. In London, people lined the streets, especially along the procession route taken by King Charles and Queen Camilla.

On the following day, a reception and the Coronation Concert was held at Windsor Castle, which formed the backdrop for the Concert. Volunteers from the King's and Queen's charities were in the audience of around 20,000, and 5,000 pairs of free tickets were allocated by a national ballot. Together with well-known singers and musicians, the Coronation Choir, made up of community

² <https://www.royal.uk/the-king> accessed 31 May 23

choirs and amateur singers, performed. The lighting for the event, with lasers, drone displays and illuminations, was spectacular.

On the public holiday on Monday of the Coronation weekend, the Big Help Out was a day for people to try out volunteering to enhance and support their communities. This was a significant success.

Here in Tasmania, at Government House, two Coronation Receptions were held at which many of you attended.

It is fitting in this first year of His Majesty's reign, that we celebrate all The King has done, and will continue to do, in our service. Long may he reign.

I now ask that everyone stand for the Loyal Toast:

His Majesty The King