

MANNALARGENNA DAY FESTIVAL 2024
SPEECH BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
TEBRAKUNNA COUNTRY, LITTLE MUSSELROE BAY, CAPE PORTLAND
SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER 2024

Good morning, everyone.

I am honoured to be here today on Tebrakunna Country. May I pay my respects to the Pairabeena/Trawlwulwuy people upon whose Country we gather. I acknowledge our Tasmanian Aboriginal community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise your enduring culture and deep connections to land, sea, sky and waters. We thank you for your continued custodianship of Country through cultural practices and advocacy for truth-telling and healing Country.

As Patron of this Mannalargenna Day Festival, I am honoured to be here to officially open this tenth anniversary event. This Festival honours the shining and undimmed memory of Mannalargenna, and his people. It is a celebration of survival and culture.

Mannalargenna was a formidable warrior and an important leader of his clan. He was also a negotiator. He agreed to relocate to Wybalenna based on George Augustus Robinson's promise that Tasmanian Aboriginal people would one day be able to return to their clan lands safely.

Robinson did not honour that promise. Today, we remember his betrayal of Mannalargenna. However, we also recognise and celebrate that Mannalargenna's descendants, including his four daughters, played an important role in the continued survival of Tasmanian Aboriginal culture.

Since 2015, the 180th anniversary of Mannalargenna's death, his descendants have gathered here in Tebrakunna Country for this culturally important and spiritually uplifting event.

Today, as we mark this tenth such gathering, this festival is flourishing with its vibrant program of activities to honour the memory of Ancestors and celebrate continuing culture.

I acknowledge the dedication of the Melaythenner Teeackana Warrana Aboriginal Corporation.¹

The Mannalargenna Day Festival brings to life your commitment to preserving custodianship and passing on your Ancestors' cultural traditions, practices, and knowledge.² You are here at the heart of Country³.

Today, in the spirit of reconciliation, welcome everyone, to this special tenth anniversary event. There is so much to see and do – from cultural demonstrations and displays to activities for children, from tasting cultural foods to enjoying the many musical performances.⁴

I am particularly looking forward to a guided walk and talk on Country with the Tebrakunna Rangers this afternoon and to discover more about the traditional lands and sea Country.

Mannalargenna was revered for his power over the wind. And, we are in one of the windiest corners of our island here today. May I acknowledge that this event is taking place with the support of and in conjunction with Woolnorth Renewables.⁵

May I also acknowledge the festival's donors and sponsors, as well as all organisations that have contributed to Mannalargenna Day 2024.

Finally, as Patron, I thank all the volunteers – and there are more than 70 of you – who have made this important celebration possible⁶. You have all given so much

¹ The organisation has recently changed its name (from Melythina Tiakana Warrana) to reflect the historical recorded spelling of the words. Source: email from Jo Cameron to ADC, 22 November 2024.

² [Our Vision: Melaythenner Teeackana Warrana Aboriginal Corporation](#), accessed 2 December 2024.

³ Melaythenner - Country, Teeackana Warrana - heart of, so this translates to heart of Country, or our heart within our Country. Source: email from Jo Cameron to ADC, 22 November 2024.

⁴ Mannalargenna Day Festival Program, sent by Jo Cameron to ADC, 22 November 2024.

⁵ [Mannalargenna Day 2024 Media Release](#), MTWAC website, accessed 2 December 2024.

⁶ [Mannalargenna Day 2024 Media Release](#), MTWAC website, accessed 2 December 2024.

of your time to ensure we can gather here in this beautiful location – from organising activities and logistics, to providing a warm welcome to everyone coming on site.

And so, on this tenth anniversary of Mannalargenna Day, I now have great pleasure in officially declaring this event, open.

Thank you.