

**HAMILTON LITERARY SOCIETY ANNUAL SPECIAL LECTURE  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2018**

Good afternoon and welcome to the 2018 Hamilton Literary Society Annual Special Lecture.

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.

As the President of the Society I'm delighted to know that we have as this year's Guest Lecturer Dr Pete Hay, who will shortly be introduced by your Vice-President Joan Von Bibra.

May I just say that Pete and I have in common our lengthy academic careers at the University of Tasmania. Bear in mind too that Teresa Hamilton's husband, Sir Robert Hamilton, had a role in the establishment of the University in 1890, when he was Governor.

And earlier this year I wrote a foreword to a forthcoming book – the beautifully written nature diaries of a teenager who grew up in the Fingal valley early in the Twentieth Century. David suggested an apt quote which I have used in the foreword. The quote is by prominent American nature writer Barry Lopez – whom David had first been introduced to by none other than Pete Hay. So there you go.

The greatest contribution of the Hamilton's has been said to be their contribution to cultural life in Tasmania. At a large public meeting in Hobart in December 1892 to farewell Teresa Hamilton, Lady Dobson, wife of the Chief Justice, spoke of how Government House has become the centre of every movement for the moral and social well-being of Tasmania and the home of literature and science.<sup>1</sup>

Well, members and friends of the Hamilton Literary Society, you and your many predecessors have most certainly kept the memory of Teresa Hamilton alive and well. I'm very proud to be associated with such an intellectually diverse and culturally invigorating society, the oldest of its kind in Australia. And we can be very sure that Pete Hay will maintain the lofty standard.

Thank you.

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<sup>i</sup> Tasmanian (Launceston), Saturday 3 December 1892, page 24.