

**AFTERNOON TEA TO MARK THE
150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LATROBE FEDERAL BAND
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 10 JULY 2025**

Good afternoon, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to Government House to celebrate the historic 150th anniversary of the Latrobe Federal Band.

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.

It is my great pleasure to join you today for this special afternoon tea. I know that you have all travelled quite a way today to be here, so an extra special welcome. We host many community groups to celebrate milestones, but few with the longevity of your Latrobe Federal Band. This year marks a remarkable milestone for all of you.

To reach 150 years is a fine achievement for any organisation and especially so for your musical group that relies on volunteers to play, manage, and present stage events. It speaks to a legacy of community spirit. Since its founding in 1874, the Latrobe Federal Band has been a presence in the region, supporting local events, commemorations, and celebrations.

Your Band's story is woven into Latrobe's civic and cultural life. From parades and civic ceremonies to Anzac Day services and Christmas concerts, your Band has performed at events, both solemn and joyful, across generations.

Behind this historic record lies the work of countless individuals. Musicians, conductors, committee members, and supporters have generously donated their time. Their commitment has kept the music playing, year after year, decade after decade. May I acknowledge the many band members who have

served over long periods and those who continue to mentor and welcome new players into the band.

The Latrobe Federal Band also connects people across age, background, and ability. The Band has provided a space for young musicians to improve, families to bond, and older generations to stay active and engaged in community life.

The Band has shown resilience through difficult times, including both World Wars and more recent disruptions, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. In each difficult time, the Band has responded, adapted, and returned.

Looking to the future, your Band remains relevant and vital. In an era of digital connections, the Band reminds us of the value of coming together to rehearse, to perform, and to celebrate. Live music, played by people we know, still holds a special power that cannot be replicated.

On behalf of everyone who has enjoyed your music over the years, may I offer my congratulations to the Band on your sesquicentenary. Thank you for your music and your contribution to the spirit of Latrobe.

We look forward to your next chapter, and years of music, community, and joy.

Thank you, and please enjoy the afternoon tea.