

**REMARKS AT A RECEPTION TO CELEBRATE THE 10<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE TASMANIAN  
LAND CONSERVANCY BY THE HONOURABLE PETER  
UNDERWOOD AC, GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA AND MRS  
UNDERWOOD, THURSDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2011.**

It is with enormous pleasure that my wife and I welcome you all here this evening to Government House to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Tasmanian Land Conservancy. It has been a remarkably successful first 10 years for this voluntary organisation with a commitment to the conservation of the biodiversity of our State. I'll warrant that 10 years ago Nathan Males had no idea that within a decade the organisation that he has headed either as President or CEO, would be able to say that it has established over 20,000 hectares of protected land at 175 sites around the State. All this has been achieved by dedicated volunteers, committed donors and working partnerships with governments and businesses. The Revolving Fund Reserves programme by which land is acquired, its future use controlled by the imposition of covenants that run with the land and then which is resold into the private sector has a sound economic basis and is a brilliant way of continually re-using precious donated money. Although I do not know Nathan Males very well - we met at my daughter Sophie's wedding but my recollection of that night is not as clear as it should be - nor any one on the management team at TLC except Jane Hutchinson, there can be no doubt that although the support from many donors and volunteers has been critically important, this 10 - year success would not have happened without really good management and first class leadership.

So this evening, as we gather together I would like to thank each of you and the many others who have played a part in this success story. There are far too many to mention by name but I'm sure you would like me to pay special tribute to Nathan Males, President Peter Bosworth, his Board Members and the staff at TLC for all the hard work they have put in over the last 10 years.

You've come a long way since that beginning with just fifty bucks in the bank and, as your first Newsletter, issued in the Spring of 2003 explains, "The TLC is a new organisation and has no paid staff. The office is staffed on a part-time basis by volunteers and an answering machine."

You face the new decade with an even bigger programme, "The New Leaf Challenge." The principal backing for this huge programme comes from the incredible generosity of a few people whom you all know well and if successful - and given your track record there is every reason to believe it will be successful - will set you well on the way to achieving your vision, viz to see "Tasmania as a global leader in conservation and sustainability; for communities taking active responsibility for their environment; for a world class and well managed reserves system; and for sustainable use of our resources."

Congratulations.

Now on celebratory occasions like this we like to provide a treat for the visitors to Government House. Together with my wife

we have adopted a practice of showing off some of wealth of talent in the performing arts that we have here in Tasmania. But my wife is the musician in our family and the director of all things musical at Government House so I'll ask her to explain this to you.

Thank you. There is indeed a wealth of talent here in Tasmania and tonight we have 2 young people with us who are both studying at the Conservatorium of Music. May I introduce a talented young jazz singer Siobhan O'Rourke and an equally talented pianist Steven Bumford. Siobahn won the Clarence Jazz Festival Young Jazz Player award in 2007 and so she commenced studying for a Bachelor of Music. She was placed on the Dean's Roll of Excellence for 2009 and 2010, and this year she commenced her honours year aided by The Association of Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society Scholarship. ADFAS as it is known is an international Arts Society that provides a series of lectures, by world experts in their field, in the arts. It supports emerging artists just as you support the biodiversity. Siobhan is the recipient of their scholarship.

The equally talented Steven, is currently completing his masters degree at the Conservatorium of Music, composes and plays his own music and has worked both interstate and internationally in a variety of bands. During the next 10 minutes to help celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the TLC, Siobhan and Steven will sing two short songs;

“Loch Brann” - a traditional Celtic folk song and, “I Love My Love” - a 1918 American folk song.