

**RECEPTION TO CELEBRATE THE VOLUNTEERS, SUPPORTERS AND
PARTICIPANTS IN THE TASMANIAN BIKE COLLECTIVE INC
SPEECH BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 14 OCTOBER 2024**

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

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

It is with great pleasure that I join you as your newly minted Patron to celebrate the many contributions of volunteers and supporters of the Tasmanian Bike Collective. Your dedication and commitment continue to transform the lives of the young people who participate in the program. You also serve our community by encouraging physical activities.

I was pleased to visit your Risdon Vale Bike Collective earlier this year. I was impressed by the dedication of both the participants and the volunteers. Given my interest in youth education, physical activities, and the need to provide opportunities for disadvantaged youths, I was delighted to become Patron of the Tasmanian Bike Collective.

The Collective's programs to foster work readiness, increase social connectedness, build positive mental and physical health, and develop pathways into adulthood would not be possible without the support of volunteers.

I understand that during 2023 – 24, 2350 volunteer hours were spent across the Bike Collectives. This is a significant achievement, and I thank you all for your efforts.

May I acknowledge the funding partners that ensure the programs are established and now enjoy increased operations:

- **Olive Road Tasmania,¹**
- **Huon Valley Financial Services and the Bendigo Community Banks,²**
- **Mountain Air Foundation,³ and**
- **The Tasmanian Government.**

As volunteers and business operators, your ongoing support will ensure that the Tasmanian Bike Collective can look forward to a positive future and continue improving the lives of young people who need support.

May I note some of the opportunities that the Bike Collective will be pursuing over the next year, including:

- The expansion of the mobile program.
- The establishment of a retail centre.
- The provision of adaptive bikes for people with disability, and
- Your next Cycle Challenge in April.

I look forward to The Bike Collective displaying your work and sharing your stories at our **Government House Open Day** on 3 November.

In closing, I again thank all volunteers and supporters for your hard work and dedication.

Thank you. And please enjoy your reception.

¹ <https://oliveroad.org.au/>

² <https://communitybankhuonvalley.smartygrants.com.au/>

³ <https://www.mountainairfoundation.com.au/>