

**MORNING TEA FOR THE
GARDEN CLUBS OF AUSTRALIA, SOUTHERN TASMANIA
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2025**

Good morning, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to Government House for this morning tea for your Garden Clubs of Australia, Southern Tasmania.

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.

The motto of the Garden Clubs of Australia is 'friendship through gardens'¹. I am sure that many friendships have been formed between club members here in Southern Tasmania.

Garden clubs are a wonderful way to connect with your local community while taking part in activities you enjoy. We also know the health and wellbeing benefits of spending time in the garden.

I am sure you must be looking forward to hosting garden clubs from around the country here in Hobart for the next Garden Clubs of Australia conference in 2027.

We are blessed to have beautiful gardens in Tasmania, with our cooler climate enabling us to grow exquisite blooms. You can see some of the flowers from our Government House gardens here in the Drawing Room.

We also welcome people to the gardens over the warmer months for Lunch on the Lawns. Our next event is this Friday, so I hope some of you can return to enjoy a picnic – fingers crossed for some spring sunshine.

Now, we also have a special award to present to a member.

¹ [Garden Clubs of Australia: About Us](#), accessed 22 October 2025

At the recent convention and AGM in Albury-Wodonga, Mrs Norma Gordon OAM was announced as the recipient of one of the Garden Clubs of Australia's prestigious Annual Major Awards.

The Joan O'Brien Award honours an individual who has achieved excellence in floral art². This certainly describes Norma's outstanding contribution to floral art in Tasmania.

Norma is highly respected for teaching floral art classes and judging floral art exhibitions at community shows and displays across our State.³

May I note the key role Norma has played in coordinating the Annual Floral Festival at St David's Cathedral for over 50 years⁴, which is always such a beautiful event to visit.

May I mention that Norma was presented with her Medal of the Order of Australia here at Government House in 2014 for services to the community, particularly through floral art organisations.

Congratulations Norma, on your Joan O'Brien honour. I am pleased to present you with your trophy, please come forward.

[Her Excellency presents trophy]

Thank you everyone, and please enjoy your morning tea.

² [Garden Clubs of Australia: Awards](#), accessed 22 October 2025

³ Letter from Helen Lindsay to OS, 10 September 2025

⁴ Information from Helen Lindsay to SMCA, 27 October 2025