

**MORNING TEA TO MARK THE  
40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF KINGSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 7 AUGUST 2025**

Good morning, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to Government House this morning to mark the 40th anniversary of Kingston Neighbourhood House.

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.

In 1985, when Kingston Neighbourhood House first opened its doors, few could have foreseen the significant role it would come to play in the lives of so many. Over the past 40 years, more than 10,000 people have walked through your doors. Some came seeking support, others looking to give back, but all found a place to belong.<sup>1</sup> Whether through a warm meal, a community class, a friendly conversation over a cup of tea, or support in a crisis.

Your organisation has built a safe, welcoming, and inclusive space for everyone through the work of dedicated staff, volunteers, and board members, many of whom live and work in the area. Importantly, Kingston Neighbourhood House supports young families and children, provides companionship to older residents, creates opportunities for learning and skill-building, and advocates for those experiencing hardship or isolation.

Your 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary theme is storytelling. That is especially poignant because the House and the community it serves are interwoven with the stories of the people involved. These stories form the fabric of a caring and compassionate community that recognises the strength that comes from inclusion and empathy.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.kingstonnh.org.au/> accessed 17 Jul 25

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.kingstonnh.org.au/40-years> accessed 17 Jul 25

In this anniversary year, we not only celebrate achievements but also express our thanks. To the team of volunteers and staff, past and present, thank you for your tireless work. To Board members, thank you for your vision and guidance. To community members, thank you for trusting in Kingston Neighbourhood House and making it the welcoming place it is today.

I am sure that with so many willing and committed supporters, Kingston Neighbourhood House will continue to thrive and bring people together for many more decades to come.

Congratulations on your 40th anniversary.

Thank you and please enjoy your morning tea.