

TEN LIVES (HOBART CAT CENTRE INC)
RECEPTION TO MARK THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2025

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to Government House.

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.

Tonight, we celebrate the 50-year anniversary of the establishment of the Hobart Cat Centre in Strickland Avenue, South Hobart. As your 50 years was in December last year, we are, to be precise, celebrating 51 years.

Of course, the organisation is even older, having its roots in the Tasmanian Animal Protection Society, founded by Joan Allport in 1949.

The first Hobart Cat Centre was established in South Hobart in 1974 under the leadership of Florence Robson. You later moved to your current home at Selfs Point in 2007.

Your name change to *Ten Lives* in 2017 reflected your organisation's need to focus on strategic and animal welfare outcomes.

Ten Lives is no small operation. You have 35 paid staff. Of your 450 volunteers, 250 are animal foster carers, and 200 work at the shelter and in your five opportunity shops that provide financial support to *Ten Lives'* activities.

As Patron of *Ten Lives*, may I acknowledge the Centre's community outreach and community service functions.

One example is *Happy paws, happy hearts*, adopted from Queensland. This program provides opportunities to improve lifestyle outcomes for vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

Tonight is an opportunity to thank all the staff and volunteers who contribute to the success of *Ten Lives*.

Also, this is an opportunity to thank community and business supporters. In particular, I thank Andrew and Lee-Anne Lydon for their generous contributions to the establishment of the x-ray room, veterinary consultation rooms and upgrades to the shelter at Selfs Point, and Op Shop fit outs.

Now, I am very pleased to present Life Membership certificates to two outstanding volunteers.

Robyn Tacey began volunteering at the Blackmans Bay opportunity shop in 2000 and guided its relocation to Margate in 2007. There, she volunteered as manager. Robyn's dedication and experience helped the Margate shop to flourish. Her knowledge continues to support the network of opportunity shops.

Tammy Eastley has been a loyal and long serving volunteer. She began working and volunteering as a teenager in 1985 at the Hobart Cat Centre in South Hobart. Tammy approaches her work with a smile and a positive spirit. She is reliable and appreciated by all who work with her.

Congratulations to you both.

Now, please enjoy your reception.