

**MORNING TEA FOR MEMBERS OF THE  
QUEEN MARY CLUB  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 19 AUGUST 2025**

Good morning, everyone. I welcome you all to Government House for this morning tea.

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.

I particularly welcome the Presidents and Vice Presidents of women's clubs, who are joining us from around the country.

Tasmania's Queen Mary Club is one of the earliest women's clubs in Australia. The Club was formed in July 1910 and celebrates 115 years, this year. The Club received Patronage from Queen Mary, whose portrait we can see on the wall.<sup>1</sup>

The Club has the distinction of occupying the oldest building associated with any women's club in the country. Built in 1843 and originally known as The Bank of Australasia, yours is the oldest surviving bank building in Hobart and stands as the last architectural work in the city designed by notable colonial convict architect, James Blackburn.<sup>2</sup>

Government House Tasmania is not quite as old as your Queen Mary Club headquarters, having been built between 1855 and 1858. However, it is full of fascinating stories. Designed by William Porden Kay, its architectural style is described as a Victorian country house in the Gothic revival style. This House occupies 15 hectares. The sandstone for the construction of this 73-room neo-Gothic building

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<sup>1</sup> [Companion to Tasmanian History: Queen Mary Club](#), accessed 8 August 2025

<sup>2</sup> Email from QMC President to SMCO, 6 August 2025

was excavated from the quarry you passed on the left of the driveway. This quarry was landscaped as an ornamental lake in 1875 and has been added to over the years.

The grounds were laid out in a formal style typical of early Victorian country mansions, with many additions over the years.

I shall not talk about our State Rooms, as Don will be leading you on a tour of them shortly, and giving you lots of information.

Please now enjoy your morning tea.