

**OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE LAWRENNY ESTATE DISTILLERY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
MONDAY 28 MAY 2018**

Good morning and thank you for inviting Dick and me here today to the opening of the Lawrenny Estate Distillery.

- I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.
- I would also like to acknowledge Rene Hidding MP, representing the Premier the Honourable Will Hodgman MP.

There are many reasons why I am delighted to be here today.

The first being that it is at Ouse, a favourite place for me since I first came to stay at Millbrook (Ouse) as a nine-year-old, which at time involved some very memorable adventures coming and going, such as getting of the bus in the main street with no one to meet me, but being spied by Mr Wood, who used his walkie talkie to radio Nina and ask her to telephone Millbrook.

And memorable trips back to Hobart with Grace Nicholas who disconcertingly would ask me to sing or recite a poem.

And it is always a joy to visit the garden and Lawrenny, a garden which some years ago I successfully persuaded Mary and Ross to open for the Alcorso Foundation.

Establishing a distillery here at Lawrenny ticks so many boxes.

Re-use or redundant rural buildings is one – the conversion of the colonial Dutch barn into a distillery gives it a new life and a use that will ensure its survival for another century or so.

The Lawrenny distillery is a wonderful addition to the single-malt whisky tourist trail, one which takes advantage of water flowing past in the Derwent River and estate grown barley which is malted on site. A paddock to bottle product that uses the very best ingredients.

It's not only whisky that is produced at the distillery. Gins and vodka are distilled using flowers, lime and almond blossom in the process. These are already on the market and have won awards with Van Diemen Gin winning the gold medal at the 2018 Australian Distilled Spirits award, Settlers Gin taking the silver and St Clair Vodka taking a bronze.

Locating the distillery at Lawrenny takes advantage of this historic and beautiful estate which Mary and Ross have restored to its former glory over the 25 years they have lived here. I can imagine that the gardens were both beautiful and productive in the days of the Lords, the Clarkes and the Brocks.

Interestingly Edward Lord, the first owner of the Lawrenny Estate, was briefly Lieutenant Governor of the south of Van Diemen's Land for 3 months in 1810 after the sudden death of Lieutenant Governor David Collins.

It was later, in 1821, that he was granted 7000 acres on the Derwent in the Ouse district in exchange for his 14 acres at Macquarie Point that the Crown had resumed. It was this 7000 acres that formed part of the Lawrenny Estate. I assume the house was built by Edward's son Edward James Lord who lived at Lawrenny from 1842.

Another box it ticks is producing a high-value low volume product that adds to Tasmania's reputation for producing high quality food and beverages.

And it will no doubt provide employment and a boost to tourism in the area.

Congratulations Mary, Ross and Cameron and also to General Manager Jensen Farley and distiller Joe Dinsmoor.

I now have much pleasure in declaring officially open the Lawrenny Estate Distillery.

Thank you.