

**MORNING TEA TO MARK THE PRESENTATION OF
A CULTURAL FIRESTICK
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 27 APRIL 2026**

Good morning.

I warmly welcome you here for this ceremony to mark the presentation of a significant piece of living history to be added to our collection of Aboriginal artworks and objects.

Thank you, Rob, for that welcome.

For tens of thousands of years, Aboriginal men carried fire across this country, caring for Country. Fire cleared the ground, renewed the grasses, brought back the wildlife, and kept the forests healthy. Generations of Aboriginal fire-keepers understood this country more deeply than anyone who has come since.¹

I am very grateful for your gift of a firestick to GH. It will be cared for and displayed with dignity in the foyer just inside the main entrance, where it can be seen by our many guests. It will sit in a cabinet next to Aunty Netty Shaw's kelp basket as a symbol of the interrelationship between *men's* and *women's business*.

Rob, thank you for your work and for presenting this important symbol. We will honour it.

David ...

[OS invites Rob Anders to speak briefly and present the firestick]

¹ Rhys Jones, "Fire-stick Farming," *Australian Natural History*, Vol. 16, No. 7 (1969), pp. 224–228.
https://museum-publications.australian.museum/media/dd/Uploads/Documents/35768/ams370_vXVI_7_lowres.a646fc9.pdf
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