

**INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH SHIPS OPERATORS  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA, MONDAY 7 OCTOBER 2019**

Good evening and welcome to this reception for delegates attending the 32<sup>nd</sup> International Research Ship Operators Meeting.

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:

- Dr Erica Koning, IRSO Chair;
- Greg Foothead, Vice-Chair;
- Toni Moate, CSIRO National Collections and Marine Infrastructure Director.

Being an island State, we have always had and continue to have a strong maritime identity, of which there are no better examples than your host CSIRO's location at Castray Esplanade, with its research vessel *RV Investigator*; and moored nearby *Aurora Australis*, the Australian Antarctic Division's Antarctic research and resupply ship.

Tomorrow I understand you will be hearing an update on the new Australian Antarctic Division's ship RSV Nuyina (noyeena), which is palawa kani for 'Southern Lights'. Palawa kani is the resurrected Tasmanian Aboriginal language which combines elements of 6-12 Tasmanian Aboriginal languages. 'Nuyina' was recorded by George Augustus Robinson in 1831 as the name used by the Tasmanian Aboriginal people from Cape Portland to describe the Southern Lights. And given the association of the Tasmanian Aboriginal people with the Southern Ocean, it is an appropriate name for the new ship.

Reading your conference programme I noticed that you also have a session on the challenge of making a Navy vessel into a research vessel. I immediately thought of what must have been two of the earliest naval ships that were converted into research vessels: the HMS Erebus and the HMS Terror. These ships had a connection with Hobart Town and one of its early Governors, Lieutenant Governor Sir John Franklin, a naval man, who entertained the ships' captains, Ross and Crozier and crew when they were here in 1840 and 1841.

The HMS Erebus was a Hecla-class bomb vessel constructed by the Royal British Navy in Wales in 1826. After two years' service in the Mediterranean Sea, she was refitted as an exploration vessel for Antarctic service. Apparently the design as a bomb ship meant she had an unusually strong framework and could resist the pressure of sea ice.

So in 1840, the Erebus and the Terror spent time in Hobart before leaving for Antarctica where the crew discovered the Ross Ice Shelf and named Mount Erebus and Mount Terror. They returned in April 1841 and stayed for several months. Before they left in June, a grand ball was held to thank the Frankins and the citizens of Hobart. The Erebus and the Terror were lashed together about 35 yards off-shore from Government House and the deck of the Erebus transformed into a ball room, complete with chandeliers, mirrors and flowers.

The dashing Captain Ross was a great hit with Lady Franklin and Sir John's niece, Sophy.

If you want to know more about the Erebus, its later adventures and fate, I can recommend Michael Palin's book, *The Erebus: the Story of a Ship*.

We cannot give you all a Ball this evening, but we do have chandeliers and mirrors so do feel free to take a look at our lovely state rooms while you are here. And I do hope you an intellectually stimulating conference and an enjoyable time here in Hobart.

Thank you.