

**AMY SHERWIN FUND INC
REMARKS AT A STATUE UNVEILING BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
HADLEY'S ORIENT HOTEL, SUNDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2026**

Thank you, Jane and good afternoon, everyone.

Thank you, Theresa, for your welcome. May I also pay my respects to the Muwinina people and acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country.

Today is significant for Hobart, and, more specifically, for the commemoration of women in this city.

Many of us may not be surprised that Australia has more statues of animals than of women.¹ According to the group, *A Monument of One's Own*, less than 15 per cent of the statues in Australian capital cities are of women.²

Happily, today, we are here to see a truly talented Tasmanian woman permanently remembered in marble and bronze.

As we have heard, Amy Sherwin was a global celebrity. Her exceptional talent saw her grace stages in New York, London and other cities around the world.

Several Governors of Tasmania and of other States had the privilege of being entertained by Amy during her lifetime. I note a report in *The Examiner* from 1907, which observed that Governor Sir Gerald Strickland was part of an audience that gave Amy a 'hearty reception,' including encores for every item.³

How wonderful, then, to have our 21st century Amy sing for us today. Thank you, Jacqueline, for your beautiful performance.

¹ [A Monument of One's Own](#), accessed 4 February 2026

² Ibid.

³ *The Examiner*, 1 January 1907, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/45794824>, accessed 3 February 2026

Sadly, we know that in the later part of her life, and in the years since her death, Amy's accomplishments were unknown to many Tasmanians.

May these statues remind us all of the remarkable story of the girl from the Huon Valley who became a worldwide opera star, who never forgot her Tasmanian origins.

Congratulations to everyone involved in ensuring Amy's legacy lives on. May I particularly commend the Amy Sherwin Fund on your dedicated fundraising efforts and on "restoring the star to public memory".⁴

And now, I have great pleasure to unveil this statue of our Tasmanian Nightingale, Amy Sherwin.

⁴ David Crowden, *The Mercury*, 14 February 2026.