

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS, TASMANIAN DIVISION
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 4 DECEMBER 2023

[Vice-Regal Salute is played]

Please be seated.

Good afternoon. I warmly welcome you all to Government House.

May I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose Country we gather, who flourished on Country as part of the South-East Nation of Aboriginal people. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country and recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea, and waters.

As your Patron, and with Don your Vice-Patron, we are very pleased to host this event, celebrating International Volunteer Day [IVD] and recognising Hobart volunteers and members.

As we know, IVD is held annually on 5 December. This is the day mandated by the UN General Assembly.

The day is viewed as a special opportunity for volunteers and organisations to celebrate their efforts, to share their values, and, to promote their work among their communities, government authorities, non-governmental organisations, United Nations agencies, and the private sector.¹

The United Nations Volunteers program mobilises thousands of volunteers every year. It also contributes to peace and development by advocating for the recognition of volunteers across the globe and working to integrate volunteerism into development programming.

¹ This paragraph and the two following paraphrase descriptions provided by Claire Wolczak in her 19 October 2023 email to Leanne McDougall.

Volunteers dedicate time and effort to support those often left behind; to support climate action; and advance the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

In Hobart, we honour the volunteer groups and individuals who work to make the world a better place by caring for our people, our city and our island home. We are proud to have over 800 Red Cross volunteers across Tasmania.

Today's event brings together Red Cross volunteers, members, staff and Board members. We are delighted to host you at Government House given our longstanding and close relationship with Red Cross in Tasmania. We host your AGM and reception each October, and there is usually a Red Cross presence at our Open Days.

Some of you may recall the famous 1915 photograph of over 100 Red Cross Volunteer Aid Detachment nurses, taken here on our Conservatory balcony and steps. The photograph was taken just a year after Red Cross was established in Australia; that certainly confirms our longstanding relationship! I now hand over to David who will introduce some Red Cross speakers.

Thank you.

[David invites speakers as per run sheet]