

Launch of the 2009 Darwin Festival Program  
SPEECH by His Honour Mr Tom Pauling AO QC  
Administrator of the Northern Territory  
Civic Square - 8 July 2009

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Ladies and Gentlemen, as Patron of the Darwin Festival it is a great delight to welcome you to this Launch in the new place of focus of this year's event.

Not everyone warmed to or welcomed this change at first, but I am confident they will be won over in no time. Here we are between three significant buildings. Over there is Brown's Mart which was saved from destruction when some councillors considered it stood in the way of a vista to the proposed Council Chambers. The first theatrical show there was a double bill *Lysistrata* and *The Taming of the Shrew*, followed by *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* by Bertold Brecht. My wife, Tessa, saw me in the Chalk Circle and determined to make me hers.

On the other side is Christ Church Cathedral where, before Cyclone Tracy, I performed in plays for the Darwin Amateur Musical Comedy Society and in which, in 1978, Tessa and I were married.

The third building, the Civic Centre, is where I pay my rates and register my dog. So you see this site has many personal memories.

Besides that, Jo Duffy and Anne Dunne came to discuss this site shortly after the Very Reverend Jeremy Greaves had been to see me about improving the relevance of Christ Church Cathedral within the community. This has become a rich synergy and when the Festival begins in August, this area will be the hub of much activity.

Our coming together for this Festival is the glue that binds us so richly as a community. I have every confidence that Jo and Anne and the committee will bring to us in this new venue a Festival not only to be celebrated, but to be long remembered. It is only appropriate to remember that in this special year of remembrance of Charles Darwin the bells are now in place and they add a special significance to the choice of this place.

I declare the Festival well and truly launched and may all who sail in her have success.