

VETERANS' CRICKET TASMANIA
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA, MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2019

Good evening and welcome to this reception to celebrate the International Veterans' Cricket match hosted by Veterans' Cricket Tasmania.

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.

May I acknowledge among you:

- Bill Friend, organiser and Past President;
- Kel Anderson, Tasmanian Team Captain;
- Lyn Hendley, doing a great job in promoting female participation;
- And fellow Committee members.

As the Patron of Veterans' Cricket Tasmania I'm delighted with Dick to have you here this evening and I must say this gathering is somewhat in contrast to yesterday, when we had our biennial Open Day, with nearly six thousand visitors passing through this Drawing Room.

A feature of patronage is that it encourages community-mindedness and this is very evident in Veterans' Cricket Tasmania, which encourages not just the health benefits of sport but which by its inclusive nature assists individuals who may be experiencing some form of personal emotional difficulty. Indeed it has been said that you are somewhat like a Sporting Mens Shed¹ – albeit membership is not restricted to males.

Importantly too you provide inspiration, guidance, coaching and mentoring to the youth of today.

Interestingly, there is a reasonable historical linkage between Governors and cricket in Tasmania. Way back in 1832 – that’s about thirty years after Europeans settled in Van Diemen’s Land – Lieutenant-Governor George Arthur granted Hobart Town Cricket Club tenancy of its own ground. A John Marshall became captain and did not relinquish that role until he was 58, becoming Australia’s oldest first-class cricketer.

In the late 1830s Lieutenant-Governor Sir John Franklin’s nephew was a keen cricketer and thus supported the fledgling Derwent Cricket club in its efforts to obtain a ground – but these were often put to other uses, such as military purposes.

In 1862 an England team visited the newly-named self-governing colony Tasmania, which greatly helped popularise cricket here.

Governor Charles Du Cane took up his posting in 1869 – the third Governor to occupy the-then new Government House and he became the Patron of the Southern Tasmania Cricket Association. He had played for Charterhouse, Oxford University and the MCC and his interest in the game further boosted its local popularity.

Worthy of note also is that W.G. Grace played in Tasmania on the 1873-74 English tour of Australia.

I’m aware too that Tasmania has played England in Tasmania approximately 40 times since the early 1860s, without ever losing, and most of those games were played at the TCA ground where the match was to be played tomorrow but I understand it is now further up the hill at the Soldiers’ Memorial Walk ground.

There has only been one match between the respective Veterans teams and that was held in Armidale in November 2011 when Tasmania Over 60’s defeated the English Spitfires.

Two members of that Tasmanian team are here tonight, Mike Gandy OAM who is umpiring tomorrow, and Bill Friend.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion I thought I would tell a joke to do either with underarm bowling or sandpaper – but that just wouldn't be cricket, would it?

Thank you and do enjoy the reception.

ⁱ W J Friend letter to HE requesting patronage.