



# City of Hobart

## Lord Mayor Annual Report

November 2022–November 2023

I'm pleased to present my annual report for the year between November 2022 and November 2023.

- The Lord Mayor's Office has received and responded to 893 items of correspondence.
- I've had 81 one-on-one constituent meetings, including at 18 Mayor in the Chair sessions held in places around the City.
- Held 138 additional meetings with organisations, businesses and government agencies and politicians.
- I've also launched or opened 124 events, hosted 8 receptions, 9 Town Hall sessions for schools and provided 53 media interviews.

All of this activity is central to undertaking the specific duties of a mayor set by the *Local Government Act 1993*. These include:

- to act as a **leader of the community** of the municipal area;
- to **carry out the civic and ceremonial functions** of the mayoral office;
- to **promote good governance** by, and within, the Council;
- to act as **chairperson of the Council** and to chair meetings of the Council in a manner that supports decision-making processes;
- to act as the **spokesperson for the Council**;
- to **represent the Council** on regional organisations and at intergovernmental forums at regional, state and federal levels;
- to **lead** and participate in the **appointment**, and the monitoring of the performance, **of the general manager**; and
- To liaise with the general manager on:
  - – the activities of the Council and the performance and exercise of its functions and power; and
  - – the activities of the general manager and the performance and exercise of powers in supporting the Council.

I am thankful for the small dedicated team that supports the Lord Mayor in carrying out this legislated role and functions.

I hope this report is of interest to everyone interested in the City of Hobart.

Cr Anna Reynolds  
**LORD MAYOR**



## 1. Leader of the community

*‘to act as a leader of the community of the municipal area’*

Below: Nipaluna Nursery Launch

Bottom left: Event at the Beaker Street Festival

Bottom right: Hosting the Prime Minister and others at Pat Farmer's Run for the Voice (to Parliament)



## Constituent correspondence and meetings

The Office of the Lord Mayor has directly received and responded to 893 pieces of correspondence on a variety of matters via email and letter. Some of these queries and issues were able to be dealt with by research, discussions with City staff or referrals to more appropriate agencies.

As a result of more complex issues raised in this correspondence, Lord Mayor Reynolds met with 81 residents, both in the office and at on-site visits.

## Mayor in the Chair

Lord Mayor Reynolds also met with residents via regular ‘Mayor in the Chair’ listening sessions. These provide an opportunity for community members to raise issues or ask questions without making an appointment. They take place in the Henry Hunter Room at the Hobart Town Hall and in suburban cafés around Hobart.

In the last year, 18 Mayor in the Chair sessions were held, including 11 in the suburbs of West Hobart, Glebe, South Hobart, Lenah Valley, New Town, Battery Point, North Hobart, Mt Nelson, Hobart, Fern Tree and Sandy Bay.

## Community events, launches and official openings

Lord Mayor Reynolds attended, launched or opened 124 events.

Some of the more significant occasions included:

- Ceremonial Tree Planting to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen
- Salamanca Market 50th anniversary celebration
- Bicentenary Service of the Presbyterian Church
- Pat Farmer's Run for the Voice (to Parliament)
- Platypus Guardian Hobart Screening
- Beaker Street Festival
- Myer Christmas Pageant Awards Ceremony
- Children's Week morning tea
- Launch of Nipaluna Nursery



## 2. Civic and ceremonial functions

*‘to carry out the civic and ceremonial functions of the mayoral office’*

Below: Welcoming new Australian citizens

Bottom: Children's week school students



### Citizenship ceremonies

The City of Hobart holds citizenship ceremonies on behalf of the Australian Government and Lord Mayor Reynolds presides over the ceremonies.

Over the last year, the City of Hobart conducted six ceremonies where 360 candidates became Australian citizens.

### School Tours

Lord Mayor Reynolds hosts Town Hall tours for school groups to assist students to understand the history of the city and the role of Local Government in Australian democracy.

The tour includes time in the Council Chamber where local decisions are made that impact on Hobart citizens. Students participate in a ‘mock’ Council meeting and learn about Australia’s third level of government.

During the year, nine groups from Fahan School, Lenah Valley Primary School, Princes Street Primary School and the Hutchins School took up the opportunity to learn about the role of local government and its operations.



Below: Lord Mayor Reynolds with Children's Mayor, Olive Nielsen and Deputy Mayor, Bella Child

Below right: Children's Mayor submissions



### **Children's Mayor Program**

In 2023, we 'elected' the City's third Children's Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

The program, as part of National Children's Week, saw Hobart primary school students encouraged to participate in local government, and experience life in Town Hall for themselves.

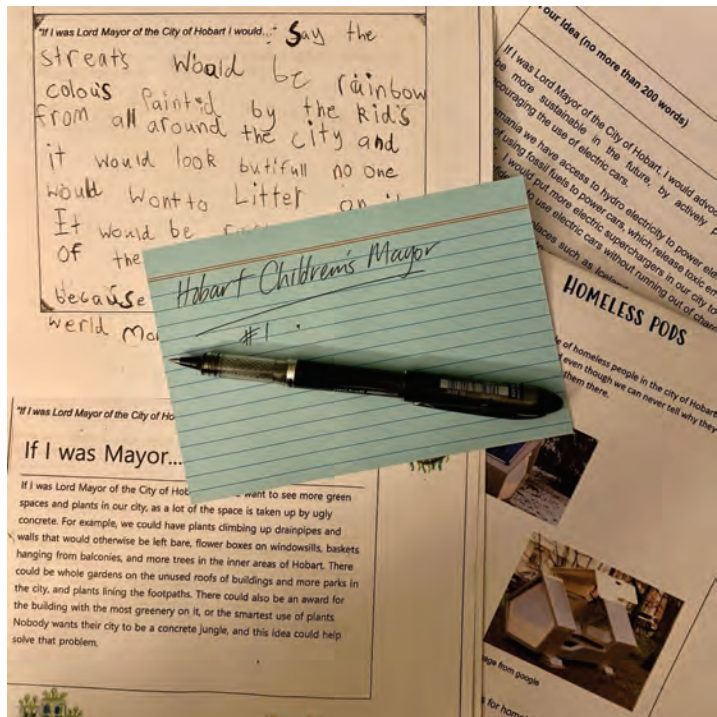
Students from schools across the city were invited to write their own manifestos as to what they would do if given the role of Lord Mayor of Hobart.

Lord Mayor Reynolds hosted a Children's Morning Tea where the winning manifestos were read at a formal reception in Hobart Town Hall.

Olive Nielsen from Princes Street Primary School was declared the 2023 Children's Mayor for her idea *Let's power Hobart sustainably!* Encouraging the installation of a sustainable tram in Hobart.

St Mary's College's Bella Child earned the role of Deputy Children's Mayor with her idea to encourage the children of Hobart to put down their devices for a day and experience a device-free fun day in beautiful Hobart.

14 manifestos were received from students attending the participating schools who select the top 2 from a larger number submitted by students. Both public and private schools within the Hobart local government area participate actively in this program.





### Lord Mayoral receptions

Upon request Lord Mayor Reynolds hosts receptions for clubs and organisations to celebrate significant occasions or national or cultural days. Lord Mayoral Receptions are held in the Lord Mayor's Court Room at the Town Hall.

Over the last year, Lord Mayor Reynolds hosted the following groups:

- Embroiderers' Guild celebrating 50 years
- The Royal Hobart Regatta Association
- Antarctic Women's Network
- Musica Viva
- Storygig - First Hobart Children's Literature Festival
- Hobart hosting of Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP)
- Pakistan Independence Day
- That's What I Call Science - Eureka Prize winner



### Events

Over the last year, Lord Mayor Reynolds accepted 74 invitations to community events, official openings or launches.

Receptions, from top:

- The Royal Hobart Regatta Association
- Pakistan Independence Day
- Antarctic Women's Network
- That's What I Call Science

She delegated a further 109 invitations to other elected members with special thanks to the Deputy Lord Mayor, Cr Helen Burnet for accepting to represent the Council at the majority of these opportunities.





### Official calls

As the City's civic leader, the Lord Mayor receives official calls from Defence Force personnel, Ambassadors, High Commissioners and delegates from foreign countries.

During the year, the Lord Mayor received:

- High Commissioner of India - His Excellency Mr Manpreet Vohra
- Ambassador of Thailand - Her Excellency Ms Arjaree Sriratanaban
- Ambassador for Italy - His Excellency Mr Paolo Crudele
- HMAS Hobart Commanding Officer CMDR Tina Brown CSM and CMDR Mark Tandy CSC
- L'Astrolabe Captain Tanneguy Biseau

### Speeches delivered

Throughout the year, Lord Mayor Reynolds made 57 speeches at various community events, official openings and launches including:

- Designed Made Makers Market
- Nipaluna Nursery launch
- Opening ceremony of the Masters Swimming Australia National Championships Hobart
- Tree planting with the Iranian community to honour the 'Women, Life Freedom' campaign
- Unveiling a Commemorative Stone by the Nigerian Community
- kunanyi Mountain Run
- Antarctic Festival opening
- Speculate Housing Futures Exhibition 2023 opening
- Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network



Images from top:

- Mayor of our sister city, Yaizu, Mayor iromichi Nakano
- Antarctic Gateway Reception
- Myer Christmas Pageant Awards
- Meeting with L'Astrolabe Captain, Tanneguy Biseau



### 3. Promoting good governance

‘to promote good governance by, and within, the Council’

Early in 2023, Lord Mayor Reynolds participated in the development of Elected Members Commitments.

The purpose of the Commitments is to capture an intention and commitment from Elected Members to work respectfully and cooperatively. It is intended to be used as a guide and a tool to challenge behaviour that is inconsistent and to celebrate the emergence of a collaborative and constructive culture.

Lord Mayor Reynolds liaised with the CEO on learning and development sessions for Elected Members including:

- A comprehensive, five-day Elected Member induction program
- A two-day Elected Member Strategic Priority Setting Retreat
- A two-day Annual Elected Member Retreat
- “Rules of Engagement” to provide an opportunity to reset working relationships and agree on a road map for working together as a team for the term of council
- Councillor Behaviour and Conduct, a session by Mat Healy, Director Local Government
- *Anti-Discrimination Act 1998*, an overview by Sarah Bolt, Anti-Discrimination Commissioner
- Cyber Safety, a session with Tasmania Police
- Inclusion and Gender Diversity facilitated by Working it Out.



#### 4. Chairperson of Council

‘to act as chairperson of the Council and to chair meetings of the Council in a manner that supports decision-making processes’

Lord Mayor Reynolds chaired 16 out of 17 Council Meetings between November 2022 and November 2023.

This includes the swearing in ceremony and two special council meetings.

#### 5. Spokesperson of Council

‘to act as the spokesperson for the Council’

Lord Mayor Reynolds attended 53 media events or interviews during the year including regular appearances on ABC Breakfast after Council meetings.

While most media was local, she also appeared on ABC TV and Channel 7 TV about the proposed Macquarie Point Stadium as well as Channel 7's Sunrise program and SBS's NITV.



Central Hobart precinct plan



Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre - Warmwater Pool project



Lord Mayor and Robert Pennicott, Good Water Project



New Town Street Party



## 6. Represent the Council

*‘to represent the Council on regional organisations and at intergovernmental forums at regional, state and federal levels’*

### Intergovernmental Forums

Lord Mayor Reynolds is on the following bodies and intergovernmental committees:

	Meetings attended 22–23
Council of Capital City Lord Mayors	3
Local Government Association of Tasmania	7
Premier’s Local Government Committee	1
Greater Hobart Strategic Partnership	4
Greater Hobart Homelessness Alliance	2
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability	6
Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy	10
Greater Hobart Committee and Advisory Group	1

### Local Government Association of Tasmania

Lord Mayor Reynolds is a member of the Local Government Association of Tasmania’s General Management Committee that comprises the President of LGAT, the Lord Mayor (by virtue of Hobart’s capital city status) and seven local government representatives from the North, West/North- West and South.

She attended three meetings of the General Management Committee this year.



New Town Street Party



Capital City Lord Mayors meeting re climate change

## 6. Represent the Council cont../

### Meetings held with State and Federal Representatives in 22–23

	Meetings
The Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP, Premier of Tasmania	3
The Hon Nic Street MP	1
The Hon Guy Barnett MP	1
The Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP	1
The Hon Elise Archer MP (Nov 22 - Sep 23 )	1
Senator the Hon Carol Brown	2
Senator the Hon Jacqui Lambie	1
Senator the Hon Nick McKim	1
Senator the Hon Jonathon Duniam	1
Senator the Hon Claire Chandler	1
The Hon Julie Collins MP	1
The Hon Meg Webb MLC	1
The Hon Rob Valentine MLC	1
The Hon Rebecca White MP	2
Dean Winter MP	1
Andrew Wilkie MP	3
Kristie Johnston MP	1
Cassie O'Connor MP	1
Ella Haddad MP	2
The Hon Catherine King MP	1
The Hon Kristie McBain MP	1
Senator the Hon Murray Watt	1

## Appoint the General Manager

### 6. Represent the Council

*'to lead and participate on the appointment, and the monitoring of the performance, of the general manager'*

The Lord Mayor led the recruitment process to appoint a new Council Chief Executive Officer, following former Chief Executive Officer Kelly Grigsby stepping down from her role in July 2023.

A specialist executive recruitment firm was overseen by a Committee of Elected Members comprising the Lord Mayor; Deputy Lord Mayor, Cr Burnet; Ald Behrakis; Cr Dutta and Ald Bloomfield. The process involved a national search, an extensive advertising and marketing strategy, rigorous candidate screening, short-listing, undertaking first interviews and running second interviews with the Full Council to agree on an appointment.

The Council resolved to appoint former Launceston City Council General Manager, Michael Stretton to the role of City of Hobart CEO in October 2023. Mr Stretton will commence with the City of Hobart in February 2024.

The CEO is pivotal to the success of council and the community they serve so this appointment took many hours of the Lord Mayor's time this year. It was important for the Council to ensure a proactive, inclusive and transparent process to make sure the best possible candidate was secured for the role.