

RECEPTION TO MARK THE 2026 TASPRIDE SUMMER FESTIVAL
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2026

Good evening, everyone. I am delighted to welcome you all to Government House to celebrate the TasPride Summer Festival.

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.

Thank you to the representatives of our Tasmanian LGBTIQA+ community organisations, who are with us, as well as all community members and friends joining us tonight.

Last year, we enjoyed marking TasPride by playing lawn bowls on our green. Tonight, I am pleased to welcome you all to this Ballroom where we shall shortly be entertained by the fabulous Kinsey Scales.

May I note that the Festival once again has an extensive program of events being held this month right across our State. There is something for everyone to enjoy: from family-friendly picnics to sports activities with Hobart Out Tennis and the Queer Run Club, and from film festivals and art sessions to parties, karaoke and Drag Bingo.¹

I am sure we are all looking forward to the Pride Parade, the biggest event of the Festival, and which this year will take place on Valentine's Day.²

¹ [Program: TasPride Festival 2026](#), accessed 28 January 2026

² Ibid.

May I commend TasPride's commitment to visibility and connection across our State. Events like the TasPride Summer Festival are important in ensuring that our LGBTQIA+ community feel supported.

May I congratulate everyone involved in the 2026 Festival, including the many partner groups and organisations around the State, the generous sponsors, and, of course, the hard-working team of volunteers. Thanks to your dedication, this vibrant celebration of pride, inclusion, and equality is possible.

Please enjoy your reception.

David ...

[Official Secretary introduces the Kinsey Scales to the stage]