

**PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA**  
**AFTERNOON TEA TO MARK THE VISIT OF MEMBERS OF THE**  
**PARLIAMENT OF SAMOA**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 23 MARCH 2026**

*Talofa Lava.*

I warmly welcome you all to Government House.

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 deep connection to land, sea, sky, and waters.

It is a pleasure to welcome Members of the Parliament of Samoa to Tasmania. Your visit reflects the strong and enduring relationships that exist across the Commonwealth, and particularly between our two parliamentary communities.

Our connection is enhanced through the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and the longstanding twinning partnership between our Parliaments. Through this partnership, you exchange ideas, support professional development, and share knowledge about parliamentary practice and governance. Your visit provides a valuable opportunity to exchange perspectives and to strengthen our bonds.

We know that the Parliament of Samoa is focused on improvements, as demonstrated by the recent benchmarking self-assessment assisted by Catherine Vickers and her colleague, Fraser MacIntosh.<sup>1</sup>

Our strong twinning partnership between CPA Tasmania and CPA Samoa is demonstrated by a specially commissioned clock made of Huon pine, presented

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.cpahq.org/news/2024\\_03-benchmarks-samoa/](https://www.cpahq.org/news/2024_03-benchmarks-samoa/) accessed 13 Mar 26

by the Tasmanian delegation during a visit in 2019, to commemorate the opening of the new Maota Fono building.<sup>2</sup>

Tasmania and Samoa, as island communities, share many common perspectives. Strong traditions, deep connections to land, sea and community, and an understanding of the importance of good governance resonate with us all.

Thank you for participating in the twinning visit. I hope your time in Tasmania is both productive and enjoyable.

*Fa 'afetai tele lava.*

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<sup>2</sup> <https://cpaaus.org/cpa-tasmania-and-samoa-branches-cement-their-twinning-partnership-with-clock-unveiling-in-new-parliament-building/> accessed 13 Mar 26