

**AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,  
TASMANIA BRANCH – ANNUAL LECTURE 2023  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2023**

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

Please be seated.

Good evening and a very warm welcome to you all to the 2023 Lecture of the Australian Institute of International Affairs Tasmania Branch.

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.

This is the ninth lecture in the Institute's series at Government House. It is an honour for me to be your Patron and to continue our tradition of Governors' Patronage of the Institute in Tasmania.<sup>i</sup>

The principal objectives of the Institute are to: provide a forum for debate; promote dissemination of ideas; and have an educational role on international issues — while however being, quote, “precluded by its constitution from expressing any opinion of its own on international affairs”.<sup>ii</sup>

This enables the provision of high quality empirical, independent, and intellectual analysis.

We are, therefore, privileged that this evening's lecture will be delivered by the Honourable Arthur Sinodinos.

I mentioned patronage. The first Patron of our Tasmania Branch was Sir James Plimsoll, career diplomat and later Governor of Tasmania from October 1982 until his untimely death in office in May 1987.

Sir James brought to Government House Tasmania a unique international outlook. He regularly invited Ambassadors and High Commissioners and their partners to stay at Government House, while on their official visits to Tasmania. So, the tradition has continued and, over years subsequent, governors have hosted hundreds of international diplomats. This does not happen elsewhere in Australia.

Last week for instance, we hosted the High Commissioner for India, His Excellency Mr Manpreet Vohra.

This year we have also hosted the Ambassadors of Ukraine, Denmark, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom. Recently, we also had a brief visit from the US Ambassador. We shall soon be hosting the Norwegian Ambassador.

These well organised and busy visits to our State give us the opportunity to promote Tasmania's business, education and cultural activities and to have a formal dinner with guests who have connection with the hosted country.

And so, to host this Lecture adds to our broader global outlook, and I believe is most fitting for the Office of the Governor.

Thank you.

[David invites Kim Boyer, AIIA Tasmania Branch President, to introduce the Lecturer.]

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<sup>i</sup> Since at least 1985, Sir James Plimsoll.

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/about-us/about-the-aiia/>, accessed 18 November 2021.