

ADDRESS BY  
HIS HONOUR MR TOM PAULING AO QC  
**ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**  
ON THE OCCASION OF  
**RECEPTION FOR CORRUGATED IRON YOUTH ARTS**  
Government House, Darwin  
9 September 2008

---

I acknowledge the Larrakia people and their ancestors, traditional owners of the land on which this house stands.

Predecessors of mine, entitled at that time Government Residents, rather than Administrators, were involved in local theatre: John George Knight and Charles James Dashwood were both keen thespians and there is a wonderful photograph of a theatrical group posing on the steps of this House of Seven Gables over a hundred years ago.

I have to profess a personal life-long love of the Theatre and the arts, to the extent that I even “ran away to join the theatre” for a year. Indeed, acting is a family tradition as Mrs Pauling and I have taken part in many Darwin Theatre productions and our offspring – Fred and Zoe – have acted with us and have also both been past members of Corrugated Iron.

Your excellent website promises a fresh approach to performing arts for young people and this was evident in the past couple of Darwin Festival shows. In 2007, it was the open air circus *Frenetic* and this year we enjoyed the energy of *Cirque du Funk* combining with *The Neo*.

Corrugated Iron Youth Arts has a history of producing high quality performances by young people and many participants have progressed to successful careers in arts, entertainment and media industries.

It began as a program of Brown's Mart Community Arts in 1984. Next year it will celebrate twenty-five years of providing opportunities including the current hip hop workshops in Palmerston, music and animation classes and the forthcoming *Nitestreet* to be presented by emerging Indigenous performers on 19 September.

The words “corrugated iron” are actually a colloquial term for “corrugated galvanised iron”. This is highly appropriate as “galvanised” means “stimulated or excited as if by electric shock”. Galvanising in the arts is positive for participants and audiences, and a vibrant culture, especially amongst our youth, is a critical ingredient of a healthy community.

Corrugated Iron’s passionate approach is vital in an age where second hand culture is usually the medium of choice. By this I

mean that we watch DVDs and don't participate as a live audience, share music on the web but don't hear a live performance.

From my own experience I must emphasise – there is absolutely nothing as good as being there on the night, in the flesh, in whatever capacity. A show may lack professional polish or suffer from a stumble or two, but the adrenalin rush and sheer pleasure of living the moment is absolute.

Therefore it is an immense privilege for Mrs Pauling and I to act as Joint Patrons of Corrugated Iron Youth Arts and we thank all those whose support and tutelage makes it possible to inspire our next generations of Territorians in the performing arts.

Thank you.