

**CHRIST COLLEGE 175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**DRAWING ROOM, GOVERNMENT HOUSE,**  
**WEDNESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2021**

Good evening. Don and I warmly welcome you to this Government House reception to mark the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Christ College.

I pay my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community. I recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of colonisation upon our First People. I stand for a future that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal stories, culture, language and history.

May I acknowledge among us:

- Professor Rufus Black, Vice-Chancellor of our University of Tasmania
- Dr Marc Duldig, Senior Vice-President, The Christ College Foundation, and Founding Chair and President
- Alice Eldridge, President of the Christ College Students' Club
- Ian Wright, President and Chairman of the Board of the Christ College Foundation and Dr Susan Wright
- Greg Ramsay, Member of the Foundation Board and Dr Frankie Ramsay.

One hundred and seventy-five years' continuing operation of any organisation is commendable. That Christ College has endured for so long and continues to be a vibrant part of our University is a credit to everyone associated with the College.

The history of Christ College is well-known – sometimes chequered, sometimes struggling, but always resilient in holding to its original purpose of uplifting educational opportunities in Van Diemen's Land and subsequently Tasmania.

The association of Christ College with Governors has been more or less continuous. This is not surprising given the always close relationship between the Office of the Governor and Tasmanian tertiary education.

For example, the Christ College Centenary, which occurred over four days in late September 1946, included a Garden Party at the College; a Centenary Service at St David's Cathedral; and a Centenary Ball. All of these events were attended by then Governor Sir Hugh Binney and Lady Elizabeth Binney.

There was also a Centenary Dinner at Hadley's Hotel, tickets for which were seven shillings and sixpence.<sup>1</sup> There were no less than six Toasts during that dinner, the first being to King George VI, father of Queen Elizabeth.

In October 1996, Tasmanian Governor Sir Guy Green attended the Christ College Sesquicentenary Dinner in Hobart. In his speech he said, and I quote:

"The development of the whole person intellectually and morally both as an individual and as a responsible participating member of society has been central to the philosophy of Christ College right from the beginning. This evening I suggest that we should not only be celebrating the sesquicentenary of the establishment of Christ College, we should also be celebrating the sesquicentenary of the emergence in Tasmania of a philosophical commitment to a set of ideals of liberal scholarship and education which lie at the core of any truly civilised society. Christ College has made a very significant contribution to ensuring that those ideals have endured and will continue to flourish in the future."

I endorse those sentiments.

I also wish to acknowledge the exceptional contribution to our University Library of the College's large collection of valuable pre-16<sup>th</sup> Century books. The collection was moved from Christ College to be housed safely in the University Library in the late 1990s. That proved wise because the College library has had an eventful history. A fire destroyed 250 books and damaged another 300—400 books in 1890.<sup>i</sup>

I am also informed that when the pre-16<sup>th</sup> Century books were being transferred, the University Librarian was told that some books from the College had pages torn out to be used as cigarette papers!<sup>ii</sup>

In the 1970s another loss occurred when the College's rare and valuable volumes of John Gould's works on Australian birds and macropods were stolen. I am sure our University was and remains delighted to have the transfer of this valuable collection.

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<sup>1</sup> Examiner (Launceston), Saturday 21 September 1946 page 4.

On a personal note, I have fond memories of Christ College. As a student in the mid-70s, I spent quite a bit of time as a visitor, having a few close friends living there. I enjoyed many dinners in the hall and I also attended several enjoyable Christ College Balls.

Thank you and warm congratulations Christ College on your 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Paula ...

[Invites Marc Duldig to speak briefly, followed by Alice Eldridge, followed by Professor Rufus Black]

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<sup>i</sup> Christ's College Magazine, September, 1890 (UA.17/221 (1)), p. 6.

<sup>ii</sup> Email to David Owen, 23 February 2010.