

**CONFERENCE OF REGULATORY OFFICERS 2023**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**BALL ROOM, MONDAY 23 OCTOBER 2023**

**[Vice-Regal Salute is played]**

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to this reception for delegates attending the 2023 Conference of Regulatory Officers.

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.

Your annual conference is a wonderful opportunity to bring you all together to update and exchange ideas about the regulation of the legal professions in Australia and New Zealand<sup>1</sup>.

I note that you have some topics which are likely to promote lively discussions about the challenges in regulation, including megatrends and AI, and anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing. I wish you all well in your discussions on maintaining and assuring the high standards expected of our legal professions.

As this is a national and New Zealand conference, with many delegates visiting Tasmania, I thought I would speak briefly about your reception venue, here at Government House.

The grounds occupy 15 hectares and the House foundations were laid in the 1850s.

The first Governor to take up residence in 1858 was Sir Henry Fox Young.

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<sup>1</sup> [Coro - Conference of Regulatory Officers | coro.com.au News \(pageglimpse.org\)](https://www.coro.com.au/News/Conference-of-Regulatory-Officers-2023), accessed 19 October 2023.  
(Note: this partial definition refers to a Coro website in 2017 which no longer appears to exist – coro.com.au.)

The sandstone used in the construction of this 73-room neo-Gothic building was excavated from the quarry you passed, as you came in the driveway. The quarry was landscaped as an ornamental lake in 1875. It is well worth a look as you leave.

The grounds were laid out in a formal style typical of early Victorian country mansions. The succession of Governors has made additions to the original layout of the grounds. Some include: an 1889 tennis pavilion with two grass courts and an *en-tout-cas* court; a 1935 small Japanese-style ornamental pond; a croquet and bowls lawn circa 1965, and an adjacent fruit orchard; a late 1980s Tasmanian Native Garden; and an early 1990s Heritage Rose Garden.

I should also report that a Vineyard was planted in 2015, with riesling and cabernet merlot grapes. You have been sampling these wines tonight. I hope you are enjoying them.

More recently, this year, a new Community Garden of vegetables and herbs was planted. The produce is used for hot school lunches for children in a School Food Matters program. The garden also serves to inform school students about fresh produce and food distribution.

Coming back inside the House, this Ball Room boasts the world's largest Huon pine timber floor. The three exquisitely grand Bohemian crystal chandeliers comprise of 4,114 pieces in each one. They are affectionately known as Crystal, Charlotte and Cinderella, so named by our Executive Butler, Leigh Millington.

In the Dining Room, please look up to the ceiling, which is decorated with hand painted panels of the arms of England, Scotland, and Ireland. At one end of the Dining Room, you will notice two statues representing two of the seasons, and you will notice two empty alcoves at the opposite end of the room. In 1961, those two statues were loaned to our neighbour, the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, but sadly, they did not survive the weather outdoors.

In the Main Hallway areas, I have enjoyed introducing contemporary Tasmanian artworks. They are a lively contrast to the grand original works on the walls. Importantly, they promote the work of some of our many talented local artists.

In respect of my role as Governor, you will all be fully aware of the constitutional and legal duties involved and the ceremonial duties, such as investitures. However, my

largest time commitment is devoted to the community engagement role. We work to support our communities and recognise and celebrate successes. In the changing and contemporary role, we are extending access to Government House to as many Tasmanians as possible.

The community engagement role is rewarding and interesting. It can vary from hosting Ambassadors and other foreign dignitaries, to opening a Cuboree for scouts, as the Chief Scout in Tasmania, and to participating in the annual aboriginal Mannalargenna Day events. I have been on a Globe 17, a submarine, navy ships, tall ships and the Antarctic icebreaker RSV *Nuyina*.

Each day is different and each event on the day is different. To give an example of this, last Friday, in the morning, I hosted a group of young school students to talk to them about my role, at lunch I hosted the US Ambassador, and in the evening, I hosted the presentation of Churchill Fellowships. Last Monday morning, I opened the annual meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic and Marine Living Resources with an address about climate change and krill management. CCAMLR welcomes several hundred international and national delegates, and observers.

So, my community engagement role is busy and varied.

And there is always something to learn. When a friend chuckled about me attending a Budgerigar Show, I was able to tell him that there is actually a Royal connection and that over fifty thousand budgerigars were exported to England in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, due to their popularity. The late Queen Elizabeth II had over 100 of them, kept as free flying birds that returned to their cages at Windsor Castle, as and when they wished. I should report that we have no budgerigars here!

That's enough from me. May I again wish you every success in your deliberations. I also thank you for your wise choice of venue for your conference here in Hobart. Please enjoy your evening.

Thank you. David ...

[invites Keyran Pitt, Legal Profession Board of Tasmania, to respond briefly]