

**LAUNCH OF AUNTY PATSY CAMERON'S BOOK, *SKY COUNTRY*,
ILLUSTRATED BY LISA KENNEDY
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
FULLERS BOOKSHOP, HOBART, FRIDAY 23 AUGUST 2024**

Good evening, may I first also acknowledge the Muwinina people upon whose Country we gather.

I am honoured and delighted to have been asked to launch *Sky Country*, this beautiful children's picture book.

In *Sky Country*, Aunty Patsy and Lisa generously share with us the story of the origins of the First People of Trouwerner, retold by many generations. As we have heard, this story is about her Ancestral Beings, who came from the sky and made all things in Trouwerner (– the land, the islands, mountains, riverways, the fauna and flora, and the First People).

The language used by Aunty Patsy comes from the North-East Coast Clans, as told by Mannalargenna, Aunty Patsy's and Lisa's Ancestral Grandfather. The story connects the Skyworld with the First People's life on the land.

Through the story, Aunty Patsy teaches readers that there are two ways of knowing – Western Science, and Aboriginal knowledge about where the First People of Trouwerner came from.

The writing inspires wonder and is complemented beautifully with colourful, detailed and exquisite illustrations by Lisa. Each of the mostly two full-page intricate illustrations capture the land, the stars, the mountains and the Milky Way. The illustrations also colourfully capture how Pineterrinner and Pumpermehowlle came down to Trouwerner and "... made the fishes, insects and mosses," and how, quote, "the land began to breathe" and how Country was brought to life. The First people, quote, "... became the custodians of Country ... They spoke to Country and Country spoke to them." The passing on of stories of

“Ancestral Beings” means children, quote, “... will always know from where they have come”, carrying, “... Grandmother’s story of Sky Country in our Hearts”.

As a Reading Ambassador for children, I chose *Sky Country* to read to school children and also to our grandsons, who were entranced by the story and were captivated by the superb colours and drawings throughout your book.

Aunty Patsy and Lisa, I congratulate you both for your ancestors’ stories and the evocative and beautiful artwork.

I now have the greatest pleasure to launch *Sky Country* and wish Aunty Patsy and Lisa many excellent reviews and many excellent sales.