

**ROYAL HOBART SHOW RECEPTION  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2018**

Good evening and welcome to this reception to mark the 2018 Royal Hobart Show.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land— the Mouheneener 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:

- The Honourable Rob Valentine MLC;
- Peter Spotswood, Royal Agricultural Show of Tasmania President;
- Scott Gadd, RAST CEO;
- Board Directors;
- Councillors;
- Life Members.

And of course we have numbers of Show sponsor representatives here this evening – your support for this famous annual Tasmanian event is as important as ever, given the many and competing interests which in particular make the younger demographic challenging to attract.

That said, having an agricultural Show in bustling suburbia and within a few kilometres of a capital city's CBD is an attraction in itself.

In fact one of the features of Government House is having our agisted cows in the paddocks directly overlooking the city – and when they are moved out, as they have been now, to be at the Show – we sometimes get phone calls demanding to know why they're gone!

Some of you may know that there was a time when the Government House Estate was self-sufficient – farming dairy and beef cattle, a piggery, a large hexagonal fowl house containing numerous species, a basement butchery complete with meat hooks – which today look rather strange in what is the Archives Room – orchards and vegetable gardens, and stabling for a dozen or more horses for carriages, police officers, and personal use of the Governor and spouse and family members.

And I'm aware of at least two Governors who stocked trout in the Quarry Pond in order to angle for them. The problem they encountered, however, was that the water was insufficiently oxygenated for that species to survive. For your information, the Pond has a large, thriving population of large unusual-looking goldfish, which may have been there for many decades; also a couple of big, healthy eels.

Today our productivity is of course modest, but we are slowly changing that. Our 1960s fruit orchard was netted for the first time last year, so that we now have bumper harvests for our kitchen and for charities. We plan to relocate the vegetable garden at some stage, to give the soil a chance to rejuvenate and to eliminate the oxalis. Our honey production is very modest but slowly increasing; our olive trees are developing well.

We are soon to take delivery of our first ever wine vintage, being 1,500 bottles of Government House Tasmania 2018 Riesling; with about the same number of bottles of 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot to follow in 2020. And this year's grapes have set very well and the bunches are abundant.

We also have the small but culturally significant Lahaye's French Garden, now in its second year of production using heirloom vegetable seeds from the Paris company Vilmorin, which supplied the seeds for the 1792 French expedition of Admiral Bruni D'Entrecasteaux – that expedition landing at Recherche Bay and planting out an experimental vegetable garden.

We believe that this is making good use of this large and magnificent Estate, at a time when Tasmania is being increasingly recognised for the quality of our agricultural products. We are able to showcase our Estate produce at, for example, Formal Dinners for visiting Ambassadors and High Commissioners from all over the world.

But that's enough from me. Do now enjoy the reception and Dick and I are looking forward to attending the Royal Hobart Show tomorrow.

Thank you.