



**ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
ROYAL HOBART SHOW 2026
OPENING ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE CAROLINE WELLS
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
HOBART, THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2026**

Good morning, everyone. I am delighted to be here with you on Show Day for the iconic event that gives this public holiday its name, the Royal Hobart Show.

Thank you, Rodney, for your welcome. I too would like to pay my respects to Elders past and present, and to any Aboriginal people with us today. Your continuing contribution to the cultural, social and spiritual life of our State is deeply valued.

For more than 200 years now, the Royal Hobart Show has been a much-loved fixture on the Tasmanian calendar. The rich history of this event reflects the story of our State itself, evolving with the times while remaining true to our agricultural roots.

There have certainly been many memorable moments since the first Show was staged by the Van Diemen's Land Agricultural Society at Hobart Town's Old Market Place, now the Parliament Lawns, in 1822.

From the excitement of 1914 when Delfosse Badgery took to the skies from the Showground arena in Tasmania's first aerial flight, to the visit of His Majesty King Charles III – then the Prince of Wales – in 1974, the Royal Hobart Show has always been at the heart of the action.

Over the years, generations of Tasmanians have flocked to the Show to learn about and celebrate our vibrant agricultural sector, which is as vital to people in both the city and the country today as it was back in 1822.

Along the way they have entered competitions and showcased their skills in a wide variety of pursuits, from woodchopping and equestrian riding to livestock and food production. And of course, they have also enjoyed the many entertainments on offer, not least the showbags, rides and dagwood dogs in the ever-popular Sideshow Alley.

Throughout its long history, only world wars and a pandemic have been enough to halt the Show. Even in recent years, while redevelopments have been underway at the Showground in Glenorchy, the old saying “the show must go on” has stayed true, with the Show continuing here at the Regatta Ground and other venues throughout Hobart.

That resilience speaks to something important: the Royal Hobart Show is far more than an event. It is a tradition Tasmanians have embraced, celebrated and passed on.

The long-running role the Show has played in highlighting Tasmanian agriculture is particularly significant. As Governor, I am passionate about championing our State, and that includes supporting trade and investment and celebrating innovation in our key industries. Our agriculture sector is a key economic driver and a true Tasmanian success story, and one we must continue to tell at every opportunity.

From next year, the Show will return to its traditional home in Glenorchy, at an upgraded venue that will provide an exciting new visitor experience and reinvigorate the event as it looks to the years ahead.

As Patron, may I commend everyone at the Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania for your work on this significant redevelopment, and for ensuring that we have all been able to continue enjoying the Show while it has been taking place.

Over the next three days, there is much to enjoy here at the Regatta Ground, as well as at the City Hall, Tasmanian Equestrian Centre and Hobart Showground.

More than 400 competitors will be lining up for the wood chop carnival, and almost 400 entries have been received in the Kennels section – with a renowned judge joining us all the way from Japan this year. Arts and crafts are on show at the City Hall, joined by a horticulture display, while vintage machinery and vehicles will be showcased here.

While poultry and pigeon competitions were called off this year due to Bird Flu, alpacas, cavies, rabbits, beef and dairy cattle will all be up for judging at the Showground. And, of course, I am sure all the families with little ones are excited about a visit from Dorothy the Dinosaur, part of the entertainment program which includes racing piglets, kelpie skills displays and the animal nursery.

Whether you are a competitor, exhibitor, volunteer, staff member or visitor, may I wish you all the best as you take part in this wonderful Tasmanian tradition.

It is now my great pleasure to declare the 2026 Royal Hobart Show officially open.

Thank you.