

ROTARY CLUB OF HOBART CHARITY ART SHOW
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC,
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
WREST POINT, FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2020

Thank you Belinda Jeffries, Kate Domeney and colleagues of the Rotary Club of Hobart for inviting me to open this 31st Rotary Club of Hobart Annual Art Show.

I wish to pay 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 who continue to maintain their identity, culture and their Indigenous rights.

The COVID-19 pandemic brings home to us the destructive force of respiratory illnesses on populations without immunity. The reason we have no living descendants of the mouhineener – the people who occupied the land on this side of the river, and why they perished so soon after colonisation – is largely due to the devastating effect of respiratory disease.

And speaking of COVID-19, I should acknowledge how lucky we are to be able to gather here this evening when in so many countries around the world, communities are in lock-down. Moreover, around Australia, many Rotary Art Shows have been cancelled this year – the Brisbane Rotary Arts Spectacular; the Bendigo Rotary Easter Art Show; the Murray Bridge Rotary Art Show and the Chelsea Rotary Art Show. So well done to the Rotary Club of Hobart for still managing to host this event.

Impressive too is the fact that this two-day exhibition, enabling emerging and established artists to showcase and sell their works, has attracted over 260 entries. How many, I wonder, are the creative outcome of this year's enforced Covid lockdown?

These art shows have a number of purposes: first, supporting artists so that they have an opportunity to display their work to the public and to sell it – particularly important for amateur artists without a sponsoring gallery; secondly, publicising Rotary and its work and the wonderful projects it funds locally and internationally; and thirdly, the sale of paintings to raise funds for those projects.

Being chosen to exhibit must provide great encouragement to artists and inspire them to keep painting. And we can see that no matter where we look, around these spaces, the works display flair and commitment.

And so many take their inspiration from the natural world – landscapes, and the animals which inhabit them. We're particularly fortunate that Tasmania provides such an amazing variety of land and seascapes, which these works record for posterity. I am very much looking forward to viewing the works in this exhibition. As I remarked to my Aide-de-Camp as we walked on the Nut at Stanley late yesterday afternoon after attending the Tunnerminerwait festival for NAIDOC week, 'How lucky are we that such a wonderful day counts as work'. And I know that viewing these exhibits I will feel similarly!

I now declare open the 2020 Rotary Club of Hobart Charity Art Show and wish you a very successful weekend.