

Reception for the Queen's Birthday
SPEECH by His Honour Mr Tom Pauling AO QC
Administrator of the Northern Territory
Tennant Creek – 4 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 Tennant Creek, I commend the government and Tennant Creek Foundation's efforts to reopen and sustain the operations of Battery Hill and the Cultural Centre; and the immense amount of work

being undertaken by the Strategic Indigenous Housing Program with Jularikari Council. Tennant Creek High School has also attracted significant grants, including Commonwealth Government funding under the Trade Training Centres in Schools Program.

The arts programs, investments by mining companies in the region and the dedication of those working in health, education and the police force are good news for the region. The vibrancy in Tennant Creek is coming from all those within the community who are 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.