

Reception for the Queen's Birthday
SPEECH by His Honour Mr Tom Pauling AO QC
Administrator of the Northern Territory
Katherine – 1 June 2009

Firstly, I acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land.

As Administrator of the Northern Territory, I welcome you to this Reception to celebrate the Birthday of Elizabeth the Second, Queen of Australia and Head of the Commonwealth.

The tradition is that on the first Saturday in June the Sovereign's birthday is officially celebrated by the ceremony of Trooping the Colour by the Foot Guards and Household Cavalry in Whitehall, London. We quite rightly celebrate it here as well.

Australia is a constitutional monarchy and The Queen's relationship to Australia is unique as she continues to play important ceremonial and symbolic roles. In the course of more than fifty-seven years on the throne, The Queen has developed a very personal relationship with our

country as she has travelled widely to meet people from all cultures and walks of life.

The Queen is also the Head of The Commonwealth, established sixty years ago on 26 April 1949. And all around this unique association of fifty-three independent states people stop and mark her official birthday.

Nearly two billion people NOW live in the Commonwealth and half of these are under 25. That is why I enjoy the opportunity to meet as many young Territorians as possible; whether at schools that I visit, with groups that I host at Government House or as I travel for occasions such as this.

Meeting representatives of our communities is an important part of my role; learning more about their stories and plans for the future. Here in Katherine, I commend all involved in the Cultural Precinct project. This will be of significant benefit to locals and tourists alike.

All efforts contributed by traditional landowners, tourism operators, Parks and Wildlife Service, to promote the Katherine Region are appreciated.

There is positive news coming from the livestock and horticultural industries and rural enterprises. RAAF Base Tindal continues to play a serious part in the Katherine community with major projects currently underway.

I also take this opportunity to thank those of you working in health, education, police, fire and emergency services. The positive outlook for the region is generated by everyone within the community who is committed to the future and I wish you all well.

Finally, please charge your glasses and join me in the loyal toast:

TO THE QUEEN AND THE PEOPLE OF
AUSTRALIA TO THE QUEEN.