

**AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS,  
TASMANIAN CHAPTER  
LAUNCH OF 2025 OPEN HOUSE SOUTHERN MIDLANDS  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
OATLANDS, SATURDAY 9 AUGUST 2025**

Good afternoon, everyone. I am delighted to be here in Oatlands to celebrate the launch of Open House Southern Midlands, here at one of the oldest Supreme Court Houses in Australia.

May I begin by acknowledging the palawa people, the traditional owners of the land upon which 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.

I previously visited here during my official visit to the Southern Midlands municipality, when we were guided on a heritage walking tour of Oatlands. May I acknowledge Mayor Edwin Batt and Deputy Mayor Karen Dudgeon whom we met during our official visit and who are with us today.

Our Southern Midlands is rich with Tasmania's built history. As you travel through this area's villages and rural districts, you can find many examples of 19<sup>th</sup> century architecture, including convict-built grand Georgian homesteads as well as small workers' cottages.<sup>1</sup>

Many historic buildings can now be highlighted through the Open House programme.

This celebration of architecture, design and our State's built history has been encouraging Tasmanians to be tourists in our own towns since 2013.

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<sup>1</sup> [Southern Midlands Council: History](#), accessed 31 July 2025

You have opened up some of Hobart and Launceston's most interesting buildings to the public, including infrastructure facilities, cultural spaces and private residences. Visitors have enjoyed talks and tours with architects, urban designers, historians, preservationists and city leaders.<sup>2</sup>

I am pleased that our Government House Open Day was part of your 'Day on the Domain' programme as a prelude to Open House Hobart last year.

May I commend our Tasmanian Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects for your hard work in coordinating this wonderful and free programme. I also thank all the partners, sponsors, volunteers, building owners and custodians for their efforts to make Open House such a success every year.

Congratulations and thank you.

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<sup>2</sup> [Open House Hobart](#), accessed 31 July 2025