

NATIONAL TRUST OF TASMANIA GARDEN PARTY
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2025, FRANKLIN HOUSE, LAUNCESTON

Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for inviting me to this garden party in these beautiful gardens and grounds of historic Franklin House.

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

Our National Trust Tasmania is a treasured cultural institution and the guardian of our State's heritage. It is particularly fitting that we gather here today at Franklin House, the first property saved by the Trust in 1960. Then, a determined group of Tasmanians refused to allow this significant part of our history to fall into ruin. They launched our National Trust, a movement that continues its dedication to protect our State's history and culture.

Our National Trust's work in protecting our buildings and landscapes is exceptional. But this work is done by an equally exceptional community of supporters. Here at Franklin House, a dedicated team of 62 volunteers brings history to life every day of the year, closing only on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, and Good Friday. Last year alone, these 62 volunteers contributed over 8,500 hours of service.

As well as being custodians of Franklin House, your volunteers have made Franklin House a vibrant community hub, hosting fundraising events, the annual fair, themed high teas, exhibitions, and garden parties.

As your Patron, I acknowledge how our National Trust of Tasmania, in properties like Franklin House, demonstrates the importance of preserving our history. Heritage conservation is not only about maintaining buildings from the past – but also about learning about our history.

You have an important education program with school students coming here. Retired teachers guide students to experience first-hand how life was lived in the 19th century and the impact changing technology has on our lives.¹ Students may also explore the grounds, learning more about food production and self-sustainability in days past.

As part of National Trust Tasmania's education program, you have guided tours for students through other National Trust buildings. Last year, we had the pleasure of a guided tour by your wonderful volunteers of Home Hill, the family home of Joseph Lyons, Dame Enid Lyons, and their 12 children.

May I thank you for giving our schoolchildren the opportunity to learn about their history.

So, as we enjoy these gardens and our delicious afternoon tea today, we are not only visitors to a historic site but also participants in Tasmania's ongoing heritage conservation movement and the work that has kept Franklin House thriving for over sixty years.

May I thank you all for being here and for your continued support of National Trust Tasmania.

Please now enjoy a wonderful afternoon.

¹ <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/explore/?content=educationprogram&state=tas>