

EMERGING COMMUNITY LEADERS PROGRAM
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA, MONDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2018

Good evening and welcome to this reception for participants in and supporters of the 2018 Emerging Community Leaders Program.

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:

- the Honourable Elise Archer MP;
- the Honourable Sarah Courtney MP;
- the Honourable Rob Valentine MLC;
- the Honourable Ruth Forrest MLC;
- the Honourable Kerry Finch MLC;
- Ella Haddad MP;
- Tasmanian Community Fund Board Chair Sally Darke and fellow Organising Committee members, and Senior Executive Officer Lola Cowle.

And of course a very warm welcome to the 2018 Participants – I believe all 24 are here, following your graduation ceremony this afternoon. I congratulate you on the achievement. And I have noted that this program involved a very significant commitment: four two and three day residentials over the year. So well-done in taking the time to do this program.

This is the second year of the Emerging Community Leaders Program, which as I see it is underpinned by four strengths. The first is that it is an initiative of the highly regarded Tasmanian Community Fund, which is coming up for its twentieth anniversary and in that time has distributed nearly 100 million dollars to almost 3000 community-focused projects across Tasmania.¹

The second strength is in the expertise and track record of SRA Corporate Change, working in the key areas of strategic planning, leadership development, workplace culture and corporate wellbeing. And, in this year's program, facilitating the four community projects in the areas of creative arts; primary school re-engagement; dads' support; and intergenerational connections.²

The third is in the supporters of the Emerging Community Leaders Program, many of whom are here this evening. It is through such a significant and diverse support network that a Program like this is able to flourish; and supporters through their own professions are able to identify areas of concern across Tasmania, particularly in regional and remote areas of the State.

And the fourth strength is undoubtedly the participants. The commitment to the program is unquestioned, and the range of experience each has brought to their group is inspiring. Time prevents me from mentioning each of you, but here is a random, no-name sampling of what I mean. This year's cohort includes expertise in: science; the disability sector; parent-child relationships; sport; music; mental health; social justice; linguistic diversity; aged care; and much more.

I use the word "inspiring" deliberately because last Friday in the Ball Room Dick and I co-hosted with Premier Will Hodgman the Tasmanian Australian of the Years Awards for 2019 – and believe me, the fifteen finalists and four winners had some truly inspiring and amazing stories to tell about their passions and commitments to our island community.

And I do see a distinct similarity between many of those individuals and what I have read about this year's participants in the Emerging Community Leaders Program. In fact, one of the 2019 finalists for the Tasmania Local Australian of the Year was Dudley Billing who participated in your Emerging Community Leaders Program last year and was the valedictorian for 2017.

So congratulations again, to all of you, and to the Tasmanian Community Fund and to SRA Corporate Change.

In conclusion, as enjoyable background music this evening we have a Tarooma High School Flute Ensemble and Jazz ensemble. Perhaps we can give both groups a round of applause.

Now do please enjoy the reception. Thank you.

¹ Statistics from https://www.emergingcommunityleaders.org/about_us, accessed 17 November 2018.

² Information brief page 2.