

**ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA MEDAL PRESENTATION AND LECTURE
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 30 AUGUST 2018**

Good evening and welcome to the 2018 Royal Society of Tasmania Medal Presentation and Lecture.

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 Justice Alan Blow, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of and Lieutenant Governor of Tasmania;
- David Morris, President, Royal Society of Tasmania Northern Chapter;
- Janet Carding, Director, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery;
- Past Medal Recipients: Professor Trevor McDougall;
- Doris Banks;
- Professor Michael Roe;
- Professor Matt King;
- Professor Brian Yates.

As we all know, and I record here with sadness the recent passing of Professor Pat Quilty, former Australian Antarctic Division Chief Scientist, and recipient of the Royal Society of Tasmania Medal in 1996.

My remarks will be brief. Dick and I are honoured to be hosting this evening's presentation and lecture – not least because of the patronage associated with the Society since the prefix Royal was granted in 1843 during the tenure of Lieutenant Governor Sir John Eardley-Wilmot; with earlier Lieutenant Governors Franklin and Arthur also having significant roles in the society's establishment and progress.

That, of course, dating back to the 1820s, was well before this Government House was first occupied in 1858, one hundred and sixty years ago. Which all may seem to be rather long ago ... But for a truly meaningful look at deep time, in the geological sense, we have with us a most eminent speaker and it is my pleasure to present the 2018 Royal Society of Tasmania Medal to Emeritus Distinguished Professor Ross Large.

The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal is the most prestigious award conferred by the Society. It was established in 1927 and is usually awarded every four years. The medal is awarded to a scholar for substantial original research in any subject within the Society's purview. A significant part of the research shall have been conducted while the recipient was a resident of Tasmania, and the recipient must have been an active member of the Society for at least five years. The Awardee delivers "The Royal Society of Tasmania Lecture."

Ross ...

Professor Large moves to the stage – ADC hands HE medal in open box – HE presents the Medal – pause for photograph – HE accompanied by ADC moves to her seat.

Professor Large remains on the stage.

David invites Mary Koolhof, RST Vice-President, to introduce Professor Large.