

**MORNING TEA TO MARK THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF
ARTSNATIONAL HOBART
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2026**

Good morning. I warmly welcome you here to celebrate the 20th anniversary of ArtsNational Hobart.

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.

Your group has been a success from the very beginning when you were first established as the Hobart branch of the Australian Decorative and Fine Art Societies. After your first lecture in 2006, you soon had 200 members and a waiting list.¹

Each year since, you have presented a wide-ranging program of lectures covering topics across all aspects of art and culture with national and international experts coming to Hobart to deliver informative and entertaining presentations, which have been followed by lively discussions over wine and sandwiches.²

You became the first ArtsNational group in the country to introduce live streaming of lectures.³

You have also made a valuable contribution to arts programs in our community. I commend your members on supporting initiatives for young artists and other

¹ Information supplied by John Williamson to SMCA, 13 April 2026

² Information supplied by John Williamson to SMCA, 13 April 2026

³ Ibid.

groups, including the TSO for Schools Program, the Fullers Literacy Program and Terrapin's Puppetry in Aged Care Program.⁴

Last year at your national conference, you were awarded the prestigious Pauline Hopkins Cup for the ArtsNational society which has best contributed to an exciting and innovative youth arts program.⁵

Congratulations on your 20th anniversary. May I acknowledge the leadership of your dedicated chairs and volunteer committees, past and present.

ArtsNational's motto is to connect, enrich and inspire.⁶ May you continue to connect with your loyal and enthusiastic members for many years to come.

Please enjoy your morning tea.

Thank you.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ [Facebook: ArtsNational Hobart](#), accessed 13 April 2026

⁶ Information supplied by John Williamson to SMCA, 13 April 2026