

**CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY 2019 GRADUATION CEREMONY  
SPEECH BY  
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
HOBART  
THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2019**

Good afternoon everyone and thank you very much for inviting me to participate in 2019 Hobart graduation ceremony for the Children's University.

Thank you Uncle Dougie Mansell for your welcome to country.

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

On Sunday, at Open Day at Government House, with a group of children and their parents, I sat on the grass and with the help of a young Aboriginal man, Jye Crosswell, a ranger with the Parks and Wildlife Service and a marine science graduate of the University of Tasmania, we all learnt how to make a bull kelp basket. The baskets or water carriers are an example of the continuity of Tasmanian Aboriginal culture.

Can I acknowledge

- Members of Parliament, Aldermen other distinguished guests
- But most importantly the students who are graduating today – we are all very proud of you – and their families who have supported them to enrol in the Children's University.

As Governor of Tasmania, I am allowed to speak for all Tasmanians and I can say to all students graduating here today, congratulations from me, and congratulations on behalf of all Tasmanians.

And thank you for being a part of the Children's University and for taking the opportunity to do all of that outside the classroom learning. The idea of the

Children's University is not just for you to try and learn new things, it is for you to *enjoy* learning, so that you will want to learn more and more. We believe that the more you learn, the better life will be. With more learning you will go far.

To 'go far' means to be successful. But it does not necessarily mean going far away, moving to the mainland or another country. To go far you need not go away. Or if you do, we want you to come back. Preferably while you are still young.

I want to tell you about Dr Jess Melbourne-Thomas, a young woman who has gone far. Some weeks ago at Government House, she was made Tasmanian Australian of the year. Jess is a marine scientist who works at CSIRO here in Hobart. As a child she loved scuba diving with her father and brother. She studied science at the University of Tasmania and she won a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University in England. The Rhodes is a wonderful scholarship for students who are not only good at their work but who care more about what they can contribute to the world than their own personal success or being rich and famous. Our Vice-Chancellor was also a Rhodes Scholar.

After Oxford University Jess came back to Tasmania, studied some more and now she is a scientist at the CSIRO working on climate change.

In all senses, Jess has gone far: she has studied at Oxford University; she has been to Antarctica to study sea ice. But she lives in Tasmania. She is working to help us understand the dangers of climate change and on climate change policy.

My message to you all is fill your life by learning as much as you can about as much as you can and you will 'Go far' but if you leave, come back to Tasmania. We need you.

Thank you