

**OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE AUSTRALASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
TEACHING OF ENGLISH AND THE AUSTRALIAN LITERACY EDUCATORS'
ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE: CUTTING EDGE: MARGIN TO MAINSTREAM
NATIONAL ENGLISH AND LITERACY CONFERENCE**

**SPEECH BY HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE
KATE WARNER AC, GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
WREAT POINT CONVENTION CENTRE THURSDAY 6 JULY 2017**

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Australasian Association for the Teaching of English and the Australian Literacy Educators' Association Conference.

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.

I acknowledge Wendy Cody - President of the Australian Association for the Teaching of English

Grant Webb - President of the Australian Literacy Educators' Association

Professor William Teale - President of the Board of the International Literacy Association, USA

Jo Morris - President of the New Zealand Association for the Teaching of English

Glenice Andrews - President of the New Zealand Literacy Association;
distinguished guests.

I particularly want to welcome our international and interstate guests to Hobart and do hope that you find time to enjoy all that we have to offer here on the beautiful island.

I am informed that over the next three days, delegates will be invited to engage in key conversations about the current and future direction of education. They will hear plenary and keynote addresses and choose from an array of workshops, research paper presentations and forums. The challenges and opportunities facing educators will be addressed through the theme of the conference: Cutting Edge: margin to mainstream.¹

I really encourage you to engage in the Conference program but equally to engage in networking, conversations with each other and sharing information and stories about your experiences as educators.

Being able to share these stories with people who may have different and new ideas can only benefit you all- with your students in turn being the beneficiaries of what you learn here over the next few days.

I now have great pleasure in declaring open your 2017 conference.

Thank you.

¹ Information Brief – in the folder