

ROTARY CLUB OF HOBART 2022 ANNUAL ART SHOW
SPEECH BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
WREST POINT, FRIDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2022

Thank you [Mark Thomas MC for introducing HE] for your kind introduction and thank you all for joining us at this year's Rotary Club Annual Art Show.

I pay my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community and recognise their enduring culture. I recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of colonisation upon our First People. I commit to a future that listens to and respects Aboriginal stories, culture and history.

This is a very sad day, with the passing of Her Majesty The Queen. She served in her role with graciousness and unwavering dedication over more than 70 years. As the Vice-Regal representative in Tasmania, our thoughts are with the Royal family.

Together with the Honourable Elise Archer MP, Minister for the Arts, Don and I are delighted to again be part of this wonderful annual Tasmanian exhibition, your art show now being in its 33rd year. That is an achievement. Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Hobart and to Kate Domeney and colleagues – for ensuring the longevity of this important fundraiser.

This has been a remarkable week of synchronicity in my Vice-Regal duties, leading to this evening's opening because on Monday, we hosted a reception to mark the 75 years of service of Lions Tasmania District 201 T1; and, on Tuesday we hosted an art fundraising evening in support of the Art Collection of our Royal Society of Tasmania. The State Rooms were adorned with high quality prints of seven prominent nineteenth century Tasmanian artists.

However, neither of these events were near the more than 200 artists and 470-plus works on display here!

Finally, earlier today I opened our Hobart Horticultural Society's "Daffodil, Camellia and Floral Art Show". Working creatively with floral arrangements is in many respects a visual counterpart to the art we see displayed here.

So, this has been an inspiringly creative, floral and artistic week.

Regarding this 2022 Rotary Club of Hobart Annual Art Show, may I congratulate every artist who is here this evening. You are part of a tradition; part of an artistic community and artistic recorders of our wonderful island.

May I mention the new young artist categories: encouraging art in young people can be educational, as well as psychologically healthy. It is certainly worthwhile to engage creatively with paint, crayons or other media.

Indeed, for these reasons at Government House we have embarked on a project this year. Working with the Peter Underwood Centre, and Artery Art Supplies in Hobart, we send photographic images of Government House and its grounds to selected schools. These images are interpreted by the students as they wish, onto canvas boards and returned to Government House for exhibition. Our first exhibition will be held in six weeks or so.

Finally, may I also mention the inaugural Tom Samek memorial prize. This is a fitting tribute to a migrant whose effervescent cheer and unique talent produced identifiable artworks.

To the Rotary Club of Hobart, and to all exhibitors, thank you and well done again. I wish you every success. And to the viewers here, and those who will visit during the weekend, I hope you find a work you adore and one that you buy for a wonderful cause!

Thank you.