

**A RECEPTION AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE TO  
CELEBRATE STAGES 1 & 2 OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE  
GLENORCHY ART & SCULPTURE PARK,  
WEDNESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012**

It is a great pleasure for my wife and me to welcome you all to Government House to celebrate Stages 1 and 2 of the Glenorchy Art and Sculpture Park. I well recall making a vice regal visit to the Municipality of Glenorchy not long after I was sworn in as Governor back in 2008 I think. Besides taking us to see the Glenorchy Tip - of which then Mayor Adriana Taylor was rightly very proud - she took us to a windy, wet and rather bleak spot on the foreshore not far from the Derwent Entertainment Centre. Trying to hold down a map of the area on the bonnet of the car the Mayor waxed lyrical over a vision for the future of the area of foreshore stretching from there to MONA. She said the Council was going to develop an internationally unique arts and cultural trail on the open parkland from Wilkinson's Point to MONA at Berriedale. She explained that "the vision for GASP is bold and ambitious, to develop an exceptional, creative and inspiring recreational and cultural experience that will be loved by the local community and a major attraction for tourists." I thought "yeah, yeah" and got back in the car. But it has all come to pass in accordance with the vision - or at least Stages 1 and 2 have come to pass and I am confident that their success will see Stage 3 follow suit.

The idea for a family friendly sculpture park was originally hatched by members of the Early Years Parents and Friends group

that had already delivered the award winning Safe and Challenging playground at Lady Gowrie at Battery Point. Aply guided by Adriana Taylor, early support from leaders at the Glenorchy City Council and in the business community saw preliminary plans go through council. An investment by council in a project director saw early success bedded down and momentum gained. The business community, the council and local community members got behind the concept in a big way and that support - now from the present Mayor, Stuart Slade, and the Glenorchy Councillors together with the business community - remains as strong to-day as it was in the beginning. We know all this very well for my wife's daughter Madeleine was part of that group at Lady Gowrie and today is GASP's ambassador

This is what Madeleine wrote for me:

"Some people might think the concept of GASP is hard to grasp, but this is not so. GASP brings multi-layered artistic experiences to the local, national and international community. GASP is a one of a kind vision for a connected arts space that creates a sense of community.....it is a park, it is an open air theatre it is a natural surrounding for sculpture, a place for arts and cultural events and a good place to walk the pram and let the kids run wild. Won't it be fun when ferries can stop at a new pier..."

Stage 3 involves commencing the art programme and developing ongoing capacity to manage and develop the park area.

In November the foreshore will come alive with an arts and culture experience when the Works Festival arrives on the foreshore and there has been interest from arts and community foundations willing to work with the GASP board on a sustainable arts programme. It will become a space in respect of which all Tasmanians can feel proud.

Principal funders to date include the Australian Commonwealth Government, the Tasmanian State Government, the Myer Family Fund and the Glenorchy Council. As is so often the case with projects like this one it is the brainchild and work of many people and it is impossible for me this evening to name any one of those people without feeling that I should name them all. But I do think that as we celebrate this event here at Government House this evening I should apologise for thinking “yeah, yeah” on that day 4 years ago, and instead offer my warmest congratulations to everyone who has played, and everyone who is continuing to play a part turning a wonderful vision into reality by creating a very special place that every member of the community can enjoy each in their own way.