

**OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 2017 THEO MURPHY AUSTRALIAN FRONTIERS
OF SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM THE ANTARCTIC FRONTIER: DEVELOPING
RESEARCH IN AN EXTREME ENVIRONMENT
SPEECH BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
HOTEL GRAND CHANCELLOR, HOBART, WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Good evening everyone and welcome to the 2017 Theo Murphy Australian Frontiers of Science Symposium the Antarctic Frontier: Developing Research in an Extreme Environment.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land - to pay respect to those that have passed before us and to acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community who are the custodians of this land.

I acknowledge: Professor Andrew Holmes AC Pres AA FRS FTSE, President of the Australian Academy of Science; Professor Ian Allison AO FAA; distinguished guests.

I want to warmly welcome our interstate guests in particular to Hobart and do hope you get time to enjoy all that we have to offer here in Tasmania, it really is a beautiful Island.

In preparing for your symposium opening I referred to speeches made by former Governor the Honourable Sir Guy Green AC KBE, Governor of Tasmania from 1995 to 2003 as Sir Guy had a keen interest in the continent.

I also looked into the role of women in Antarctica and was delighted to find one of the staff at Government House, a young female honours student (Chelsea Long) studying a Bachelor of Marine and Antarctic science had actually been there as part of a traverse team - which is a group of glaciologists and technical support staff who go off base into the field. The

young student is a glaciologist and was there for two weeks, spending four days in the field and the remainder undertaking survival training. So we have a very personal connection with Antarctica at Government House.¹

Sir Guy made opening and closing remarks at the September 1996 Antarctic Forum, opened the International Symposium on Antarctica and Global Change: Interactions and Impacts in July 1997, made a number of opening addresses to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resource or CCAMLR, opened an International Symposium on Operational Weather Forecasting in Antarctica in August 1998, spoke at the opening exhibition of Sir Douglas Mawson's Antarctica in 1999 and opened the IASOS Conference to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty, just to name a few!

I really enjoyed reading Sir Guy's speeches as they give a fantastic historical perspective on what was happening in those years in the Antarctic and the Tasmanian connection. Sir Guy said in the first speech I have mentioned: "Tasmania is widely regarded as the most important centre for doing Antarctic, subantarctic and Southern Ocean science in the world and Tasmania is also making an increasingly significant contribution to research and analysis of law and policy relating to the Antarctic and the Southern Ocean."

And on that note, I take much pleasure in declaring open your 2017 Conference.

Thank you.

¹ <http://www.antarctica.gov.au/living-and-working/stations/casey/this-week-at-casey/2017/this-week-at-casey-3-march-2017/law-dome-summer-traverse>