

**NATIONAL TRUST OF TASMANIA GARDEN PARTY**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2026, FRANKLIN HOUSE, LAUNCESTON**

Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for again inviting me to this garden party in these beautiful gardens and grounds of historic Franklin House.

May I begin by acknowledging the Palawa people upon whose Country 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.

Franklin House has stood since the 1830s and remains one of the finest examples of Georgian architecture in our State<sup>1</sup>. Built in an era when Van Diemen's Land was still emerging as a colony, this was the first property saved by the National Trust in 1960. It was known at the time as The Hollies<sup>2</sup>. This landmark decision set the course for the organisation and conservation of our Tasmanian heritage that we know today.

More than sixty-five years later, that same spirit of conservation and stewardship continues.

The preservation of buildings and cultural landscapes requires expertise, resources and careful governance. Above all, preservation is sustained by people. Here at Franklin House, many dedicated volunteers continue to give generously of their time and skill, in welcoming visitors, guiding tours, maintaining the House and gardens, curating displays, and ensuring the House itself remains inviting.

As Patron, I particularly commend the Trust's commitment to education. Heritage conservation is not only about preserving fabric; it is about fostering understanding. Your education programs delivered here enable students to step

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<sup>1</sup> [Franklin House – National Trust](#)

<sup>2</sup> IBID

directly into the nineteenth century – to consider how families lived, and how households functioned, then how technological change has reshaped daily life today. May I acknowledge the retired teachers and knowledgeable volunteers who provide these programs.

May I also recognise the work of the National Trust and its volunteers and thank you all. I congratulate successive boards of the Trust and the many dedicated volunteers for the work they do to ensure Tasmania's heritage is protected.

I wish you all a most enjoyable afternoon.