

**LIONS CLUB OF KINGBOROUGH
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SNUG VILLAGE ALL-ACCESS GARDEN
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
CHRISTIAN HOMES SNUG VILLAGE, SNUG, THURSDAY 20 JULY 2023**

Good morning everyone, and thank you for inviting me to officially open your new Christian Homes Snug Village Garden. It is a great pleasure for me to join you.

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.

My largest time commitment as Governor is engagement with members of our Tasmanian community. I am very aware of the many Tasmanians who give their time generously and make a real difference to the lives of others.

The Lions Club is founded on volunteering and community service. Your motto is “We Serve”, and your core aim is to serve your local communities and help those in need.¹

This garden is a perfect example of your community service. Kingborough Lions Club’s hard work and deep sense of community has created this beautiful garden. You have done an amazing job, creating this outdoor space.

You have meticulously designed this garden, in consultation with Christian Homes Snug. You have considered the diverse needs and abilities of all the residents and ensured that everyone can navigate the paths and beautiful spaces.

Wide pathways for walking frames and chairs; and flat and paved surfaces will allow all your residents to use and enjoy the garden.

¹ <https://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/kingborough/?fbclid=IwAR0UHFzM15xXonYhzlVJ3Ey-BB2TUD5VwDD0s5vql9VTujm0qjPCGIC45Mo>

Residents can be physically active, and enjoy natural light and fresh air, all of which help their physical health and mental well being.² It is also a beautiful space to be with their families, friends and loved ones.

Gardens also offer a place to reminisce about the past; touching a familiar plant, or smelling a particular flower, may provide feelings of wellbeing and fond memories. This garden has been designed and landscaped with this in mind; a telephone box and bus shelter are among some items that have been installed that may evoke memories.

Garden beds have also been installed that are easy to access so residents may plant their own plants, and so encourage social interaction and collaboration for residents, reducing isolation.³

This project would not have been possible without the generosity of the Australian Lions Foundation, the Tasmanian Lions Foundation, and Christian Homes whose grants funded the project. Furthermore, the project would not have been possible without the support and generosity of the wider community. May I acknowledge Batchelor Civil Contracting, Groombridge Civil, Smiley Crane Hire, Noble Concrete, the Channel Men's Shed, and Hazell Brothers, who have donated their time, resources and expertise to create this garden. Their contributions are welcome examples of community service.

May I also acknowledge and celebrate the selfless efforts of the Kingborough Lions Club in creating this garden for the Snug Village residents. I am sure that the garden will bring much joy to those who use it for many years to come.

Thank you.

² Othman, A. R., & Fadzil, F. (2015). Influence of outdoor space to the elderly wellbeing in a typical care centre. *Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 170, 320-329.

³ Scott, T. L., Masser, B. M., & Pachana, N. A. (2020). Positive aging benefits of home and community gardening activities: Older adults report enhanced self-esteem, productive endeavours, social engagement and exercise. *SAGE Open Medicine*, 8, 2050312120901732.