



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
VICTORIA

**MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA
2013 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY GLOBAL BREAKFAST**

For over a century, women have been observing International Women's Day as an opportunity to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of women in our society. Across the globe, women have had the courage and determination to dream large. Over the years, they have worked tirelessly to outline their agenda for independence, inclusion and equality and have achieved impressive, tangible advancements in this regard.

A local example of this can be seen in the increased number of women studying at Australian universities. Recent statistics show that women have more higher-education qualifications than men – 54.8% women compared with 45.2% men. More specifically, women are leading the way in postgraduate study in areas of general and business management. If this trend continues, the landscape of our workforce is set to change dramatically. I expect that this and many others topics will be discussed as you ponder career success within this morning's breakfast theme "Is it all in The Genes?".

As Patron of the Rotary Club of Melbourne, I am proud that women can participate in the work of this remarkable community organisation. The work of Rotary has a positive impact on many aspects of our society, advocating for those less fortunate and thus achieving significant change in many areas that require it. Women in Rotary are in a unique position to identify issues and challenges that are of particular importance to women and can therefore steer the work of Rotary in this direction, ensuring that Rotary better represents the community which it serves.

I wish you all the best as you celebrate International Women's Day for 2013 and every success for lively debate around the breakfast table.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Chernov".

**HE The Hon. Alex Chernov AC QC
Governor of Victoria
20 February 2013**