

**COMBINED COMMONWEALTH SOCIETIES OF TASMANIA  
AFTERNOON TEA TO MARK THE 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 15 APRIL 2025**

Good afternoon, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to Government House for this special anniversary afternoon tea.

I begin as I did at our Commonwealth Day reception by reflecting on His Majesty The King's commitment to reconciliation<sup>1</sup> and acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose land 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.

It is a pleasure to be with you today to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Combined Commonwealth Societies of Tasmania.

Eighty years ago, as the world was emerging from World War II, the United Empire Societies was founded and recognised the importance of strengthening bonds across the Commonwealth. What began as a collaborative effort between five societies – the Royal Empire Society, St Andrew's Caledonian Society, Royal Society of St George, Victoria League, and Victoria League Young Contingent – has evolved over decades into the Combined Commonwealth Societies of Tasmania. The founders understood that unity, cooperation, and mutual support were not merely ideals but essential tools for progress and peace.

Since then, our Combined Commonwealth Societies of Tasmania has stood for fellowship and collaboration. You have provided community events, educational programs and charitable endeavours and your work has touched countless lives and enriched our society.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.royal.uk/news-and-activity/2024-10-21/the-kings-speech-to-parliament-house-canberra>  
accessed 6 Feb 25

Looking to the future, the values that the Commonwealth reveres—diversity, inclusivity, peace, and understanding—are more relevant than ever. To ensure that these principles continue, we must strive to engage the younger generation and encourage them to carry forward this legacy.

May we acknowledge the dedication of all those who have contributed to the success of the Combined Commonwealth Societies of Tasmania over the years. From past leaders and members, to those who continue to serve today, your efforts are deeply appreciated.

As we celebrate this 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, let us renew our commitment to the Commonwealth's ideals and the spirit of partnership and unity. May the Combined Commonwealth Societies of Tasmania continue for generations to come.

Thank you all for being here today, and for your support.

We all look forward to another 80 years of friendship, collaboration, and achievement.

Thank you.