

**PRESENTATION OF THE GOLD MEDAL AT THE AUSTRALIAN  
INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS (TAS) LUNCHEON BY THE  
HONOURABLE PETER UNDERWOOD AC, GOVERNOR OF  
TASMANIA, AT BLUNDSTONE ARENA, FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER  
2013.**

It is a great pleasure for me to be here with you once again to formally recognise the achievements of a member of the Tasmanian Division of the Australian Institute of Company Directors by conferring the prestigious Gold Medal on him or her.

The Institute's award is a recognition of contributions made to the community in a number of ways including, business, charitable/philanthropic works and employment creation. It is awarded to a member who upholds good corporate governance and high ethical standards in their personal, business and public life. In short, it is awarded to someone who has made an extraordinary contribution as a company director and citizen of Tasmania.

I am confident that you will agree with me that this year's winner has all those attributes and is indeed, a deserving awardee. Ladies and gentlemen this year the winner is Mr Miles Hampton.

In 1970, Miles commenced his studies at the University of Tasmania for a Bachelor of Economics at the University of Tasmania. Like many other distinguished alumni he showed early promise by immediately joining the Old Nick Company. Fortune smiled upon him for I am told that at his very first rehearsal he met his future wife Tessa. I wasn't so fortunate. Not only did I not meet my wife there but my attention to the Old Nick Company was directly responsible for my failing three subjects at the end of my second year law course!

With the enthusiasm and energy that has been a hallmark of his career, Miles also joined the University Hockey Club. But I have to tell you that his two extra-curricular interests clashed one year. Not only was Miles in the University Revue but he also organised the first inter-varsity hockey championships for men and women. I understand that it so happened that these championships were held in Hobart during the week the Revue was on and one night when the theatre was full of hockey players from all over Australia ribald comments, largely directed at our esteemed gold medal winner, could be heard all over Hobart Town.

Miles graduated in 1972 - how he had time to do that I do not know - and went to work as an accountant at Federal Hotels. However, either the Revue or academia or both beckoned him and he returned to the University and in 1975 added First Class Honours to his degree.

On finally leaving University our intrepid Gold Medallist started work as the Chief Financial Officer at Heathorn Holdings. Four years later he made what turned out to be a life-changing decision and moved to Roberts Limited. There, in 1987 he was presented with an opportunity to truly lead development and change when he was appointed Managing Director. At that time Roberts was a small agribusiness, operating solely in Tasmania. Miles quickly realised that the business was lacking scale and was a junior competitor in a small market. So, under Miles' leadership over the following years the business grew substantially and diversified its agricultural operations to become the dominant agribusiness in Tasmania.

When Miles left Roberts in 2006, the small Tasmanian agribusiness that he joined 20 years earlier had been turned into a multi-divisional agribusiness and a real estate agency with a total staff in excess of 1,000 and annual revenue of \$200 million.

Since 2006 Miles has pursued a career as a professional company director and has held numerous non-executive directorships. His current directorships include MyState, Australian Pharmaceutical Industries, The Van Diemen's Land Company and TasWater. (I understand that if you have any queries about your water bill, Miles will be happy to deal with them!)

At the same time Miles has been active in industry and professional organisation roles including Deputy President of the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vice-President of this Division of the AICD, Vice-Chairman of the Tasmanian Branch of Chartered Secretaries Australia and Member of the Tasmanian Board of Agricultural Education.

In addition to his industry and professional organisation roles Miles Hampton has contributed to the community in which he has lived and worked. Amongst other positions Miles has been:

- Treasurer of Tasmanian Hockey Association, and
- Chairman of the Tasmanian Hockey Centre Redevelopment Committee,
- Deputy Presiding Member of The Friends School Board of Governors,
- Councillor of Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania, and
- Chairman of Mather Foundation

In addition, Miles joined the Board of the University of Tasmania Foundation in 2006 and became Chairman in 2009, a post which he held until last year. The University of Tasmania Foundation was established to provide scholarships for young Tasmanians attending the University of Tasmania. Over its short life the Foundation has offered many thousands of scholarships to young Tasmanians. During his time on the Board, Miles played a significant role in lifting the profile and more importantly, increasing the funding base and number of scholarships offered by the Foundation.

Please join with me in congratulating Miles Hampton on his tremendous achievements as I invite him to come forward and accept the 2013 Gold Medal Award of the Australian Institute of Company Directors Tasmania Division.