

Afternoon Tea for the Royal Agricultural Society
of the Northern Territory
SPEECH by His Honour Mr Tom Pauling AO QC
Administrator of the Northern Territory
Government House – 16 July 2009

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Tom has been unexpectedly called to sea, it gives me great pleasure on behalf of the Administrator of the Northern Territory, and Patron of the Royal Agricultural Society of the Northern Territory, to welcome you to Government House this afternoon. Firstly I acknowledge the Larrakia people and their ancestors, traditional owners of the land on which this house stands.

The fifty-eighth annual Royal Darwin Show is a highlight of the Top End's dry season and I am very aware that it is the collective efforts of the officers of the Society, Councillors and volunteers that ensure its continued popularity.

One of the most committed in past years was Vicci Faulds, sadly with us no more. She was an outstanding servant to the Society. Her contribution over many years was selfless and generous and she is greatly missed.

The Royal Darwin Show is a wonderful opportunity to see the best of the Top End and to enjoy the simple pleasure of a well supported community event. All ages enter everything from horticulture to horses, pets to poultry, cooking and craft.

Shows such as these have a tradition going back hundreds of years. They are also popular worldwide. In California, bizarrely, medieval-style jousting is a huge attraction. In the highlands of Scotland, there are the falconry displays. Here, of course, the ute with the biggest bull bar is a feature.

There is something for everybody to enjoy. Record crowds certainly enjoyed Show Day in 2008 and I am sure the same will happen this year.

You are all deserving of purple ribbons, as Grand Champions, due to your continuing work on behalf of the Royal Darwin Show. On behalf of the Top End community, thank you.