

**RECEPTION TO MARK THE
30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DERWENT VALLEY CONCERT BAND
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
BALL ROOM, WEDNESDAY 12 JULY 2023**

VICE-REGAL SALUTE

Good evening everyone. I warmly welcome you all to this reception for the 30th anniversary of the Derwent Valley Concert Band. This marks a significant milestone in the history of our Derwent Valley and wider Hobart region.

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.

I understand that, from the first rehearsal of 22 local musicians in 1993, your founder Layton Hodgetts was quoted to have said, “I’m hoping that we end up with about 40 musicians”.

Layton would be pleased that, rather than 40 musicians, the Band has grown to three concert bands, a marching band and a number of smaller ensembles. We shall enjoy listening to an example of one of these ensembles later this evening.

The Band has an extensive repertoire and supports community events throughout the year.

I am pleased to say that there has been a long Vice-Regal association with the Derwent Valley Concert Band. We have welcomed your performances at many of our recent Open Days. The Band regularly provides, amongst its commitments, performances on Australia Day, the Wooden Boat Festival, Autumn in the Valley and Dark MOFO events.

Your Band has had success at the annual Tasmanian Bands League State Championships and also the Australian National Band Championships. It is a testament to the quality of the Band that they have performed overseas on a number of occasions. Most recently, the Community Winds accompanied the Concert Band to perform in Malaysia in 2019.

The Derwent Valley Concert Band also supports local composers through the commissioning and performance of new works. Several new pieces were given their world premiere performances at the Mid-Europe Wind Orchestra and Music Educators Festival in Schladming, Austria.

We know that all of this work takes Band members away from their families and friends for practices, performances and competitions. Without the support of your partners and families, the Band would not have been able to do all that it is famous for. So, thank you all for that support to the musicians and the Band more generally.

We shall shortly have a performance to enjoy by the Clarinet Choir from the Derwent Valley Concert Band family.

May I conclude by warmly congratulating the Derwent Valley Concert Band on your 30th anniversary. Your music brings pleasure to our entire Tasmanian Community. As your founder Layton Hodgetts famously said, “a town without music is like a body without a soul”. May I wish you the very best in your continued endeavours to ensure that New Norfolk continues to have a soul.