

HOBART LEGACY INC ANNUAL DINNER 2024
A TOAST TO HOBART AND LAUNCESTON LEGACY BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
LEGACY HOUSE, 159 MACQUARIE STREET, HOBART,
SATURDAY 13 JULY 2024

Good evening, everyone. It is a real privilege for Don and me to have been invited to join you again for the annual dinner and to later propose the toast to Legacy.

May I begin by I acknowledge the Muwinina people upon whose land we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community as ongoing custodians of country. I recognise their enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, and waters.

I am both proud and honoured to be the Patron of Hobart Legacy and to continue to support the original precepts of the Hobart Remembrance Club as established by Sir John Gellibrand in 1923.

Last year marked the Centenary of Legacy. There were a number of events, both at Government House and in the wider community to commemorate that significant anniversary.

In October of last year, after a long journey from the battlefields of France, the Legacy Torch Relay passed through Launceston and Ouse, the birthplace of Gellibrand, before being carried from Anglesea Barracks, over the Bridge of Remembrance and on to the Cenotaph, and then across the river to the eastern shore and the public gardens of ANZAC Park, near the Lindisfarne RSL, where the I lit the cauldron.

Initially focused on support to ex-servicemen, Legacy developed to supporting widows and children of deceased servicemen and women who had seen active service.

Legacy still cares for thousands of widows who lost their loved ones and families who had been affected by their partners' service in the Second World War, Korea, The Malayan Emergency and Vietnam War, as well as those deployed on campaigns in Iraq, Afghanistan and in global peacemaking and peacekeeping operations.

Here in Hobart, the Legacy Club supports some 530 widows and widowers and 24 children called 'Junior Legatees'. This compares to thousands in recent decades but demonstrates the ongoing need. The average age of widows in 2024 is around 80 years, and there are currently more than 42 who are aged 100 or more!

As a result, the Legacy Club of Hobart is planning for a future that contemplates the passage of years without further conflict, balanced always by the need to ensure that the organisation retains the capacity to maintain the aims and aspirations of its founding members.

In this aim, I am sure that the Legacy Club of Hobart will succeed and prosper, as it has for more than a century. I wish you all success for the next 100 years.

And now, please, stand and join me in a toast to Legacy:

"To Hobart and Launceston Legacy"