

**ST JOHN HISTORICAL SOCIETY (TASMANIA) INC
OPENING OF NEW MUSEUM
ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
ST JOHN AMBULANCE STATE HEADQUARTERS, MOONAH
FRIDAY 11 OCTOBER 2024**

Good afternoon, everyone. I thank you for your invitation to this significant event for the St John Tasmania Historical Society, members of the Most Venerable Order of St John in Tasmania, and supporters.

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, sky and waters.

It is my great pleasure to be with you both as the Governor of Tasmania and Deputy Prior of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, to mark this historic occasion: the official opening of the St John Tasmania Historical Society Museum.

This Museum stands as a repository of the rich record and enduring legacy of St John in Tasmania. That record and legacy are woven into stories of service, dedication, and care for those in need. For well over a century, the men and women of St John have exemplified the spirit of selflessness. They have provided essential medical aid, first aid training, and community care across our State.

Today, we are not only celebrating the opening of this new Museum, but we are also acknowledging the contributions of all Tasmanians who have worn the insignia of St John with honour. They have been our first responders in times of crisis, steady hands in times of uncertainty, and beacons of compassion in times of need.

This Museum will conserve the history of St John in Tasmania, as a testament to the tireless commitment to human welfare and community. It will show the evolution of first aid, emergency response, and St John's charitable works over the years—work that has saved lives and restored health.

Fittingly, this Museum is situated at the Moonah headquarters of St John Tasmania. Here, community members regularly receive first aid training and purchase first aid materials. Our many staff and volunteers can call home, here. This Museum will remind future generations about service to others.

As we unveil this plaque, we are not only acknowledging and celebrating the long history of St John in Tasmania, but we are also opening doors to stories that may inspire future generations. I trust that this Museum will be a place of learning and reflection for all who visit, helping to foster a deeper understanding of St John's role, both in Tasmania and the world.

On behalf of the people of Tasmania, and as a member of the Order of St John, I congratulate the St John Tasmania Historical Society for your work and dedication to bring this project to life. I also thank all volunteers, benefactors, and contributors to the establishment of this Museum.

It is my honour to declare this St John Tasmania Historical Society Museum officially open.

Thank you.