

**RECEPTION TO MARK THE 55th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
CHINESE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA INC
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC,
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 5 AUGUST 2024**

VICE-REGAL SALUTE

Good evening, everyone, it is my great pleasure to warmly welcome you all to Government House to celebrate the 55th anniversary of our Chinese Community Association Tasmania, and its valuable contributions to our Tasmanian society.

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

This Chinese Community Association of Tasmania (CCAT) started in 1969. This was just two years before our then Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam, made an historic change in policy regarding China and opened relations between our nations.

In 1971, Australia had initially opposed the admission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations. However, just a year later, that decision was reversed¹. This important change highlighted Australia's increasing recognition of China's importance on the global stage and set the foundation for a more constructive relationship between our countries.

CCAT has been an active participant in our community since its establishment. Every year, CCAT committees and teams of volunteers coordinate the vibrant Lunar New Year Festival, among other programs. These efforts and events have fostered a stronger sense of community, making Tasmania a more inclusive and culturally aware place to live. Most recently, I attended and very much enjoyed the Lunar New Year Festival.

¹ <https://www.smh.com.au/national/from-the-archives-1972-australia-recognises-china-20221215-p5c6p2.html>

Many of our schools now teach Chinese, fostering greater understanding, appreciation and relations between our countries.

May I acknowledge that, for 55 years, the CCAT has served its members and our broader public with dedication. As we celebrate this significant milestone, we look forward to our Chinese Community Association Tasmania's continued contributions to our State for many more years. So, let us honour the past, celebrate the present, and look forward to a future together. Congratulations to the Chinese Community Association of Tasmania on this significant 55th anniversary.

Thank you.