

HOBART IONIAN CLUB 70TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2018

Good evening and welcome to this Government House reception to mark the 70th anniversary of the Hobart Ionian Club.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land—the Mouheneener 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:

- Your President, Shelagh Shaw;
- Secretary Stephanie Broomfield;
- and Committee Members.

Seventy years young is a commendable record and as your current Patron I am delighted that we are able to celebrate the occasion here at Government House.

I will be brief in my remarks because we are about to enjoy a 20-minute musical performance.

On the 2nd September 1948 the Mercury newspaper reported your founding as follows: “A great success was the afternoon tea at Hadley’s yesterday arranged by Hobart’s newest club — so new it hasn’t got a name. The club is to be run on much the same lines as Launceston’s Ionian Club, and will enable newcomers to the State to meet at afternoon tea ... The club is to be purely social ... and plans are already in mind for a really big ‘do’ at Christmas.”ⁱ

I was then intrigued to read that in April the following year, 1949, the Hobart Ionian Club had a stall at a fete at Government House, in aid of the Girl Guide Margaret McIntyre Memorial Fund.

I was intrigued for three reasons. The first is that this coming Sunday, 23rd September, Dick and I are hosting a fundraising fete here for the Child Health Association of Tasmania – it is probably the first fete held here for many decades, as they went right out of fashion as a Government House form of entertainment.

The second reason for my intrigue is that the Ionian's was a "lucky envelope" stall, that is, the patron purchased a lucky envelope. What I wonder was in them? (The newspaper did say the Ionians were "thrilled with the £50 or so they raised.")

And the third reason for my intrigue is that there is a photo in the newspaper of the Ionian Club of Hobart "lucky envelope" stall, with a group of five women – one of whom is "Mrs Ken Friend" – my mother! Was she a member of the Ionian Club I wonder? She was certainly, quite newly arrived. My parents had moved to Hobart from Sydney in early 1948 and my 22 year-old mother was, I am sure, in need of friendship.

And now her grand-daughter Meg, and her friends Fiona and Ingrid, are about to sing for you.

Thank you.

[Mercury image caption: "Mrs Ken Friend (left) and Mrs Lewis Parkes (right) stand by while Mrs Guy Rex (second from left) buys a lucky envelope from Mrs Pat Ward at the garden fete at Government House on Saturday in aid of the Girl Guide Margaret McIntyre Memorial Fund. Mrs Rex's small daughter, Suzanne, stands in front of her mother. Mrs Ward was helping on the Ionian Club's stall."ii]

ⁱ Mercury Thursday 2 September 1948 page 8.

ⁱⁱ Mercury, Tuesday 12 April 1949 page 12.