

**ALCORSO FOUNDATION WIND UP
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA, TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Good evening and welcome to this reception to mark the winding up of the Alcorso Foundation.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land – those who have passed before us; and in acknowledgement of today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community, being the custodians of this land.

May I acknowledge among you:

- The Honourable Elise Archer MP, Speaker of the House of Assembly;
- Caroline Alcorso, Foundation Chair;
- Kate, Matthew and Nicholas Alcorso;
- Present and past Board Members, and Supporters.

After Claudio Alcorso died in 2000, a group of people convened a meeting to discuss the possibility of establishing a foundation in his memory to honour his contribution to the economic, artistic and cultural development of Tasmania. I was invited to that meeting at Pat Cleveland's house in Battery Point, I guess because of my family's friendship with the Alcorso Family and perhaps too because a lawyer can be useful when it comes to applying for incorporation, drafting the constitutions and so on.

As well as being keen to help honour the memory of Claude Alcorso in some way, I was particularly attracted to the combination of arts, environment and social justice themes proposed for the Foundation. And so I became a board member, a member of the environment committee and the social justice committee, the President and Chair in 2010 and then after I was appointed as Governor in December 2014, its Patron.

Reflecting on the achievements of the Foundation there is so much to be proud of. Starting modestly in 2003 first, supporting Italian Artist Andrea Morucchio's three-month residency here at the Art School which culminated in an installation of glass points for Ten Days on the Island; and secondly, establishing the Italian Arts Residency Awards, which since 2003 have supported self-directed arts residencies for some 14 artists including poets, musicians, print makers, furniture designers, painters, singers, curators, producers and graphic designers.

In the social justice area, a highlight for me has been the funding of Humanitarian Entrant Awards for college students from 2011 to 2016 to support their education and our collaboration with The Tasmanian Centre for Global Learning and Hobart College's Students Against Racism in the *Living in Between* Project.

This story-telling project aimed at breaking down racial barriers and encouraging better understanding of what it is like to be refugee, asylum seeker or migrant setting into life in Tasmania, a program which at the same time improves self-confidence, language and public speaking skills of the participants.

And in the Environment Area, offered through a partnership with Wine Tasmania, we have had the Don Martin Sustainable Viticulture Awards – so appropriate given Claudio's pioneering work with the wine industry and the Don Martin's bequest to the Foundation; a partnership with Bookend Trust on the Tasmanian Coastal and Marine Debris Project, as well as prizes and awards for honours and higher degree awards in the environmental area at the University of Tasmania.

And there has been more. We are very grateful to the all Foundation's supporters, those who have supported our fundraising efforts and those who have served on the Board and committees over the last 16 years. For me it has been a pleasure to have been involved with the Foundation and I have so much enjoyed meeting so many of you through the Foundation's work.

Thank you.