

**HOBART CITY MISSION AND THE SMALL STEPS PROGRAM**  
**MORNING TEA REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 14 JUNE 2019**

Good morning and welcome to Government House.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land, the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

May I acknowledge among you:

- John Stublely, Hobart City Mission CEO;
- John Minchin, Board President, and fellow Board Members;
- Bernadette Black, Small Steps Program Ambassador and 2019 Tasmanian Australian of the Year;
- Nonie Pople, Small Steps Coordinator;
- Staff and volunteers;
- and donors.

Some of you may have noticed that our Flag of Tasmania is flying at half-mast today. This is the case on all Government buildings as a mark of respect for the State Memorial Service being held this morning in Sydney, of the late Bob Hawke, Australian Prime Minister between 1983 and 1991. I was due to attend representing Tasmania, but my ongoing medical condition has prevented that.

This is one of numerous such roles of the Governor – representing Tasmania at significant national Services – although I was unable to attend the 2015 Funeral of the late Malcolm Fraser, Prime Minister from 1975 to 1983, and so I was also represented on that occasion.

But this does mean that I am delighted to be able to welcome you this morning. The association of Vice-Regal patronage with Hobart City Mission means that there is a strong bond between this place and the very important work that the Mission has done for Hobart and southern Tasmania for such a long time.

Indeed your key logo – “Caring since 1852” – is one to be cherished. And it certainly gives you bragging rights over this sandstone pile which was only completed in 1857!

The patronage of Governors dates back to the earliest years of Hobart City Mission. Thus in December 1868 the Mercury newspaper reported, and I quote:

Last evening, the sixteenth annual meeting of subscribers and friends of the Hobart Town City Mission took place at the Mechanics’ Institute. His Excellency Colonel Gore Browne was announced to take the chair. The Governor rose and spoke of the object for which the meeting was convened. He said among the many beneficial institutions which were an honour to Hobart Town, there was no one which had greater claims on the support and sympathy of the public than the City Mission. It was entirely unsectarian in its character and objects, and the missionaries spent their lives in visiting the abodes of sickness and want, relieving one, exhorting another, and comforting a third. <sup>i</sup> End quote.

And so it is that this selfless devotion to helping others is the central creed of HCM, today as it has been for nearly 170 years. And this morning we wholeheartedly thank all donors for enabling the work of Hobart City Mission to continue, assisting those who most need loving care and a hand up – through emergency help, housing and family support, DIY Dads, Small Steps, Chaplaincy and many other support mechanisms.

Thank you.

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<sup>i</sup> Mercury, Tuesday 15 December 1868, page 2.