

**CYGNET SINGERS
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA, TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2019**

[Vice-Regal salute is played]

Good evening and welcome to this reception to celebrate 35th anniversary of Cygnet Singers.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land— the palawa 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:

- Judy Younger, President;
- Di O’Toole, Musical Director;
- Di van Tienen, Accompanist.

Dick and I first had the pleasure of hearing you perform in 2015, some months after I had taken up my appointment as Governor. That was in Cygnet; where we have had the pleasure of visiting three times this year – to open the open the 2019 Huon Arts Awards; to attend the Port Cygnet Sailing Club 2019 Opening Day; and just two weeks ago I launched the inaugural Terror Australis Literary Festival.

So to have Cygnet come to Government House is a lovely reciprocal gesture, so to speak, and with the added bonus that you will be singing shortly in this Ball Room with its magnificent acoustic.

Before the members perform I’d just like to remark that your strong community spirit is entirely evident in the fact that Cygnet Singers has been performing continuously since 1984, with membership encouraged for all, without audition.

And I understand that there is plenty of evidence to show the health and wellbeing benefits of participating in choral groups; in your case this being especially evident in 2019 following the trauma of bushfire.ⁱ

I think this occasion is also appropriate to note that there are still three active original members of Cygnet Singers – one of whom is Di van Tienen.

And now we can enjoy a special performance and then enjoy the reception.

Thank you.

ⁱ Amanda Wojtowicz attachment to 29 October 2019 email to David Owen.