

LANDCARE TASMANIA 25TH ANNIVERSARY
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA,
BALL ROOM, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER 2019

[Vice-Regal Salute is played]

Good evening and welcome to this reception to mark the 25th anniversary of Landcare Tasmania and to open the 2019 Tasmanian Community Landcare Conference.

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.

Landcare is such an appropriate context for this acknowledgment given the Aboriginal people's skill in caring for and managing the land for many thousands of years before European settlement. Using fire-stick farming, Aboriginal people shaped country to ensure continuity, balance, abundance and predictability.

May I acknowledge among you:

- the Honourable Will Hodgman MP, Premier of Tasmania;
- the Honourable Guy Barnett MP, Minister for Energy; Primary Industries and Water; Resources; Veterans' Affairs;
- Alison Standen MP;
- Rosalie Woodruff MP;
- Doug Chipman, Clarence City Council Mayor;
- Trish Hodge, a palawa woman of lutrawita Tasmania, who will be shortly giving a welcome to country;
- Flora Cox, Kingborough Council;
- George Rance, Landcare Tasmania Chair;
- Rod Knight, CEO.

Ladies and gentlemen I'll be brief in my remarks in getting under way this evening's formalities. May I just say that it is both a pleasure and an honour to be able to host the 25th anniversary of Landcare Tasmania at Government House – just as was the case with your 20th anniversary in September 2014, the event then hosted by the Lieutenant-Governor the Honourable Justice Alan Blow and Margaret Blow.

The dozens of Landcare groups across the State are a roll-call of names that say so much about our beautiful and unique temperate island ... which, by the way, far too many people insist on referring to as a “small” island when in fact it's the planet's 26th largest of a total of some eleven thousand inhabited islands!

But this is no time for griping ... Just a glance at some of what you do reveals the following tasks:

Dunes maintenance; weed control and eradication; rubbish removal; coastal revegetation and erosion control; wildlife corridor protection; walking track maintenance; native habitat creation; covenanted land protection; bird and bird habitat conservation; river and riverbank restoration; fundraising; water quality monitoring; plantings To name but a few. And which means that right across the island, from inner city to remote hinterland and wild coastline, volunteers and friends' groups are caring for and nurturing our often fragile and damaged natural environment.

You are doing it without pay and with great respect for your patch of Tasmania and I daresay you are doing it with considerable love too. So we are most grateful to you all, and as Governor I am able to sincerely thank you on behalf of all Tasmanians.

In conclusion, because this evening represents the opening event of the 2019 Tasmanian Community Landcare Conference, as Governor I'm equally delighted to be able to formally now declare the Conference open.

Thank you.