

**WATERWORKS 1861 REENACTMENT SPEECH BY GOVERNOR
FOX-YOUNG, WATERWORKS RESERVE SATURDAY, 27TH
OCTOBER 2012**

Mr Mayor and Gentlemen of the Municipal Council,— I congratulate you and this numerous assemblage of the citizens on the practical beginning now made of a most useful public work which will prove, I hope and believe, a present and a future blessing to all classes in this City—to the poor and to the rich alike.

No refinement of civilisation—no fastidiousness of taste—no corruption of luxury—no artificial delights of the palate—have ever been able to eradicate from the heart of man his innate appreciation of the blessings of pure water. It benefits both his moral and physical constitution. Cleanliness is next to Godliness. It is a means of most extensive beneficence.

It is essential to all animal and vegetable life. Applied to the irrigation of land it will make [the] 100,000 acres of rural land [reported on by Signor Martelli] to yield tenfold produce. (Applause)

It will do this also for your City gardens and orchards. It will supply baths, wash houses, and fountains to your city. It is a good gift of Heaven! Be assured, Sir, that you, as the Mayor, and you Gentlemen of the Municipal Council, who are thus privileged to be the promoters of this useful work will on its successful completion have established an ever memorable claim to the gratitude of your fellow-citizens. (Cheers)

Practically you will be the vindicators of its water privileges, which are, in fact, the too long procrastinated birth-rights of the Citizens. You also

establish a patent precedent to be applied to the waters of our lakes and rivers, the right of way for whose waters to the lower lands should also be proclaimed by law, and so made a common blessing to all the rural inhabitants in districts having water resources.

This great Reservoir, which is to store up water for the City, ought to be regarded as a sacred shrine, dedicated to the tutelar and primary element from which inestimable blessings are to flow.

The clear, pure, cool, invigorating, unpolluted water which it is designed to protect, should be approached through, and be surrounded by a plantation of every natural object of beauty, trees, shrubs, flowers and green grass, all suggesting by their visible vegetation the higher and more enduring life of man, which like water, spring from earth but has its origin in Heaven!
(Applause)

I hope the supply of water to Hobart Town may be copious and perennial, that like a natural spring "*labetur et labetur in omne volubilis aevum*" and I heartily pray that health, safety, and the favour of Heaven may descend on the citizens with the refreshing and salutary waters of their own mountain springs.

cont.

At the cutting of the cake

"I now declare the foundation stone *cake* of the City Water Works' Reservoir to be duly [laid] *cut*.

(Great Cheers.)