

ADDRESS BY  
HIS HONOUR MR TOM PAULING AOQC  
**ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**  
ON THE OCCASION OF  
**OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE ROYAL DARWIN SHOW**  
Darwin Showgrounds  
25 July 2008

As Patron of the Royal Agricultural Society of the Northern Territory, it is very rewarding to see the culmination of many months of effort.

This annual show, held at the peak of the Top End's tourist season, showcases rural producers and local organisations, and continues to be popular with all ages and interests and with local and interstate visitors alike.

My own first port of call each year, traditionally, is the Poultry Pavilion where I am constantly amazed by the bizarre assortment of fowl:

The Bantams, Mallards, Muscovys and many more, all aiming to become champions. The instruction for the competitors that *All Old English Game Cocks must be dubbed* confused me somewhat - until I realised that it meant removing the comb and wattles, rather than genuflecting to Her Majesty.

Once again, there is a full range of competitions, displays and entertainment options and I applaud the efforts of those who have made this possible. I am sure many youngsters, in particular, will share enduring memories of their visit.

When I came here with daughter Zoe, some sixteen years ago, we queued for a ride on what I note is the longest attending ride at Side Show Alley - the cha cha. It went at a very fast pace and I found myself jammed against the side of the car suffering from severely squashed ribs. Just when I thought the momentum was easing – off it went again in the opposite direction.

Upon dismounting, I decided that eating a yiros might make me feel a bit better, but just as Zoe was deciding upon her next excitement, the bag broke dumping the contents down my trouser leg.

Zoe, at this stage, gave up on me and left me to try another ride. Her admonishment “*now don't you go wandering off*” seemed an outstanding example of role reversal – she was aged ten at the time!

The enthusiasm shown by young people for community events such as this Show is creditworthy and vital for the future. I am very pleased that in a moment I will have the opportunity to award The Administrator's Medal for the Junior Steward of the Year to a young man who sees a future with the pastoral industry.

Fifteen year old Tom Macleay is a chap after my own heart. He has bred Muscovy Ducks and shown a variety of poultry breeds.

Tom attended Katherine Agricultural College for a week during Year 9 to learn horse handling skills. Last year he enjoyed work experience on Maroke Station and next month Tom will be going to Douglas Daly Research Station for his Year 10 Work Placement Program. He is a great asset to the Cattle Team at the Darwin Show.

It is now my great pleasure to declare the 57<sup>th</sup> Royal Darwin Show officially open.

Thank you.