

CONSULAR CORPS OF TASMANIA
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2023

[VICE-REGAL SALUTE]

Good evening and a very warm welcome to Government House for this function for our Consular Corps of Tasmania.

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 evening, we shall witness the formal handover of the role of Dean of the Consular Corps of Tasmania.

May I also acknowledge that we are privileged to have as our special guest this evening, Her Excellency Mrs Vicki Treadell, British High Commissioner to Australia. We are delighted that she will address us as part of the formalities.

This evening here, we have no fewer than nineteen countries formally represented by their Honorary Consuls in Tasmania. Your roles are significant and valued, in facilitating official visits to Tasmania by international diplomats. We know from experience how important these visits are for establishing and developing economic ties; sharing geopolitical and cultural ideals; and broadening information exchanges.

As Governor, I thank each of you individually for your commitment. My thanks are shared by the range of guests with us this evening. May I acknowledge representatives of our State Government; our Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; CCAMLR; Australian Antarctic Division; Local Councils; Australian Defence Force; RSL; Combined Commonwealth Society of Tasmania; and our Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

Shortly, I shall hand over to outgoing Dean, Damon Thomas, who commenced in the role in November 2021. Damon has been the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Korea in Tasmania since 2005.

Incoming Dean of the Consular Corps is Dr Nitin Verma. Dr Verma has also been the Honorary Consul in Tasmania of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste since July 2006.

High Commissioner Vicki Treadell, you presented your credentials to the Governor-General in March 2019. Previously, you held similar posts in Malaysia; New Zealand and Samoa; and you were Governor of Pitcairn. You also served as Deputy High Commissioner in Mumbai.

We are delighted to be hosting this thoroughly Tasmanian, yet very global event. I welcome you all again and look forward to chatting with you. Thank you.

Paula ... [invites Damon Thomas to the stage centre lectern]