

**TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY
MORNING TEA TO ACKNOWLEDGE TMAG STAFF FOR THEIR
ASSISTANCE IN SOURCING AND INSTALLING NEW LOAN ARTWORKS
AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2023**

I warmly welcome you all to this morning tea which gives me an opportunity to thank you and, in particular, Mary Mulcahy, Director of our TMAG, and Jane Stewart, Senior Art Curator. Mary and Jane liaised with us to update our artworks at Government House. I also thank everyone else for helping make this update happen.

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.

Government House Tasmania and TMAG have enjoyed a long relationship, with TMAG artworks displayed here on long-term loan.

In addition, Government House owns approximately 60 artworks. This collection has grown since the late 19th century, mostly from donations and gifts.

Early in my term, I decided to review and enhance our collection, not only through continued TMAG loans, but also by purchasing Tasmanian artworks.

Significantly, we are delighted to have made our first Government House contemporary purchase: artist Belinda Casey's *Strong Place, Strong Baskets*. This work is jointly titled in Tebrakunna – *Relipianna melaythenner relipianna timmarerer*.

We are delighted that you have loaned us Lola Greeno and Natalie Holtsbaum's *caradi, or friendship*. This is a work about reconciliation, the narratives of two cultures living side by side.

I hope in a modest way, the display of aboriginal artworks at Government House is the beginning of a demonstration of a genuine desire to learn about aboriginal culture and history.

We are also very pleased to be displaying some works of our contemporary Tasmanian artists and have purchased a Raymond Arnold and a Joan Humble. We intend to expand our collection over time.

I am excited about displaying new works and finding a balance between tradition and contemporary works.

Thank you all again and enjoy the morning tea.