

Reception for the Queen's Birthday  
SPEECH by His Honour Mr Tom Pauling AO QC  
Administrator of the Northern Territory  
Minyerri – 2 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.

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.

This week, I have the opportunity to do the same as I drive right down the middle of the Northern Territory meeting hundreds of Territorians along the way. On Sunday, I started at Nauiyu Nambiyu, (Daly River), with the launch of the

Merrepen Arts Festival and a new language dictionary. On Friday, I will visit Ali Curung and tour the Arlpwe Art Centre before reaching Alice Springs.

Here, in Minyerri, I want to particularly thank all those involved in education. Each year, in Darwin, I meet with Trinity College students as they arrive from Victoria on their way to stay in your community. I know that they have been greatly enriched by their experiences in Minyerri. They have learnt to appreciate your rich culture and in return have been able to host some of your students at summer schools in Melbourne.

I am also aware of the positive contribution made by the Darwin Theatre Company over recent years.

Meeting the representatives of our communities is an important part of my role; learning more about your stories and the plans for the future. Seeing the new church of St Barnabas, complete with its bell, and the new police station, understanding

the sanctuary of your land, learning more about the current influences on life here at Minyerri.

I thank all those here who hold the roles of responsibility for country and ceremony. I also thank all of you that are committed to supporting responsible families and to providing a positive future for your young people. The dedication of those working in the police service, in health, education - from early learning and literacy to life skills - is all good news.

It is a privilege for me, as the Administrator of the Northern Territory, to share the tradition of the Queen's Birthday ceremony with you all.

Finally, please join me in the loyal toast:

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