

**RECEPTION TO MARK THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF
WOMEN IN TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY INC
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2024**

VICE-REGAL SALUTE

Good evening, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to Government House to mark the 15th anniversary of Women in Tourism and Hospitality Tasmania, or WITH Tas.

May I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose Country 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.

Fifteen years ago, a group of women identified a significant imbalance in our tourism and hospitality sectors. Whilst women comprised 60% of this workforce, they were noticeably absent from leadership positions. This prompted the creation of a supportive organisation that would connect, support and inspire women in this sector across our State.

In 2009, foundation President, Sally Deane, imagined a future where women in tourism and hospitality could shape and lead their industry. Other founding committee members were Jill Bannon, Aletta Macdonald, and Helen Hopwood.

A notable achievement of WITH Tas was the establishment in 2013 of an annual Student Scholarship awarded to a young woman undertaking studies in tourism and hospitality. It is also notable that this year, a partnership with the Migrant Resource Centre has introduced newcomers to the industry.

Further, WITH Tas also organises professional development opportunities with Australian Institute of Company Directors courses, and events such as the Industry Leaders Breakfast.

The work of WITH Tas is an example of what can be achieved when a group promotes opportunities for professional development and leadership growth.

To Sally, Jill, Aletta, Helen, inaugural members Margaret Sutherland and Robin Moore, past President Jane Johnston and all members here tonight, congratulations on your work to provide an invaluable platform for women at all stages of their careers.

Congratulations on your progress over 15 years. I wish you the very best for many more years of connecting, supporting and inspiring women in tourism and hospitality across our State.

Thank you. Please enjoy the reception.