



City of Hobart Lord Mayor Annual Report

1 November 2023 - 31 October 2024



I am pleased to present my Annual Report for 2024.

All of the activity detailed in this Report is central to undertaking the specific duties of a mayor as set by the *Local Government Act 1993*. These duties are:

- 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**
- to **liaise with the general manager** on: the activities of the Council and the performance and exercise of its functions and powers; and the activities of the general manager and the performance and exercise of powers in supporting the Council.

This Annual Report gives some specific details on how these duties have been carried out over the past twelve months.



782
items of correspondence

34
one-on-one constituent meetings

7
Mayor in the Chair sessions

145
meetings with organisations, businesses
and politicians/government

121
public events attended

4
citizenship ceremonies

11
receptions hosted

13
school tours of Town Hall

75
media interviews

I would like to express my gratitude to the small, dedicated team that supports the Lord Mayor in carrying out this legislated role and functions.

I look forward to continuing my work as Lord Mayor in making Hobart an inclusive and vibrant city where everyone can thrive.



Cr Anna Reynolds
LORD MAYOR

Leader of the community

“to act as a leader of the community of the municipal area...”



The Lord Mayor with representatives of Buckingham Bowls Club and OHA Netball Club discussing plans for upgrades to the New Town sporting precinct, March 2024

Constituent correspondence and meetings

Over the period this Report covers, the Office of the Lord Mayor directly received and responded to 782 pieces of correspondence – via email and letter – on a variety of issues of concern to the citizens of Hobart. Some of these queries and issues were able to be handled by research, discussions with City staff experts, or referrals to more appropriate agencies.

Occasionally the correspondence raised more complex issues. To this end, Lord Mayor Reynolds met with 34 constituents, both at the Town Hall and at on-site visits.

Mayor in the Chair

Lord Mayor Reynolds regularly meets with City of Hobart residents via her “Mayor in the Chair” sessions. These drop-in sessions are an opportunity for community members to ask questions or raise issues directly with the Lord Mayor in person without needing to make an appointment. The sessions usually take place in the Henry Hunter Room at the Hobart Town Hall and also in suburban cafes around Hobart. Over the period of this Report, seven Mayor in the Chair sessions were held.

Civic and ceremonial functions

“to carry out the civic and ceremonial functions of the mayoral office...”



The Lord Mayor with new Australian citizens at one of the ceremonies held during 2024

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 four ceremonies where 360 people became Australian citizens.

School tours

Lord Mayor Reynolds hosts Town Hall tours for school groups to assist students in understanding the history of the city and how local government operates. The tour includes time in the Council Chamber where students participate in a ‘mock’ Council meeting. This gives them first-hand experience of how decisions that impact residents of Hobart are made, as well as the opportunity to learn about the role of local government in Australian democracy.

During the year, we were pleased to host 13 groups from Fahan School, Sacred Heart College, Lenah Valley Primary School, South Hobart Primary School, Waimea Heights Primary School and Goulburn Street Primary School.



The Lord Mayor with the Children's Mayor winners and finalists at the Town Hall, October 2024

Children's Mayor Program

In 2024, we 'elected' the City's fourth Children's Lord Mayor and Children's Deputy Lord Mayor. The program, as part of National Children's Week, encourages Hobart primary school students to engage in and articulate their perspectives on local issues, as well as giving them a taste of what it's like to work at the Town Hall.

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 morning tea/formal reception for these future leaders at the Hobart Town Hall, where the winning manifestos were read. Twelve-year-old **Lola Mennitz from The Friends School** was declared the 2024 Children's Lord Mayor for her submission "*One side to the other, a matter of time before you decide*", a proposed ferry service to encourage greater connectivity in Hobart's public transport services, one that would complement Metro Bus Services by connecting both sides of the river as well as the northern and southern suburbs.

Joining Lola as the Children's Deputy Lord Mayor was **Alice Plimpton**, also 12 years old, from **Lansdowne Crescent Primary School**. Alice's submission "*Let's paint our city with endangered flora and fauna to brighten and educate*" advocated for the creation of artistic murals around Hobart centred around local endangered species to raise awareness of our city's unique natural wonders as well as brighten up public spaces.

Sixteen manifestos were received from students attending a range of public and private schools within the Hobart local government area.

Lord Mayoral Receptions

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

Over the last year, the Lord Mayor's Office hosted the following groups:

- That's What I Call Science
- UNESCO City of Literature Celebration
- The Royal Hobart Regatta Association
- Peace Reception
- Family Law Pathways Network 20th Anniversary
- Amy Sherwin Fund Inc.
- Soroptimist International Hobart 75th Anniversary
- Pakistan Independence Day
- St David's Cathedral Sesquicentenary (150th Anniversary)
- Climate Futures
- Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania
- Women Chiefs of Enterprises International
- Voices of the Southern Ocean.

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
- Commanding Officers, Navy Headquarters Tasmania, Commander Mark Tandy and Commander Tony Everingham
- Ambassador of Timor-Leste, Her Excellency Ms Inês Maria de Almeida
- Wing Commander Nicholas Fairweather
- Ambassador of France and Honorary Consul of France, His Excellency Mr Pierre-André Imbert
- Ambassador of Japan, His Excellency Mr Kazuhiro Suzuki
- Ambassador of Germany, Her Excellency Ms Beate Grzeski
- Australian Ambassador-Designate to Nepal, Ms Leann Johnston
- High Commissioner of Singapore, His Excellency Mr Anil Kumar Nayar
- Consul General for the United States of America, Mr Conrad Tribble
- Consul General for France, Ms Paule Ignatio.



The Lord Mayor with fellow speakers at the Better Futures Forum Australia, September 2024

Events

Over the last year, Lord Mayor Reynolds accepted 91 invitations to community events, official openings or launches. She delegated a further 48 invitations to other elected members to attend in her stead.

Speeches delivered

Throughout the year, Lord Mayor Reynolds made 48 speeches at various community events, official openings and launches including:

- Innovative Electrical King of the Derwent Yacht Race 2024
- Tamil Heritage 'Thai-Pongal' Festival 2024
- Climate talk hosted by the German Embassy
- Royal Hobart Regatta civic reception
- Festa Italia
- Think Big Hobart Run the Bridge
- Creative Hobart Grants Showcase
- 200 Years of Cascade Brewery
- Refugee Week Art Exhibition
- 2024 Tasmanian Architecture Awards
- Antarctic Season Opening.

Promoting good governance

“to promote good governance by, and within, the Council...”

Lord Mayor Reynolds worked with the Chief Executive Officer, Michael Stretton, on a number of governance initiatives over 2024 including:

- Council recommitting to its Elected Member Commitments and making the document public
- Arranging for sessions with an executive coach for elected members to discuss workplace issues
- Developing a workplace health and safety risk assessment and action plan for elected members.

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 12 out of 14 Council Meetings she attended between November 2023 and October 2024.

Spokesperson of Council

“to act as a spokesperson for the Council...”

Lord Mayor Reynolds made 75 media appearances and interviews during the period this report covers. This includes regular interviews on Triple M radio for their “Mayor on the Air” segment and ABC Breakfast, usually following Council meetings.

While most media was local, she also appeared on Channel 7’s *Sunrise* program and the BBC.

Represent the Council

“to represent the Council on regional organisations and at intergovernmental forums at regional, state and federal levels...”

Intergovernmental Committees

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

	Meetings attended
Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (CCCLM)	2
Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT)	6
Premier’s Local Government Council (PLGC)	None held
Greater Hobart Strategic Partnership	7
Greater Hobart Homelessness Alliance	1
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability	2
Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy	7
Greater Hobart Committee and Advisory Group Workshop	2

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 representatives from the North, West/North-West and South.

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

Meetings held with State and Federal Representatives

	Meetings held
The Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP	2
The Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP	2
The Hon Felix Ellis MP	1
The Hon Dean Winter MP	2
Simon Behrakis MP	2
Janie Finlay MP	2
Nic Street MP	2
Ella Haddad MP	1
Josh Willie MP	1
Senator The Hon Carol Brown	2
Senator The Hon Jonathon Duniam	2
Senator The Hon Tanya Plibersek	1
The Hon Catherine King MP	1
The Hon Kristy McBain MP	1
The Hon Josh Wilson MP	1
The Hon Paul Fletcher MP	1
Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP	1
Andrew Wilkie MP	4



The Lord Mayor with Andrew Wilkie MP, Federal Member for Clark and Senator The Hon Tanya Plibersek at Parliament House, Canberra, July 2024

Liaise with the General Manager

“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 powers;**
- **the activities of the general manager and the performance and exercise of powers in supporting the Council.”**

The Lord Mayor led the recruitment process to appoint Michael Stretton, former Launceston City Council General Manager, to the role of City of Hobart CEO in October 2023. Mr Stretton commenced with the City of Hobart in February 2024.

Throughout 2024, the Lord Mayor has liaised with Mr Stretton on the Council's activities and monitored the performance and exercise of powers of the CEO in supporting the City of Hobart's elected officials.