

**REMARKS BY THE HON PETER UNDERWOOD AC,
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA AT A MORING TEA FOR
TASMANIAN STUDENTS SELECTED TO ATTEND THE
NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE FORUM 2013**

It is a great pleasure for me to host this reception and to welcome to Government House – I was going to say so many young and old scientists – but that would not be right would it – so perhaps I should say so many young and so many former young scientists. We are here to mark and celebrate the achievement of 18 young scientists from this State who have been selected to go to Canberra and Western Australia to take part in the National Youth Science Programme next year and test drive an exciting range of careers in the sciences. It is a wonderful opportunity to see how studying the sciences can open up all sorts of interesting careers for you. The Chairman of the Forum writes:¹

“The challenge of creating more equitable and sustainable societies requires a better understanding of the complex connections in our world, better predictions of consequences – and better technologies. Science is needed more than ever to find these new solutions and alternatives.”

And he says to you that “the National Youth Science Forum offers you opportunities to prepare for this challenge.” It has been said² that studying the sciences prepares you for a job that will put you in

¹ 2013 National Youth Science Forum, “The Future Needs You”, page 2.

² <http://www.futuremorph.org/11-13/next-steps/why-science-and-maths/> accessed 19th September 2012.

the driving seat; giving you skills and knowledge to improve the world around us, and even the future of the planet.” I am sure that is right and that participation in the Forum will give you the chance to get up close with science in its practical applications and an opportunity to talk with senior and respected scientists in many different disciplines.

Each year the Forum offers 144 places in three residential sessions. Each year some 2,000 students apply for one of those places so the competition is pretty fierce and I congratulate the 18 students who were selected for 2013 and I also congratulate the participating universities and the Rotary Clubs around the country who make this Forum possible. I am confident that it will be a life changing event for each of the 18 young persons who have been selected in Tasmania and that ultimately all Australians will benefit from the decisions that each of you make as a consequence of attending the Forum.

Obviously not everyone who applies for a place at the Forum secures one. I understand that the University of Tasmania decided that that was a waste of talent and accordingly devised its own Science Forum for those who were just unlucky enough to get to Canberra. I am confident that the experience at Utas will be every bit as good as the experience in Canberra or Perth and just as life-changing. So I also congratulate the 25 students who scored places at Utas and congratulate the University and those students. All Australia will be the beneficiary of these Forums. Maybe the idea

will spread to all the Australian Universities. Now wouldn't that be good?

Congratulations and good luck.