

**CHRISTMAS RECEPTION
'A CELEBRATION OF THE FESTIVE SEASON'
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER 2025**

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to Government House for this special festive and Christmas Reception.

As I have said at other receptions this week, I begin by saying that our thoughts are with the Jewish community at this distressing time.

May I now acknowledge 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.

Most of you represent many of my over 130 patronages around our State, so this is an opportunity to thank you for all your important work for our community. As you would be aware, we host many events here to recognise the volunteers who commit hours of work to support our charities, which do so much to help our communities around Tasmania.

I support a range of patronages, which include Red Cross Tasmania, Cancer Council Tasmania, Hobart City Mission, Guide Dogs Tasmania, and the Royal Flying Doctor Service, among others.

I have held two fundraising events this year. One such event was the annual International Women's Day lunch, at which Elizabeth Broderick AO spoke. We raised over \$20,000 for the Hobart Women's Shelter. The other was a King's Birthday celebration supporting the Beacon Foundation, featuring musical performances by local students and our Tasmanian Youth Orchestra, of which I am also Patron.

Another patronage is Eat Well Tasmania, with which we worked on our community garden initiative, which has continued to grow. From the community garden, we provide fresh produce weekly to Loaves and Fishes to support the School Food Matters Program's hot lunches. Produce has also been provided to Kingborough Helping Hands.

We regularly donate food to the Hobart Women's Shelter and the Sexual Assault Support Service, another patronage. During Homelessness Week, we provide pre-made meals to the Hobart City Mission and the Salvation Army.

This festive season is a time of giving, receiving, and spending time with family and loved ones. It is also a time to reflect on how fortunate we are to live in peace. Tomorrow we shall hold another 'Lunch on the Lawns' for people to access and enjoy these beautiful surroundings, with the Derwent Valley Concert Band playing and the CWA, another patronage, having a stall. So come along if you can.

To help us celebrate this festive reception tonight, our Australian Army Band – Tasmania Jazz ensemble will play for us in the background.

On behalf of our team at Government House, I wish you each and all a safe and enjoyable festive season. Please enjoy the reception.

Thank you.