

**REMARKS AT A RECEPTION TO MARK THE 35TH ANTARCTIC
TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING BY THE HONOURABLE
PETER UNDERWOOD AC AND MRS FRANCES UNDERWOOD,
TUESDAY 12TH JUNE 2012.**

The Governor It is a great pleasure for me and my wife to welcome to Tasmania, to Hobart and to Government House this evening, representatives from the 28 consultative parties, the 22 non-consultative parties, as well as the observers and the experts who are all here for the 35th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting.

Signed in Washington 53 years ago the Treaty has been in force for just over 50 years now. The Treaty and the 1991 Protocol on Environmental Protection stand as a shining example to the whole world of what can be achieved by intellectual mutual goodwill and cooperation. The consequence of these agreements by the now 50 contracting parties is that a large part of the Earth's surface is a protected peaceful environment dedicated to scientific investigation and free exchange of scientific information. In a ceremony in Washington three years ago the consultative parties signed a reaffirmation of the Treaty and the Protocol and the principles that they recite. The reaffirmation ended with these words: "The consultative parties hereby decide to continue and extend for the benefit of all humankind their cooperation established in the Treaty and in the Treaty system over the last fifty years."

Now here you all are attending the now annual meeting to ensure that the fundamental principles that have governed the use of

Antarctica for over 50 years for the benefit of science and all humankind will continue indefinitely into the future.

You should all feel proud of the great work that you do and I wish you well in your discussions and deliberations over the next six days.

I know that my wife who is the Chair of the Tasmanian Antarctic Gateway working group, a State Government initiative that is dedicated to promoting Tasmania's involvement in Antarctica, would like to add her words of welcome.

Mrs Underwood Indeed, both in my role as wife of the Governor of Tasmania and my role as Chair of the Tasmania Antarctic Gateway Working Group, I would like to add my very warm welcome to that of the Governor. The Tasmania Antarctic Working Group brings to one table key stakeholders in the Antarctic Sector, including representatives from the three levels of Government, and the Tasmanian Polar Network, representing the business sector. It provides a structure for sharing information across the sector so as to maximise opportunities for strategic collaborations between members that will build Tasmania's Antarctic and Southern Ocean Gateway and Science capability. In Hobart there is a critical mass of expertise in Antarctic and Southern Ocean Science, Research, Policy, Logistics and Support, for it is home to the Australian Antarctic Division, the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic

Living Marine Resources, CSIRO, the University's Institute of Marine and Antarctic Research and so on.

So we are all particularly delighted that the 35th Antarctic Consultative Treaty Meeting is being held in our beautiful State, for the first time, especially in such a significant year for the Polar Community. The Office of Governor of Tasmania has enjoyed a long history of active interest in Antarctica and the scientific work of its explorers. Perhaps foremost amongst supporters were Sir John Franklin, himself an Arctic Explorer, and Lady Jane Franklin. In fact in 1857 Lady Franklin presented a sledge flag to Lt Hobson on his departure to the Arctic to search for her missing husband. In 1946 that flag was presented to Tasmania by the then Governor, Sir Hugh Binney. It has been in St David's Cathedral ever since and on next Sunday, June 17, in this centennial year of celebration, the flag will be re-dedicated to commemorate the sacrifices of all polar explorers. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Mrs Underwood Now we thought that for a meeting of leading international scientists and other experts we should have a little first class music. Next to me are some very good friends of Government House - the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra Chorus. The Chorus has been in existence for 20 years now and has achieved a very high professional standard under the direction of Ms June Tyzack. They

are always welcome at Government House and over the next 12 minutes they are going to sing for your pleasure a piece by the English composer Elgar called "The Snow". This work will feature the soprano/alto sections of the Chorus, Karen Smithies on the piano as well as two violinists, from the Orchestra, Christine Lawson and Miranda Carson. The Chorus will then treat you to the final chorus of "Christ on the Mount of Olives" by Beethoven. So, to celebrate the wonderful work that you do over the next 12 minutes or so: - the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra Chorus.