

**RICHMOND VILLAGE FAIR  
OPENING PSEECH BY  
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
RICHMOND VILLAGE GREEN  
SUNDAY 31 MARCH 2019**

Good morning and welcome to the opening of the 2019 Richmond Village Fair.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

Towards the end of last year Margaret Reynolds, as a member of the Richmond Village Fair Committee, invited Dick and me to be here today. I understand that Margaret is overseas at present, but we thank her for the invitation and indeed we thank all committee members – because this is a rather special event on the Tasmanian social calendar, with its glorious setting, tremendous community spirit, and historical significance, dating back as it does to the early 1830s.

Dick and I also have a number of personal connections with Richmond and I will tell you about those shortly. But first, Government House researchers were intrigued to discover that at one time there was an annual indoors Richmond jumble sale held in October, and I wonder if the present fair is linked to or has descended from that one in any way. So for example, according to the Mercury newspaper of Monday 28 October 1901 [p. 4], and I quote:

“The annual jumble fair for the purpose of reducing the debt on St. Luke's parsonage was held in the Library-hall at Richmond on Saturday ... This jumble fair has become a kind of red-letter day in the annual events of Richmond. Although in aid of St. Luke's parsonage, it receives more than denominational support.” End of quote.

The fair that year was opened by the Premier the Honourable Elliott Lewis and Mrs Lewis. There were many stalls: flowers, confectionary, vegetables, cookery and dairy, art, as well as a fish pond and a children's stall, afternoon refreshments and a musical entertainment held in the evening.

In the spirit of true honesty, however the Mercury felt obliged to report, this, and again I quote: “The horse jumping generally was good, but in one or two instances the horsemanship displayed by the riders was of an indifferent character.”

By 1909 the Mercury was able to report that:

“The annual fair at Richmond shows a marked improvement each year, and sees the function gain in popularity not only with the residents, but with the goodly contingent of visitors from the capital, who make the journey to the picturesque old-time township in order to participate in the pleasures of the fair.

“This year the occasion was marked by the presence of the [new] Governor Sir Harry Barron, the fair thus gaining the distinction of being among the first of public functions to be honoured by his vice-regal patronage .... The proceeds [of the Fair] were devoted to the reduction of the debt of the new town-hall, and a substantial sum was obtained.” (Mercury, Monday 22 November 1909, p. 6.)

Of course, Governors had made many earlier official visits to Richmond than these early twentieth century visits. Sir John and Lady Franklin visited in March 1837, visiting the Lennox Arms, the Court House, the School House, the Church, lunching at Mr Buscombe’s house and spending the night at the house of Mr Parremore (The True Colonist, 24 March 1837, p 512).

But back to fairs. in September 1934 Lady Clark, wife of the Governor Sir Ernest Clark, opened what was described as the Centenary Richmond fair in aid of St Luke’s.

[Mercury, Monday 17 September 1934, p. 2.]

What is striking about these is how the proceeds were used for important community causes – which is exactly what you continue to do today. And so that represents wonderful continuity, which is to be admired and I congratulate everyone associated with the Fair. And those who here to enjoy what’s on offer – do spend up!

Now, I said I would mention some our personal connections with Richmond. My grandparents lived in a cottage at Carrington on the Campania Road in the 1960s. We visited them most Sundays and spent school holidays with there. I caught my first and only trout in the Cole River. My husband Dick’s great Uncle, Archie Flexmore, owned a farm here, Richmond Park but as Archie was killed in World War

1, well before Dick was born, we know little about him. However, my husband, Dick Warner, was Chairman of Houston Farms for a decade or so, which meant that he was frequent visitor to Richmond. And until recently, our three grandchildren attended St John's School and my daughter Meg Bignell wrote much of her soon to be published novel, Sparkle Pages, in the old School House.

I now happily declare officially open the 2019 Richmond Village Fair.

Thank you.