

**AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS TASMANIAN DIVISION
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA, TUESDAY 9 OCTOBER 2018**

Good evening and welcome to this Australian Red Cross Tasmanian Division reception.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land— the Mouheneener people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

May I acknowledge among you:

- Lyndal Herbert, Deputy President of Australian Red Cross;
- Colin Taylor, Chair, Tasmanian Divisional Advisory Board;
- Mali Hawkins, Director Tasmania;
- Board members present;
- and all of the hard-working staff members and volunteers.

This Government House reception following your AGM is a longstanding tradition and as your current Patron I am delighted and honoured to continue it.

This is also the first opportunity I have to congratulate Mali on becoming the Tasmanian State Director – Mali I understand you may well be the youngest such appointee in Australia.

And I have to say that as Tasmania's first female Governor I did particularly enjoy reading the Red Cross website post about your appointment on International Women's Day this year, where you featured as one of the "10 great [Red Cross] women we know", under the heading: "Our Humanitarian Sisterhood."ⁱ

And equal congratulations to Lyndal – having been with Red Cross in Tasmania since 2003 and Chair from 2012 until December last year, when you were appointed Deputy President of Australian Red Cross. It is a fine and deserved achievement and continues the strong Tasmanian representation at national level, following the retirement of former President Michael Legge, who I understand is now able to spend more time at his Fingal Valley property.ⁱⁱ

I do know that Michael nominated his input into ARC's "Strategy 2020"ⁱⁱⁱ as being among his most important work in his time as President. From what I have read of the Strategy its ambitions are both practical and achievable – not least to significantly increase volunteer numbers across the country; and to do whatever is in your power to assist communities to self-organise and so have increased community resilience when disaster strikes.

Of course, there is great competition for volunteers across all areas of society, just as there is competition for vitally important donated funds. Australians are wealthy and relatively generous with their time and money – and it is to your credit that they trust Red Cross. To quote from Strategy 2020:

"Trust and respect are the most critical attributes for any charity. As measured by our internal brand tracker and according to a public panel of more than 1,000 Australians, Red Cross continues to be a highly trusted and respected brand in our sector."^{iv}

This is not surprising given the globally strong brand identity of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent. I was reminded of this on Sunday evening when on 7 o'clock news there were images of Red Cross teams working to assist the devastation on the island of Sulawesi where earthquakes and a tsunami have resulted in the deaths of more than 1,400 people and the destruction of at least 65,000 homes.

And it is also not surprising because Red Cross was established in Australia over a hundred years ago – in 1914 to be precise.

And now I draw your attention to this marvellous image: a photograph taken at the front of our Conservatory in 1915.

We have it here because when I referred earlier to “Our Humanitarian Sisterhood” and the sampling of 10 great Red Cross Women, the first of those mentioned was Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, founder of Red Cross in Australia, wife of the Governor General and the guest of honour at that 1915 function, which was given for Red Cross workers of the Tasmanian division.

Lady Helen is seated. Alongside her may be Lady Ellison-Macartney, wife of the-then Governor, who was a member of the inaugural national council – but whether that entitled her to wear the uniform, I do not know.

In any event, the newspaper report is alongside the image, and it is interesting to read.

On behalf of all Tasmanians, I thank you all again for your untiring work – staff, volunteers, members, donors. Please now do enjoy the reception.

Thank you.

ⁱ <https://www.redcross.org.au/news-and-media/news/our-humanitarian-sisterhood>, accessed 7 October 2018.

ⁱⁱ <https://www.examiner.com.au/story/5096029/a-volunteering-legacy-michael-legge-retires-from-red-cross/>, accessed 7 October 2018.

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.redcross.org.au/strategy2020/involved/strategy-2020.html>, accessed 7 October 2018.

^{iv} https://www.redcross.org.au/annualreport_2017/year-in-review/our-work/goal-1.html, accessed 7 October 2018.