

**INTERNATIONAL FARM MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION CONGRESS
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
DRAWING ROOM, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2019**

Good evening and welcome to this Government House reception for pre-tour participants attending the 22nd International Farm Management Association Congress.

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:

- Donna Lucas and Organising Committee colleagues;
- visit hosts;
- and a special welcome to international delegates.

I'd also like to mention David Armstrong, Organising Committee Chair who has commitments in Launceston preparing for the Congress to get under way at the weekend.

Now, insofar as IFMA 22 is hosted by the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and the Environment, and the University of Tasmania under their joint venture as the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture – the TIA – it really ought to be my husband Dick who is at the lectern this evening.

This is because as the local attendees will know, Dick's professional career has been in agriculture and agribusiness here in Tasmania; and since we have been at Government House – over four years now – he has energetically worked with the University and the State Government in reviewing the course offerings in agricultural education in the State.

Also, as the Chair of the Tasmanian Committee of the Crawford Fund, he has been closely associated with agricultural developments and improvements in developing countries. In particular he has been closely involved in two projects in Timor Leste.

In this very Drawing Room as it happens, two years ago we hosted a Crawford Fund Tasmania Forum entitled “Tasmania Doing Well by Doing Good: the benefits and impacts of international research in agriculture, fisheries and forestry.”

And I note that this crossover between industry and academia is a core feature of your Congress, that is to say, “practitioners and academics involved in agriculture, particularly farm management.”ⁱ

Looking at your wonderful Congress program, it’s immediately evident just how globally interconnected agriculture has become and how much more so it will become as technological innovations race ahead and the challenge increases of feeding many billions of people.

The big-picture sessions – like “Roles of governments in providing food sufficiency and developing rural economies” and “Genomics in our agricultural future” – speak for themselves in their importance.ⁱⁱ

Yet I get the sense that of equal take-away value will be those sessions highly specific to one region, for example “From Lake Erie to the Ohio River: a summary of nutrient loss impacts in Ohio”; or, much more local: “Managing wallabies on King Island: management that works.”ⁱⁱⁱ

Ladies and gentlemen I’ll conclude by wishing you all a most successful and enjoyable Congress; and while you here feel free to have a look at the beautiful State Rooms of Government House, which turned 160 last year and which at one time was a completely self-sustaining farm.

Thank you.

ⁱ Media article attached to 18 January 2019 email from Donna Lucas to David Owen.

ⁱⁱ <http://ifma22.org/program>, accessed 27 February 2019.

ⁱⁱⁱ *ibid.*