

**TREE DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR
THE HONOURABLE PETER GUTWEIN
FORMER PREMIER OF TASMANIA
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2025**

Good afternoon, everyone. I am pleased to welcome you all to Government House for this tree dedication ceremony.

May I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people who once lived in this part of our island. 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.

For four decades, it has been a tradition at Government House to plant trees to honour Premiers of Tasmania.

Since the first ceremony in December 1985, oak trees have been planted in our Vineyard Paddock by or for all Premiers from Eric Reece through to Will Hodgman.

Of course, these impressive oaks take up space, and consequently, we have now run out of room in the paddock. That is why a new Premier's Oak Grove is being established here on our Eastern lawn.

As more oaks are planted here, it will become a beautiful spot for Government House visitors to enjoy the view, particularly during autumn as the colours turn.

I am reliably informed by our garden team that there is space in this new Grove for 28 trees, so that should cover us for Premiers for some years to come!

I am pleased that today we are here to dedicate the first tree in this new Grove to the Honourable Peter Gutwein, Premier of Tasmania from 2020 until 2022.

Peter was Premier during a difficult period of global turmoil caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. His leadership of our State during this time has been widely acknowledged.

I am delighted to dedicate this tree – a Pin Oak, or *Quercus palustris* – in his honour today. Congratulations, Peter, and thank you for your service to our State.

[HE presents plaque]