

**A reception to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Ian Potter Foundation.**

It is a great pleasure for me and my wife to welcome you all here to Government House this evening to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Ian Potter Foundation. We are particularly honoured by the presence of Lady Potter, her daughter Countess Krasicki, Chairman Charles Goode & other officers of the Foundation.

It certainly is a great occasion; fifty years of philanthropy. The impact of the Foundation's philanthropy in this State alone has been huge. The breadth and scope of those grants has been wide. I have personal knowledge of some of them including two grants to the Menzies Institute worth nearly a quarter of a million dollars one to identify the genes that influence multiple sclerosis progression and the other to establish a high resolution live cell florescence imaging facility. But small grants are often just as effective as large ones and a smaller, quite different, but just as important grant went to the Emu Valley Rhododendron Society which ensured the long term sustainability of the Society. My wife & I have visited this Rhododendron Garden up near Burnie and it is quite stunning. The Society even developed a new rhododendron and called it the Mrs Frances Underwood rhododendron!

But of course, the influence of the Potter Foundation extends right across the country. The Grants Report for 2012 - 2013 discloses that 235 grants were paid in that year with a total value of \$16.4 million. But grants paid over the 50 year life of the

Foundation total \$187 million. I think that those figures are a great tribute to the skills and abilities of the Governors, the Chief Executive Officers and staff of the Foundation in managing the funds of the Foundation so well over the last 50 years.

I would just like to read to you a sentence or two written by the current CEO, Ms Janet Hirst in that Grant Report for it sums up the philosophy and success of the Potter Foundation. She wrote:

“Since it was established in 1964, The Ian Potter Foundation has placed the support of innovation at the centre of its approach to philanthropy. An article I read in the Harvard Business Review when I became CEO of the Foundation declared that philanthropy should be a leader of social change. I passionately believe this is true. Free from political restraints, philanthropy is able to take informed risks and test new ideas. As we approach our fiftieth anniversary in 2014, innovation and transformation will be key themes for us. Next year we will celebrate the contribution made in the first 50 years of the Foundation’s history and, perhaps more importantly, look to the future and consider the difference we wish to make in the years to come.”

This evening we celebrate the achievements of the Foundation over the last fifty years and as the Foundation has consistently supported the visual and performing arts during the last 50 years my wife and I thought that to mark this celebration here in Tasmania we should have a little music this evening but as she is

the musician in our family and the director of music here at Government House I'll ask her to tell you about it.

**MU** Such a significant anniversary calls for some celebratory music. In Tasmania we have a critical mass of creative and musical talent and on special occasions we like to share it with our guests especially as these exquisite rooms are perfect for music. We have two artists this evening Tamika Crosbie, soprano and Iestyn Parry pianist. Tamika has been singing like an angel all her life. I know because I taught her at the Friends' School here in Hobart and even in kindergarten at the age of 4 she sang, on pitch, like an angel. There was never any doubt that she would be a fine singer. Although she began her studies at the Tasmanian Conservatorium she graduated from Melbourne University in both performing and teaching and is a frequent performer in musical, productions in Tasmania.

Tonight Tamika will sing for you three songs:

*Lascia ch'io piange* by Handel

*Zur Rosenzeit* by Grieg

*Sole e amore* by Puccini

Tamika is accompanied tonight by Iestyn Parry who studied at the Tasmanian Conservatorium and is the keyboard player in a numbers of Tasmanian bands and plays in the pit for many Tasmanian productions.

Ladies and gentlemen your attention please for 10 minutes or so as we listen to some beautiful music made by Tamika and Iestyn Parry.