

**70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION OF THE  
LAUNCESTON TEACHERS COLLEGE CLASS OF 1955  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 2 APRIL 2025**

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to Government House to celebrate your remarkable milestone: the 70<sup>th</sup> reunion of the 1955 class of Launceston Teachers College.

May I begin by paying respects to 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, sky and waters.

This afternoon tea is not only a gathering to mark the occasion of your 70 years reunion, but also a celebration – the impact that each of you made in your classrooms and communities all across Tasmania.

May I reflect that you all began your teaching journeys at a time when Tasmania was changing rapidly. The post-war boom, and the influx of workers, in particular for our hydro schemes, meant an explosion in population, and a flow-on demand for teachers. Our Government responded, and a one-year teaching course was created at Launceston Teachers College.<sup>1</sup>

I understand that you all graduated in 1955.<sup>2</sup> You might have missed out on some of the formal certification at that time, but you never missed out on your dedication and commitment to the education in your classes. You were part of a generation of teachers who laid the learning foundations for thousands of Tasmanians. You taught reading, writing, and mathematics – but also respect and confidence.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://125timeline.utas.edu.au/timeline/2010/preparation-teachers-tasmania/>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

Of course, there were challenges. I understand that many of you were required to leave teaching when you started families. That is unacceptable under today's employment arrangements. Still, many of you returned to the classroom to become senior teachers, supervisors, and some of you principals, shaping our schools.<sup>3</sup> You created lifetime friendships of a special kind that lasts 70 years.

Today, as your Governor, may I express on behalf of all Tasmanians our thanks for your years of service, and for guiding generations of your students through their most formative years.

Congratulations again on your 70th anniversary. I hope you enjoy your afternoon tea.

Thank you.

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<sup>3</sup> Phone discussion Margaret Turner / Paula Chatwood 27 March 2025