

**CONSULAR CORPS OF TASMANIA**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2024**

Good evening, and a very warm welcome to Government House for this reception to acknowledge the valued work of our Consular Corps of Tasmania.

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

It is a pleasure to welcome you all here this evening. We have a most impressive range of Honorary Consuls, with 28 countries represented here tonight. This reflects the important global connections that our State has fostered and maintained.

May I acknowledge the invaluable role that you play as Honorary Consuls in Tasmania. You are important links by which our State connects to the world. You facilitate our diplomatic relations, our cultural understanding and economic partnerships that extend far beyond our shores.

I acknowledge the importance of your work in coordinating official visits from Ambassadors and High Commissioners. These visits are valued in establishing and strengthening economic ties, sharing cultural and international perspectives, and promoting our Tasmanian offerings to the world.

As you are all aware, our official ambassadorial visit program was interrupted for several months this year, when we were in caretaker mode in the lead up to the election.

Nevertheless, we still had the pleasure of hosting your distinguished visitors from Timor-Leste, Singapore, the European Union, Finland, Germany, and Japan.

Each of these visits opened new opportunities between Tasmania and these nations.

It is pleasing that Honorary Consuls spent a weekend in the north of our State to meet with the Mayor of Launceston and the Launceston Chamber of Commerce, demonstrating the Corps' commitment to an outlook that is statewide.<sup>1</sup>

May I take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your work as Honorary Consuls and the many hours that you spend organising events, facilitating meetings, and assisting both Tasmanians and visitors. Thank you, your work is very much valued.

May I welcome two new consuls who have joined the Corps this year:

- Mrs Wimalin Beattie, Honorary Consul for Thailand; and
- Mrs Navpreet Kaur, Honorary Consul for India.<sup>2</sup>

I am sure that the Corps looks forward to working with you and benefitting from your expertise.

Mr Elvio Brianese is unable to join us this evening. However, I would like to acknowledge and thank Elvio for his service. He has recently stepped down from his role as Honorary Consul for the Italian community in Tasmania. *Grazie mille per il tuo servizio*, Elvio.

May I conclude and raise a toast to the Consular Corps of Tasmania. Here's to your continued success in fostering international goodwill and cooperation for and with our State.

Thank you and please enjoy your reception.

---

<sup>1</sup> Correspondence Mr Eoin Breen / Paula Chatwood 23 September 2024

<sup>2</sup> Correspondence Mr Eoin Breen / Paula Chatwood 23 September 2024