

ADDRESS TO HAGLEY FARM SCHOOL GRADE SIX LEAVERS PRESENTATION

**By Guy Barnett old boy and Chair of the
Friends of the Hagley Farm School**

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The war cry! 1 2 3 4, who do you think we barrack for? 5 6 7 8 who do you think we appreciate - dry dry dry DRY spells DRY.

I was captain of Dry House in grade 6 at Hagley farm school in 1974. The Dry house war cry inspired Dry House students to perform their best especially in sporting competitions.

Dry House was named after Sir Richard Dry, the first Tasmanian born Premier and the first Tasmanian to be knighted. Being knighted was the highest form of honour a person can receive from the Queen.

Richard Dry was responsible, with others, for the ending of convict transportation from England to Tasmania. In fact he resigned from Parliament in protest with five others. He made a big sacrifice for something he believed in. He worked in a team. TEAM means 'Together Everyone Achieves More'! Sometimes this is the best thing to do. He was also known for helping to introduce the railways in Tasmania and helped establish and build the Launceston to Deloraine railway being the first railway in Tasmania. Just before his death in office as Premier, the Dry government in 1869, established telegraphic communication from Tasmania to Victoria by laying a cable across Bass Strait, a truly innovative infrastructure project in its day. He was a true pioneer of his day. He was an ideas man. He started things.

He was not only a pioneer but was known as kind and honourable. Sir Richard was so well respected that following his death his funeral procession lasted four days! It started in Hobart when all the businesses closed as a mark of respect and it travelled by carriage north from town to town concluding with his burial at St Mary's Anglican Church here at Hagley. Sir Richard Dry lived at Quamby - an historic home not far from here and built by his father Richard Dry. At one stage Sir Richard Dry owned 12,000 hectares or 30,000 acres, almost the size of Freycinet National Park. There are many landmarks in the Meander Valley with the names 'Dry' and 'Quamby'. My three children for example climbed Quamby Bluff just yesterday.

History is important. To really know who we are, we need to know where we came from.

Hagley Farm School students have a unique heritage and history to understand, promote and protect. This school, founded in 1855, has more than four thousand Tasmanian students from OTHER schools visiting and staying at your school because of the wonderful attributes we have to offer here in the school Farm and Environment centre. It is definitely worth not only keeping and maintaining, but building and growing into a sustainable future that will benefit not only students at Hagley but visiting students and indeed other farm schools in Tasmania.

Education opens doors. It can help create your future. May I say a special 'thank you' to this school, the Principal, the teachers and those that support your education including your family and carers. They are vital to building a better future for you and all of us.

You can be proud of your school and you can be proud of Sir Richard Dry a great pioneer, leader and kind man.

I hope the story of Sir Richard Dry will inspire you to be pioneers of your day, to be kind, honourable, and to be leaders in whatever you do.