

MANNALARGENNA DAY FESTIVAL 2025
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
TEBRAKUNNA COUNTRY, CAPE PORTLAND
SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER 2025

Good morning, everyone.

I am honoured to be here today on Tebrakunna Country. May I pay my respects to the Pairrebeene/Trawlwoolway people upon whose Country we gather. I acknowledge our Tasmanian Aboriginal community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise your enduring culture and deep connections to land, sea, sky and waters. We thank you for your continued custodianship of Country through cultural practices and advocacy for truth-telling and healing Country.

As Patron of this Mannalargenna Day Festival, it is my great honour to be here with you for this important celebration of culture and survival.

This Festival honours the enduring memory of Mannalargenna. Each year, his descendants and the broader community gather here on Tebrakunna Country to celebrate his life, the lives of Ancestors, and to continue Aboriginal culture.

Later today we are also welcoming home a boy, Timme, also known as Maulboyheenner. He was taken from this Country many years ago by a roving party and accompanied George Augustus Robinson on his expeditions around Tasmania in the 1830s.¹

Robinson took Timme to Victoria in 1839. Three years later, he and fellow Tasmanian Aboriginal man, Tunnerminnerwait, were found guilty of murder.²

They were publicly hanged in Melbourne in January 1842. Timme was just 27 years old.³

¹ mtwAC 'Bringing Timme Home' Project Plan, provided to ADC September 2025

² mtwAC 'Bringing Timme Home' Project Plan, provided to ADC September 2025

³ Ibid.

Since 2016, a commemorative marker telling Maulboyheenner and Tunnerminnerwait's tragic story has sat close to the site where they died⁴, but many kilometres away from where they were born.

A memorial to Timme installed here, at his home, is through a sculptural representation of a Tasmanian bark canoe, commissioned by the Melaythenner Teeackana Warrana Aboriginal Corporation (MTWAC). This has created a pathway and vessel for Timme to spiritually return to the Country of his family and Ancestors.⁵

In September, I had the honour of meeting the artists and project team and learning about the creation of the sculpture. I am pleased to be here to attend the unveiling of Timme's canoe at a special ceremony later this afternoon.

In addition to the ceremony, Mannalargenna Day 2025 offers us cultural demonstrations and performances, including from the Treenoner Dance Mob. Children have plenty of activities to keep them busy, and cultural foods for all to taste.⁶

May I commend all at the Melaythenner Teeackana Warrana Aboriginal Corporation on organising this culturally important and spiritually uplifting event for another year. Thank you for so generously embracing the spirit of reconciliation to share your culture with us.

May I acknowledge the Festival's partners, sponsors and supporters, as well as the many individuals and organisations who have contributed to the success of Mannalargenna Day 2025.

Finally, may I thank all the volunteers who make this event possible every year. Thank you for giving your time to organise activities, greet visitors and ensure everyone has a wonderful day here in this beautiful part of our State.

I now have great pleasure in officially declaring Mannalargenna Day 2025 open.

Thank you.

⁴ [City of Melbourne: Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner](#), accessed 27 November 2025.

⁵ mtwAC 'Bringing Timme Home' Project Plan, provided to ADC September 2025

⁶ [mtwAC Facebook page](#), accessed 27 November 2025