

**COMBINED COMMONWEALTH SOCIETIES OF TASMANIA
LUNCHEON TO MARK THE BIRTHDAY OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
LENAH VALLEY RSL CLUB, TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2025**

Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for inviting us to this lunch to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty King Charles III.

May I begin by 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.

At Government House earlier this year, together we celebrated Commonwealth Day and considered His Majesty's Message, and then we celebrated the 80th anniversary of the formation of the Combined Commonwealth Societies of Tasmania.

Today, we unite as members of the Commonwealth family of nations bound by our shared history, common values, and dedication to promoting peace, prosperity, and understanding. Here in Tasmania, we can reflect on the enduring spirit of our diverse and vibrant community.

As we mark His Majesty's birthday, may we reflect on his longstanding tireless dedication and commitment to causes that resonate with us all; his early advocacy for environmental sustainability, championing charitable work through The Prince's Trust; his dedication to fostering harmony and inclusivity among people of all backgrounds.

Long before ascending the throne, His Majesty was ahead of his time as an advocate for the environment, promoting principles of conservation and sustainable living. The Prince's Trust has improved the lives of countless young people through support and guidance, as well as providing opportunities to thrive.

His Majesty is also dedicated to fostering understanding and dialogue across cultures and communities and to encouraging mutual respect. He has also made efforts to promote interfaith dialogue and multiculturalism.

It is fitting that we gather here today, united by our Commonwealth ties, to recognise and honour His Majesty's commitment to service. And to uphold the values that lie at the heart of the Commonwealth—democracy, human rights, and respect for diversity.

May we take a moment to reflect on Tasmania's shared bonds with the Crown and the Commonwealth. At gatherings such as today's lunch, we reinforce those ties and express our gratitude for His Majesty's leadership and dedication.

As we raise our glasses, I ask you to join me in a toast:

"To His Majesty King Charles III. May his reign continue to be one of service, compassion, and wisdom. Long may he reign."

Thank you.