

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
DRAWING ROOM, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 21 JUNE 2019**

Good evening. Dick and I warmly welcome you to this reception for delegates attending the combined meeting of the Tasmanian Branch of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists, and the Australia and New Zealand Society of Ophthalmic Plastic Surgeons.

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.

I would like to acknowledge among you:

- Meeting Convenor, Dr Nitin Verma, Clinical Associate Professor of Ophthalmology;
- Tasmania Branch of RANZCO Organising Committee Members, Professor Alex Hewitt and Dr Guy Bylsma;
- and ANZSOPS Organising Committee Members:
  - Dr Charles Su, President;
  - Dr Jenny Danks;
  - Dr Dov Hersh;
  - Dr Lucy Goold.

Dick and I have hosted RANZCO receptions for some years now and it's a pleasure indeed to count you as regulars on the Government House schedule, given the importance of your work for the Australian community.

Indeed I recall mentioning last year the significant costs to our society of visual impairment in both economic terms and quality of life, and that visual problems can impede and impair reading acquisition and learning and influence other behaviour.<sup>1</sup>

So I thought I might mention another recent function here associated with beneficial community medical outcomes and that is that we hosted the first Ball at Government House for some 43 years. Tickets were not cheap, at \$200 per head, but the Ball was sold out and all proceeds have gone towards a new Mobile Dental Van of the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Tasmania, of which I am Patron.

The success of that event means that we'll probably make it an annual Winter Ball, with the purpose of appropriate patronage-linked fundraising. The community role of a Governor is a key part of the role and so to have demonstrable outcomes of this nature is obviously beneficial.

In closing I might also mention that in recent years we have commenced a few modest initiatives to earn income to go towards the prime maintenance of this beautiful building and estate. One of those initiatives is that we have a vineyard, and in due course will retail some of the product. The white wine on offer this evening is our first ever vintage of Government House Tasmania Riesling. It is still quite young but eminently drinkable.

We invited one of Australia's prominent Wine Masters to provide a written tasting note. As eye specialists you'll be interested to know that the first sentence of his notes is a visual one. He wrote, quote: "The wine is brilliantly clear in the glass with a bright, pale straw / lemon colour and little to no 'green', suggesting fully ripe fruit at harvest."

And now please do enjoy the reception.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> N Piquette et al, Visual Impairments to Learning, (2013) 1(4) *Optometry and Visual Performance* 118-128.