

**RICHMOND FELLOWSHIP TASMANIA INC PICNIC
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
BALL ROOM, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2021**

[VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED]

Good afternoon. Don and I warmly welcome you to this Government House picnic day to mark the 35th Anniversary of Richmond Fellowship Tasmania, as part of Mental Health Week.

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:

- Ally Mercer, Acting Chair

- Miriam Moreton, CEO.

Soon after the establishment of The Richmond Fellowship of Tasmania, Governor Sir Guy Green agreed to become its inaugural patron. In her April 1987 letter of thanks, then Executive Director Cheryl Taylor wrote, and I quote: “It is very satisfying to all of us to know that there are a few very busy persons who still take the time to care for their less fortunate fellows, and your acceptance of this role provides our clients with a much-needed sense of worth.”¹

Now, in 2021 and as your new Governor and your Patron, I fully intend to maintain that commitment – and this Anniversary get-together and picnic is a really good way to start.

I commend the staff, Board members and others assisting Richmond Fellowship Tasmania for your exceptional commitment in what is not a straightforward career. In my own case, as a former Federal Circuit Court of Australia Judge, specialising in family matters, I am aware of the difficulties that arise when families are fractured by whatever means.

¹ Richmond Fellowship Patronage file, Neroli’s office.

On the other hand, working with those with mental health challenges or who otherwise are socially disadvantaged is highly rewarding, considering that you continually fulfil your vision of “supporting people to be leaders in their own lives.”²

And to the Richmond Fellowship clients here today, it’s wonderful to know that you are part of the Richmond family and part of this celebration of 35 years of operation in Tasmania, for Tasmanians who manage personal challenges.

I read in your latest newsletter, *Richmond Connections*, an editorial from Miriam about the new Strategic Plan for the next three years.³ You have a clear commitment and a vibrant and strong organisation. We thank you – staff, Board members, clients past and present – for contributing so meaningfully to our island life.

Please now enjoy your celebration, your picnic lunch and the beautiful gardens.

Thank you.

David ... [invites Miriam to respond]

² [About RFT – Richmond Fellowship Tasmania](#), accessed 8 October 2021.

³ [Richmond Connections Newsletter June 2021 OP.pdf \(rft.org.au\)](#), accessed 8 October 2021.