

**RECEPTION TO MARK THE
75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TASMANIAN BANDS LEAGUE
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
BALL ROOM, THURSDAY 9 DECEMBER 2021**

VICE-REGAL SALUTE

Please be seated.

Good evening everyone and welcome to this reception to mark your significant 75th anniversary of the formation of the Tasmanian Bands League.

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. I recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of colonisation upon our Aboriginal People. I stand for a future that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal stories, culture, language and history.

Tasmanian Bands have been an integral part of our community for many years. Bands have come together to form associations to foster excellence through competitions and to establish an overarching organisation to represent and assist bands with their operations. The first association was formed in February 1914, the Tasmanian Bands Association, which included bands from as far afield as Queenstown and Zeehan, as well as from the Dewent, Hobart and military bands.

The Tasmanian Bands Association's successor was the Tasmanian Bands League (TBL) formed in April 1946 in Launceston. At that time, the need was recognised for a committee of band representatives to meet from time to time, to promote bands and contests for the general betterment of banding in Tasmania.

I am advised that the current objectives of the Tasmanian Bands League (TBL) are:

‘to promote the interests and objectives of its member bands; to encourage understanding and good fellowship amongst the Tasmanian banding fraternity; to foster and encourage the teaching and training of young musicians and to promote an appreciation of banding music and associated activities throughout the wider community.’

The League is presently comprised of sixteen different community banding administrations with representations from Hobart, Launceston and the

North West Coast – some of whom operate more than one ensemble. There are currently more than 1,200 musicians registered with the TBL. One of the members, the Latrobe Federal Band, is the oldest continuously operating brass band in Australia, being formed in 1872.

Community banding provides a musical outlet for a wide range of people in regional areas with many bands being supported by local governments. This is largely in recognition of the movement's contribution to local musical and cultural events.

Brass or concert bands are regularly called upon throughout Tasmania to provide entertainment and "colour" in the form of concerts, parades, shows, fairs, sporting events and other community functions. We have regular performances here at Government House by community bands, for which we are grateful.

The last two years have, of course, been difficult for the arts, and community music. It is not the first event of this kind to impact the League – Band contests in Tasmania in 1949 were ceased due to the 'mainland's poliomyelitis epidemic'.

The community response to the COVID pandemic has also affected us here at Government House. We have had to cancel or postpone some events during the past 18 months and the reason for the restriction in numbers and some of the procedures on entry tonight is to comply with Public Health directions. It has been good to see everyone pulling together in our response.

While this reception celebrates the 75th year since the formation of the Tasmanian Bands League, we also look to the future. There are exciting plans in place to increase access to virtual resources, run workshops and host a Hub for the 2022 Australian National Band Championships.

It is important to recognise that community banding is completely a volunteer endeavour – for players and administrators alike – whose footprint on the community is much broader than an ANZAC Day march or Christmas Pageant.

We will shortly hear from a quartet from the Glenorchy City Concert Brass to demonstrate how well that works. They are the 2020 Open Quartet Champions, awarded at the Solo & Party State Championships.

Members are Andrew Martin, Carmen Turk, Simon Turk and Carla Ward and they will play their Championship piece: *Ländliche Bilder (Country Pictures)* by Willy Brant.

David... [David to invite the Quartet to perform]