

Date.....**23 MAR 1926**.....



A de Laszlo portrait of Lady Stradbroke, which was recently hung in the National Gallery.

LADY STRADBROKE

Great Tribute by Women of Victoria

"UNIQUE PLACE IN OUR HEARTS"

The women of Victoria paid an impressive farewell tribute this afternoon to the Countess of Stradbroke.

Women representing every women's society in Victoria assembled at St. Kilda Town Hall and presented Lady Stradbroke with an address, in a beautiful portfolio of sage green leather, on which was stamped her monogram. Inside were the signatures of the executive who organised the function, and those of the thousands of women representing members of the societies concerned.

The address was as follows:—

To the Countess of Stradbroke from the Women of Victoria, Australia. Dear Lady Stradbroke,

On the eve of your departure from Victoria, we, the undersigned women of the State, feel that we cannot allow you to leave our shores without some expression of our regret at your departure.

We feel that during the five years in which you have lived among us, you have so closely and devotedly allied yourself with every movement designed to alleviate suffering and distress, to elevate art and education, and to widen the horizon of both public and private life, that you have found a place in the lives and hearts of the people which is unique. Your initiation of the Girl Guide movement will always remain the outstanding achievement of your work in Victoria. Your kindly understanding of women from babyhood to motherhood and onwards down the years to those in the evening of life, has made you a very real personality to the womanhood of our State, and a valued friend whose kindly word and ever ready sympathy has never failed.

That a great grief should have wounded you during your sojourn amongst us is indeed a great regret. May we say that that sorrow drew you even nearer to our hearts. We wish you and yours every possible happiness, and assure you of our loyalty always and our sincere regrets that you are leaving us. You will live in the hearts and memories of many in this remote outpost of the Great Empire to which we are so proud to belong.

We are yours in all sincerity.
Lady Swanson, Lady Mitchell,