

**REMARKS BY MRS FRANCES UNDERWOOD AT THE
DEDICATION OF LADY FRANKLIN'S FLAG,
ST DAVID'S CATHEDRAL, HOBART
SUNDAY 17TH JUNE 2012**

One hundred and fifty five years ago Lady Jane Franklin, wife of a former Governor of this State, gave the flag I am about to unveil to one Lieutenant WR Hobson. Hobson's mission was to take part in an expedition commissioned by Lady Jane to find her husband, who had disappeared on an ill-fated expedition he undertook, in 1845, to find the North West passage in the northern polar region. Hobson's mission was completed in 1859 when he found evidence of Sir John's death, in 1847, on King William Island.

The flag found its way back to England and hung for many years in Exeter Cathedral next to a similar flag from Captain Scott's Antarctic sledge. In 1946 another Tasmanian Governor, Sir Hugh Binney, a relative of Hobson, presented the flag to the people of Tasmania and it has hung here in this cathedral ever since.

It is an honour for me, as the wife of the 27th Governor of Tasmania, to have been asked to continue the connection between the Office of the Governor of Tasmania and polar explorers of the past, by unveiling this flag as part of a re-dedication service, to commemorate the sacrifices of those brave men.

The poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson, wrote the following verse for the memorial erected by Lady Jane in Westminster Abbey to her husband:

*Not here! The white north hath thy bones and thou
Heroic sailor soul
Art passing on thine happier voyage now
Toward no earthly pole*

And with these words, I am honoured to unveil this flag, to commemorate the sacrifice of all Polar Explorers.