

**VOLUNTEERING TASMANIA 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA,**  
**BALL ROOM, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**[Vice-Regal Salute is played]**

Good evening and welcome to this reception to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Year of Volunteering 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:

- the Honourable Will Hodgman MP, Premier of Tasmania;
- the Honourable Craig Farrell MLC, President of the Legislative Council;
- the Honourable Elise Archer MP and Parliamentary colleagues from the Tasmanian Parliament and Senate;
- Alderman Doug Chipman;
- Mayor Bec Enders;
- Commissioner Darren Hine;
- Volunteering Australia Chair Michelle Ewington and CEO Adrienne Picone;
- Georgie Ibbott, Volunteering Tasmania Board Chair and colleagues;
- Lisa Schimanski, Volunteering Tasmania CEO and her hard-working staff colleagues.

This is an auspicious gathering for a very good purpose and Dick and I are delighted to be part of it.

I was honoured to contribute a Foreword to the new Annual Report which is available here this evening, and in it I note that when I talk to volunteers and to VT staff and supporters I am always impressed at the sheer variety of ways in which Tasmanians donate their time. These include in the areas of sport and physical recreation; religious matters; welfare and community arrangements; corporate volunteering; parenting, children and youth; animal welfare.

And, importantly, volunteers receive the policy advice, technical and moral support and development that is necessary for them to effectively carry out their work, often in difficult conditions and at unsociable hours.

As Governor I am constantly alerted to the diversity of the work of volunteers. In the last couple of weeks alone, through events here at Government House and outside engagements, I have learnt or been reminded of the amazing work of wildlife rehabilitators, of volunteers at the Ten Lives Cat Centre, of the dedication of foster carers, of the work of volunteers with Connect 42 and 26Ten and on literacy, with the Smith Family on school engagement programs and with Square Pegs on learning differences.

Statistics do not lie and those in the Annual Report tell the story of volunteering very effectively. I noted in the Foreword that if the countless volunteer hours and millions of dollars-equivalent were not part of our social fabric, Tasmania would be a far poorer and more needy place. As well as the statistics, the five volunteer stories in the Report add a qualitative element to the statistical story.

The Office of the Governor of Tasmania has been associated with VT for most of its 25 years – former Governor Sir Guy Green accepting Patronage in in the year 2000, in the lead-up to the International Year of Volunteers in the year 2001.

And in recent years we have hosted the Tasmanian Volunteer of the Year Awards, which are a very effective and successful way of acknowledging and thanking volunteers from across the island. The most recent awards were held in this Ball Room in May this year, with multiple finalist across ten sponsor and supporter categories.

So on behalf of all Tasmanians, and as the Patron of Volunteering Tasmania, I'm proud to be able to be part of this 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee milestone.

Thank you.