

Reception for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards  
SPEECH by His Honour Mr Tom Pauling AO QC  
Administrator of the Northern Territory  
Government House – 18 June 2008

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Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you here this evening and in doing so, I acknowledge the Larrakia people and their ancestors, traditional owners of the land on which this house stands.

Albert Einstein said *The only source of knowledge is experience*. So it is quite right that The Duke of Edinburgh international awards for young people display the logo “Experiences that last a lifetime”.

The word “experience” comes from the Latin *experientia* - the act of trying, which sums this occasion up perfectly. ALL of you have tried something and all of you have therefore benefited simply from this act of trying.

It doesn't matter what you have tried – whether it was archery or other sports, aquaculture or a new volunteering activity – you have all gained a

meaningful experience which translates into another facet of the person you become.

It happened to me when, in 1966, I took part in the award scheme when it was known “Outward Bound”. It was a demanding but memorable personal experience.

It is excellent to see so many of you receiving Duke of Edinburgh Awards tonight. Well done.

I would now like to welcome your Chairman, Mr Steve Sjoberg