

**JORDAN RIVER LEARNING FEDERATION SENIOR SCHOOL
PRESENTATION EVENING SPEECH BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AM
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
BRIDGEWATER, MONDAY 19 DECEMBER 2016**

Good afternoon everyone and thank you very much for inviting me and my husband Dick to your presentation evening.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land – to pay respect to those that have passed before us and to acknowledge today’s Tasmanian Aboriginal community who are the custodians of this land.

And I would like to acknowledge Premier Will Hodgman, Rebecca White MHA, Senator Carol Brown, Judy Travers Manager of Learning Services South, Sandy Menadue, Principal, teachers, parents and of course to the very many students who make this day what it is – we adults are hugely impressed with you, believe me, and I very much look forward to celebrating your achievements this afternoon.

I attended your last year’s presentations and am very pleased to be invited back. And I enjoyed attending your Farm Fest earlier this year and meeting up with your very impressive cattle and sheep handling teams with Jackie Brown at various agricultural shows around the state, including in Launceston and Devonport.

I have a wonderful job as Governor of Tasmania. I get to do awesome things. I have flown by helicopter and landed on the HMAS Canberra near Betsy Island and cruised back to dock in Hobart. We have met Ambassadors and High Commissioners from around the world and learned about their countries and we have had so many interesting visitors to Government House; including some orphan Tasmanian devil imps who came to a reception for the Save the Devil Program.

And last week I gave Royal Assent to an historic law, an amendment to the preamble in our State Constitution which recognises Tasmanian Aboriginal people as Tasmania’s first people.

So I meet lots of school kids in this job and they ask me lots of questions. And one of the most common questions is: 'How did you get to be Governor?' And I say it all started with a good education: first at school through to Year 12 and then at the University of Tasmania.

As Governor I get to travel a lot around the state – and we have visited many schools, in more remote places like King Island, Flinders Island and Rosebery, and in country areas like the Huon, and Nubeena on the Tasman Peninsula; as well as city and suburban schools such as yours. I have been so impressed by the quality of these schools and the education that is offered. Our kids in Tasmania are lucky.

I contrast this with some schools I visited in Vanuatu in the South Pacific at a law reform conference before I was Governor. There the village schools were tiny and there was very little in the way of resources, very few books and writing materials. And certainly no computers. Moreover, even primary schools are not free.

So make the most of your opportunities to get a good education. As Shirley Manson, lead singer in the rock band Garbage, said recently, no one stays young and beautiful for ever. Build a platform on which you can stand, and this platform starts with a good education.

I understand that students at Jordan River are able to study hospitality, construction, engineering, automotive, community services, agricultural studies and horticulture in addition to the more mainstream curriculum subjects such as maths and English. Having the option to study such a diverse range of areas will hold you in good stead for further education and training whether at TAFE or university and for employment and it's by-product: independence.

Today's assembly is a celebration of the achievements of students here at Jordan River Senior School. Scholarships, bursaries and prizes are awarded to students in acknowledgement of academic achievement and effort and for contributions to the school community and school environment. Prizes are sponsored by representatives from local government, community organisations and businesses.¹ I commend such community support for students and see it as yet another ingredient that goes in to making a successful young person.

¹ From the Information brief – in the folder

I feel very sure that this school and the fantastic work that you are all doing, students, teachers, parents and the community will ensure a bright future for the young people of the Jordan River Learning Federation.

Remember three things:

First, singer Shirley Manson's advice: no one stays young and beautiful for even, so build a platform on which you can stand. This platform is a good education *and* good health. So look after yourselves, keep fit and healthy, or if you are not already, you should aim to get fit and healthy.

Secondly, Tim Minchin, hugely successful comedian, songwriter and producer, has said he has been lucky, but the harder he worked the luckier he has been. So the harder you work, the luckier you will be.

And finally, Dr Seuss's little rhyme:

You have brains in your head.

You have feet in your shoes.

You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.

Well done and thank you.