

**NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE FORUM
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
DRAWING ROOM, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 11 OCTOBER 2019**

Good morning. Dick and I welcome you to Government House to this annual event for Tasmanian students attending the forthcoming NYSF Year 12 Program.

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:

- Michael Cooke, District Governor Rotary Tasmania;
- Stephen Porter, District Chair National Youth Science Forum;
- Rosemary Anderson, President, Science Teachers Association Tasmania;
- Dr Melanie Bagg, CEO of the National Youth Science Forum;
- Dr Gwen Fenton, Chief Scientist Australian Antarctic Division;
- Associate Professor Tina Acunã, Associate Dean Learning and Teaching, University of Tasmania College of Science and Engineering;
- Deborah Beswick, Head of Science, Elizabeth College.

I understand that there are quite a few of next year's selected Tasmanian students here today — I congratulate each one of you on your achievement.

Welcome also to NYSF alumni and to the parents and friends of this year's successful students.

For the 2020 cohort, Tasmanian Rotary District 9830 selected 18 successful applicants from Tasmania to attend the program.

Australia-wide, 65% of the participants selected for 2020 are female; and 38% are from remote and regional areas across Australia. These figures together demonstrate the importance of this scheme in being able to be thoroughly inclusive of all young Australians seeking to be part of the Forum because they are passionate about science and technology.

Rotary, as a Founding Partner of the Forum provides critical support throughout, from student selection to billeting and transport support. One measure of how influential your input has been is that since 2018, the number of places available to participants from across Australia has increased from 400 to six hundred.¹

Another impressive NYSF statistic – and bearing in mind that the NYSF has been operating for 36 years now – is that something like 80% of participants go on to study STEM at tertiary level, and a majority of those move into postgraduate study.²

The NYSF Year 12 Program is carefully designed to develop and support your engagement in the STEM fields, affording you a unique taster of study and career pathways in science, engineering and technology, with real life role-models and hands on experiences.

Your site tours, lab visits and lectures at the Australian National University and the University of Queensland, will represent a fabulous academic opportunity — I therefore strongly urge you to make each day count, although you probably don't need much by way of encouragement.

And I understand that there is a decent social side to it all, which is also important. The National Youth Science Forum is designed precisely to be a whole-of-life experience.

So it is all before you. Congratulations again; and thanks once again to Rotary District 9830 for all the fine work you do and your commitment to the National Youth Science Forum.

Thank you.

¹ NYSF Briefing Note attached to email dated 4 October 2019 from Leonie Keogh, NYSF to Kaye Robertson.

² Letter dated 5 March 2018 to HE from Dr Damien Pearce, NYSF CEO.