

**FREEMASONS TASMANIA  
GRAND INSTALLATION AFTERNOON TEA  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2026**

Good afternoon. I warmly welcome you all here to mark the 2026 Grand Installation of the Grand Master Elect of the Grand Lodge of Tasmania, the Right Worshipful Brother Phillip Kline.

May I 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.

May I extend a special welcome to each of the interstate and international delegates. You are visiting with Brothers from across Tasmania for the installation ceremony, which includes a grand banquet this evening, ahead of the main ceremony tomorrow.

The first recorded presence of Freemasons in Tasmania was the laying of the foundation stone of the Officers' Mess at Anglesea Barracks in 1814.<sup>1</sup> Freemasons established the first Tasmanian Operative Lodge on 26 February 1834.

Later, the inauguration and installation of the first Grand Lodge occurred on 26 June 1890, when the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Tasmania was established. The first Grand Master was the Reverend RD Poulett-Harris, headmaster of the Hobart High School.<sup>2</sup> There are now, I understand, thirty-three Lodges operating around Tasmania, with some 1000 members.

May I acknowledge your philanthropy. A Masonic Benevolent Fund was established in 1843 and continues to support the Red Cross, Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul, the Hobart City Mission and many other charities.<sup>3</sup> Through your Masonic Medical Research Foundation, you have provided grants exceeding \$1 million to fund neurological research at our Menzies Institute for Medical Research (MIMR).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.utas.edu.au/tasmanian-companion/biogs/E000389b.htm> accessed 18 Feb 26

<sup>2</sup> Kowe, A.C., 1936. History of Tasmanian Operative Lodge No.1 T.C 1834-1984. H.T.Whitting Pty Ltd Hobart, p62

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.utas.edu.au/tasmanian-companion/biogs/E000389b.htm> accessed 18 Feb 26

In fact, there is a long history of the Office of the Governor and Freemasonry in Tasmania. Some notable links include Governor Ellison-Macartney, 1913-1917, who was installed Grand Master in Tasmania in February 1914<sup>4</sup>. Also, Sir Ernest Clark, the 15<sup>th</sup> Governor of Tasmania (1933-1945), was appointed Worshipful Master of the Operative Lodge, and later, as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge in 1935, during the Centenary celebrations.<sup>5</sup>

May I thank Brother Wood for his leadership over the past three years and congratulate Brother Kline on his impending installation. May I also wish you all the best for your celebrations in Hobart over the coming days as you continue, quote, 'to make good men better'.<sup>6</sup>

Now, please enjoy your afternoon tea and our State Rooms.

Thank you.

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<sup>4</sup> *Mercury*, Friday 20 February 1914, 'Masonic Grand Lodge', p5

<sup>5</sup> Kowe, *op cit*, p77

<sup>6</sup> <https://freemasonstasmania.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/GLOT-Mission-Statement-August-2021.pdf> accessed 18 Feb 26