

BOOKEND TRUST LECTURE BY ANDREW HUGHES
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
BALL ROOM, GOVERNMENT HOUSE
TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

Good evening and welcome to this lecture in support of Tasmania's Bookend Trust.

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.

In recent years we have hosted a select number of fundraising events, as it seems appropriate to utilise this marvellous State venue to support charities and not-for-profit local endeavours.

These have included fundraising concerts for Foodbank Tasmania; for Cancer Council Tasmania; for Variety the Children's Charity; for the Foundation of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery; and a forthcoming afternoon fête for the Child Health Association of Tasmania.

As successful and enjoyable as those always are, it is safe to say that this is the first ever Government House lecture about a man kayaking 5000 kilometres from Hobart to Cape York!

It is a great pleasure to host this event for the Bookend Trust. I have been aware of the work of Bookend Trust for some years now, first through the Alcorso Foundation which partnered Bookend on a Tasmanian Coastal and Marine Debris Project and as a result I attended a number of annual presentations of the work of Bookend Trust and became aware of the amazing programs the Trust supports: Antarctic Experience, Fiji power, the Maria Island camps and I saw a taster of the Sixteen Legs project.

Since being Governor, I have been to a screening of the stunning Sixteen Legs documentary in Devonport and to the launch of the "Where? Where? Wedgie!" project at Ulverstone primary school.

I need to acknowledge and thank the following:

- Our guest speaker, Andrew Hughes, Education Manager at Bookend Trust; with Rob Pennicott to follow him;
- Niall Doran, founder and Director, and Hazel and Kevin;
- Alastair Richardson, Academic Director;
- Dr Clare Hawkins, Citizen Science Manager;
- David Dieckfoss, Students in Research Coordinator.

Additionally:

- the Pennicott Trust is a major supporter;
- as is the University of Tasmania through its School of Biological Sciences and the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS);
- and other supporters include Sea to Summit and the Mercury Newspaper.ⁱ

I would now like to invite my husband Dick Warner to introduce Andrew Hughes.

Thank you.

DICK

Just before I introduce our key note speaker, may I thank those “champions” who helped bring this audience together, particularly Scot Newton and Ian Wells.

Andrew Hughes

Tasmanian Australian of the Year 2013, adventure teacher Andrew Hughes has combined his two great passions: inspiring students from diverse backgrounds, and building awareness of the importance of our natural world.

Andrew's innovative teaching program called *Expedition Class is for* primary students to follow him into the wilderness by satellite link and interact live as he tackles challenging landscapes and situations.

Andrew also developed the high school expedition program *Skullbone* in which students are re-engaged, linking curriculum to their own real adventures on expeditions.

His extraordinary adventures include surviving on a desert island and exploring coastal and internal Papua New Guinea as well as paddling a sea kayak from Hobart to Cape York a trifling straight line distance of around 4000 kilometres. Having started the programs at significant personal and financial expense, he built support through the Bookend Trust and several patrons, including late international author Bryce Courtenay.

Please welcome Andrew Hughes.

[Applause]

Rob Pennicott

Maybe Rob Pennicott needs little introduction. Rob started Bruny Island Cruises in 1999 which eventually became Pennicott Wilderness Journeys which today is one of Tasmania's foremost tourist businesses having won many awards. Possibly less well known is Rob's philanthropic work through the Tasmanian Coast Conservation Fund which he started in 2007 and the Pennicott Foundation which together today supports [very many?] worthy causes.

In 2012 Rob thought it would be a good idea to sail a 17-foot inflatable, outboard powered dinghy around Australia to raise awareness and funds to help eradicate polio. Rob, Mick Souter and cameraman Zorro Gamarnik set off in two boats and 101 days later arrived back in Hobart, being the first people to circumnavigate Australia in an outboard powered vessel.

Rob was named Tasmanian of the Year in 2012 and the national Geographic's Traveller of the year also in 2012.

Please welcome Rob Pennicott.

[Applause]

I now invite Andrew Hughes to the stage to deliver his lecture.

[HE, MW, ADC to seats.]

ⁱ <https://www.bookendtrust.com/about-bookend/>, accessed 8 September 2018.