

ADDRESS BY  
HIS HONOUR MR TOM PAULING AO QC  
**ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**  
ON THE OCCASION OF  
**RECEPTION FOR THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL  
SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Government House, Darwin

22 July 2008

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

It is an honour to be Patron of the Royal Agricultural Society of the Northern Territory, especially in the week when all your efforts come to fruition at the Royal Darwin Show.

The annual Show has provided the Top End community with family entertainment for fifty-six years and this has been possible, in part, due to the endeavours of Volunteers.

From time to time, the Society awards Honorary Life Membership to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the organisation.

Tonight, I want to honour a very special contributor whose association with the Royal Agricultural Society extends back many years. Her time in Darwin predates Cyclone Tracy and her involvement in the community has been of great value, both as a helpmate to her late husband and in her own right.

Judy Ellis, the list of your contributions to the Royal Agricultural Society is long and impressive. Over the years you have been:

- A wonderful Ambassador for the Society
- A sponsor, with your family, of the Show
- A tireless and willing worker in Rotary Hall
- The mainstay of the Showgirl Committee
- A Member of the Arts Craft and Cooking Committee

In earlier years you helped with the Cattlemen's Champagne Breakfast, preparations for which had to be well underway at the crack of dawn. You ensured that the Royal Show dinners were set up on site and you and Percy - who was President of the Society from 1995 to 2004 - presented some memorable and delicious Christmas feasts.

You have put in many hours at the Society's Show promotions where your knowledge and patience have proved invaluable. You have also carried out the onerous and sometimes risky task of stewarding for the beer and ale judge during the Show!

Along with others who share a whole hearted commitment to the Society, you have involved your whole family. Indeed, grandsons Lachlan and Fletcher are inheriting the mantle as they can now also be found at Showtime assisting in Rotary Hall.

This Honorary Life Membership could not go to a more worthy recipient, recognising as it does your care and sincerity, kindness and loyalty. Congratulations ...

And I wish those involved with the 2008 Royal Darwin Show all the very best for a successful weekend.

I would now like to welcome Mr Rink van der Velde, President of the Royal Agricultural Society of the Northern Territory.