

**AFTERNOON TEA TO MARK THE  
40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF SORELL  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2025**

Good afternoon, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to Government House to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of your Rotary Club of Sorell.

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.

Today, we are celebrating an important milestone for your Club. These past four decades have been a period of growth not only for your Club, but also for Sorell itself.

Since 1985, you have seen Sorell grow from a quiet town to the bustling centre it is today. So too, your Club has grown and been a consistent presence, serving your community and making a difference through your initiatives.

You have raised funds serving hot roast rolls, selling sheep manure and firing up the barbecue.<sup>1</sup> You have undertaken projects for the benefit of your community, from hosting the monthly Sorell Men's Breakfast to putting together 'Dignity Bags' to help women in need.<sup>2</sup>

Currently, you are busy building bus shelters throughout the district. You recently completed your 28<sup>th</sup> shelter – an impressive effort.

You also make donations to local groups and organisations such as Copping Community Care, Youth Matters Sorell, Rural Alive and Well, the Salvation Army's McCombe House and the Carlton Park Surf Life Saving Club.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Information provided by Rotary Club of Sorell to SMCO, 12 September 2025

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Information provided by Rotary Club of Sorell to SMCO, 12 September 2025

May I also commend your focus on young people, working with local schools on a variety of projects, including the important Youth Driver Awareness Program. Your Club's Neil Davis Awards recognise students for excellence in creative writing and are now in their 40<sup>th</sup> year.<sup>4</sup>

I also acknowledge your support for causes further afield, particularly in developing countries and responding to natural disasters.

You support the PolioPlus program, for which Rotary Clubs from around the world work together.<sup>5</sup> Significantly, Rotary members have contributed funds and volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries from this devastating disease.<sup>6</sup>

Over your past 40 years, you have built friendships and made connections locally, nationally, and internationally. I am sure these friendships and connections are treasured by your members.

May I congratulate all members, past and present, on this, your ruby anniversary. May the Rotary Club of Sorell continue to thrive, support the community and forge friendships for your next 40 years and beyond.

Please, now enjoy your afternoon tea and take this opportunity to visit our State Rooms.

Thank you.

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Email Graeme Holt/SMCO, 12 September 2025

<sup>6</sup> [Rotary: End Polio Now](#), accessed 12 September 2025