

SWEET ADELINES AUSTRALIA 2018 CONVENTION
SPEECH BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA, WREST POINT, FRIDAY 18 MAY 2018

Good morning Region 34!ⁱ

And thank you very much for inviting Dick and me to enjoy the Mass Sing of the 2018 Sweet Adelines Australia 2018 Convention “In Harmony”.

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.

I would like to acknowledge among you the three team coordinators of Sweet Adelines Australia:

- Kate Hawkins;
- Lindsey Dyer;
- Annet Wezenbeek;

And:

- Jan Lovegrove, Chair of the Regional Convention;
- Sue Gilkes, Communications Coordinator;
- Anna-Marie Shew, Marketing Coordinator.

I’ve enjoyed reading your Convention Schedule, rolling out from yesterday through to Sunday, and we’re greatly looking looking forward to the famous songs we’re about to hear. So my remarks will be brief.

As Tasmania's first female Governor I'm especially pleased to know that your organisation of women singers is committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony and a cappella singing through education, competition and performance.

Indeed, music enhances our cognitive and educative faculties in ways we probably still don't fully understand, given that it is simultaneously both a left-and-right-brain phenomenon.

Which tells us loud and clear there's "Mass" female brainpower in this room!

And with an international membership of nearly 23,000, and Choruses in over 15 countries, with some 1,400 members in Australia, it's abundantly clear that you're spreading your message of joy through the historically rich a capella form of singing in four-part harmony.

You'll be aware of a Governor's role: constitutional, legal, ceremonial. These are all most important functions in our democratic system of governance.

There is also the community role, and I can tell you that one of the undoubted Vice-Regal privileges is that we enjoy listening to all manner of musical performances – be that in the beautiful Government House Ball Room, the impressive Federation Concert Hall, the winter Festival of Voices, or a modest regional school assembly hall.

And so to be able now to add your Sweet Adelines to our repertoire list – if I can put it that way – is something we'll cherish.

In conclusion may I wish you all the best in your upcoming Opening Ceremony and the Quartet Competition and Chorus to follow today.

And to all interstate visitors, you're hugely welcome to our Island State.

Thank you again for the invitation.

ⁱ "We are the Australian region of Sweet Adelines International: Region 34 – the Southern Cross Region." <https://www.sweetadelines.org.au/>, accessed 17 May 2018.