

**MORNING TEA FOR LEGACY WIDOWS TO MARK
THE CENTENARY OF LEGACY
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
BALL ROOM, WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTMEMBER 2023**

VICE-REGAL SALUTE

Good morning, everyone, and a very warm welcome to this morning tea for Legacy widows. This event is one of the celebrations this year to mark the Centenary of Legacy.

I begin by paying 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.

There is a long history of Vice-Regal patronage of Legacy in Australia and in Tasmania. I am proud to continue that association. It is especially meaningful for us in Tasmania. I am sure we are all aware that the Remembrance Club, later to become Legacy Australia, was founded here in Hobart. The Founder was returned veteran Major General Sir John Gellibrand, who was born in Ouse.

Legacy came to care for tens of thousands of widows and widowers who had lost their loved ones or been affected by their partner's service in wars or in peacekeeping operations across the globe.

Our Hobart Legacy supports widows ranging in age from 34 to 105. There are approximately 437 widows of World War II veterans, 43 of Korean War veterans, 115 widows of veterans of the Vietnam war, 15 from Malaya and Borneo, two from Afghanistan and six from the Iraq war. We are all delighted to welcome a representative group here this morning.

Legacy Australia does vital work in ensuring that the families of those who have served our country are not forgotten or unsupported. Legacy Australia provides a wide range of services to support families, including financial assistance, education support for children, and assistance with social and emotional wellbeing.

Legacy Australia has had an immeasurable impact on the lives of Australian families. They have helped thousands of families in their time of need, providing them with the support and resources to rebuild their lives.

Legacy Australia is involved in a range of community initiatives. This includes supporting youth programs and other community organisations, as well as fundraising and advocacy work.

Legacy Australia also undertakes an important role in preserving the memory and legacy of our veterans, ensuring that their sacrifice is not forgotten.

For this Centenary of Legacy, a significant program of events will reach across the globe. The Legacy Torch Relay, launched at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance, has started its journey through Europe. In a few weeks it will come to Tasmania from Sale in Victoria, where it will travel from Launceston to Ouse before coming to Hobart.

After I have had the privilege of lighting the cauldron at the end of the relay here, the torch will return to Victoria and will conclude in Melbourne where it all started at the Shrine of Remembrance.

Today, I am very delighted to present a special certificate to one of our widows here. Phyllis Dennis (nee Sutton) served in our Australian Women's Army Service from July 1942 until her discharge in September 1946. During her service, she attained the rank of Sergeant.

Included in her postings were units that came under the broader umbrella of the British Government Code and Cypher School, based at the famous Bletchley Park. The British Government recently acknowledged Phyllis's important service to the cypher school with the award of a certificate by British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. It was signed in October 2022. It states that the UK Government wishes to express to Phyllis its greatest gratitude for the vital service she performed during World War II.

Congratulations, Phyllis, on your award that I now present. I now look forward to speaking with you all.

Thank you.