

**CRADLE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS GALLERY  
OFFICIAL OPENING SPEECH BY  
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
CRADLE MOUNTAIN, MONDAY 3 JULY 2017**

Good morning and thank you very much for inviting Dick and me to this opening or re-launching of the Cradle Mountain Wilderness Gallery.

May I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land – to pay respect to those who have passed before us and to acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community who are the custodians of this land.

I would like to acknowledge: Mayor Don Thwaites of the Kentish Council; Mrs Kathryn Westwood, RACT President and Chairman; fellow Directors of RACT; Harvey Lennon, RACT Chief Executive; RACT Senior Management; Andrea Dawkins MP, Greens Member for Bass; and distinguished guests.

I am informed that the Gallery has undergone a major redevelopment to showcase Tasmanian artists and to provide visitors with interactive and unique experiences capturing the beauty and wonder of our island state.

The transformation of the gallery has included large installations, spaces for children, and a Thylacine exhibition that provides a glimpse into the life of this elusive animal.

As many of you will know, this Gallery has been here for some years. I noted a reference to the creation of the Gallery in the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery 2001/2002 Annual report, presented to the-then Governor His Excellency The Honourable Sir Guy Green AC KBE.<sup>1</sup>

The report stated: "2001/2002 was a significant year for the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. Our Director of ten years, Patricia Sabine resigned to take up an exciting job within the private sector to create and then direct The Wilderness Photography Gallery at Doherty's Cradle Mountain Resort."

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.tmag.tas.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/66664/TMAG\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2001-02.pdf](http://www.tmag.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/66664/TMAG_Annual_Report_2001-02.pdf)

Senator Bob Brown, as he was in 2003, said of this Gallery at the time: “Cradle Mountain is a unique and spectacular location, the Wilderness Gallery has added another dimension to the visitor’s experience of our wild world.”<sup>2</sup>

I had a good look through the Gallery website when I was preparing for today and found it to be very enticing, with art installations entitled “Art Magic; The Climbing Tree”; and “The Tree of Knowledge”; and works by artists who I would describe as the fathers of wilderness photography in Tasmania, Peter Dombrovskis and Olegas Truchanas.

I am also informed that the Gallery has an artist in residence, Jon Kudelka and as a big fan of his cartoons Dick and I are really looking forward to seeing Jon’s pyrography, it sounds fascinating.

Being grandparents of five energetic children we also really liked the thought that has gone into the Gallery spaces with children in mind, for example the Gallery Garden, drawing room (literally a drawing room as opposed to a withdrawing room), Gallery Four specifically designed for children and Gallery Five with its pelts of Tasmanian Animals and initiation to identify native Tasmanian birds and skeletons.

More than twenty years ago we had a wonderful holiday with our daughters at Cradle Mountain. I well remember imagining we were on a tiger hunt as we stood on the top of Marion’s Lookout in a blizzard. I am sure that a visit to the Tiger Room would have enhanced that experience. In fact we feel inspired to revisit with our grandchildren.

As Governor of Tasmania I open a lot of exhibitions, and visit galleries and museums all over Tasmania. It is always such an enjoyable part of my role. And although I wrote my speech before I had a chance to look at the Gallery as it is now, I have a sense that it would be quite unlike anything we had seen before. We are very keen to take a look, I can tell you!

On that note it gives me great pleasure to formally open or relaunch the Cradle Mountain Wilderness Gallery.

Thank you.

---

<sup>2</sup> <http://tasmanianartsguide.com.au/places-to-go/galleries/wilderness-gallery/>