

**COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION, GEORGE TOWN BRANCH  
PLAQUE UNVEILING  
SPEECH BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GEORGE TOWN, FRIDAY 1 DECEMBER 2023**

Good afternoon, everyone, I am delighted to be here as part of my Official Visit to the Municipality of George Town and, more specifically, to unveil a plaque to acknowledge the contributions made by your Branch to the George Town community.

I would like to start 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 connection to land, sea and waters.

The CWA has historically always been an integral part of the community fabric.

It was reported in the *Examiner* on Saturday 25 November 1944 that a new CWA branch had been formed at George Town.<sup>1</sup>

You are not just famous for your delicious scones and perfectly fluffy sponges; CWA has had a very important purpose from the earliest days, and George Town Branch has worked hard to effect change through advocacy, education, and community service since its inception.

To acknowledge just a couple of examples, I understand that George Town CWA has long been involved in raising funds for the local hospital, by hosting Devonshire Teas. Donations are made every year to assist with costs, a most worthy community cause.

Your branch is also heavily involved with the Australia Day Citizenship ceremony and awards by running the drinks station and providing a CWA cookbook to each

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<sup>1</sup> <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/91423328?searchTerm=CWA%20George%20Town>

newly sworn citizen.<sup>2</sup> What a wonderful gesture! I can't think of a better gift from a more iconic Australian organisation.

I am informed that the land this building is built on was initially purchased in 1944 by the founding members of the George Town CWA for the purpose of building club rooms for the Branch. However, before these could be built, the Council needed the use of the land as a caravan park; the site was leased to them for several years.

Eventually, the land was most generously donated to the Council by the George Town CWA Branch and the community building in which we stand was constructed, with the CWA using one of the rooms until 2019.

Today, we are here to unveil a plaque which will acknowledge the contributions made to the community by the members of the George Town CWA Branch and, in a moment, I will invite Mayor Greg Kieser forward to assist me with the unveiling.

However, before unveiling this plaque, I would like to conclude by congratulating you all on your dedication and the hard work that you do for the George Town community. Volunteer work is integral to the health and growth of our Tasmanian communities. I applaud everything that you do and wish you the very best for your future efforts and, of course, for you impending 80<sup>th</sup> birthday! A most significant milestone!

So, without further delay, I invite Mayor Kieser forward to assist me in the unveiling of the plaque.

Thank you, I look forward to meeting you all shortly over a wonderful CWA lunch!

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<sup>2</sup> Phone Conversation Deb Smith/ADC 30 Nov 2023