

**HAMILTON DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SHOW SOCIETY INC
OPENING OF THE 70TH HAMILTON SHOW
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
HAMILTON RECREATION GROUNDS, LYELL HIGHWAY HAMILTON
SATURDAY 4 MARCH 2023**

Thank you for your introduction and your invitation to this 70th Hamilton Show. I am looking forward to viewing many of the events throughout the day.

I begin by paying 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 and continued connection to land, sea, and waters. I acknowledge the impacts of colonisation upon our First People and commit to a future that listens to and respects Aboriginal stories, culture and history.

The Hamilton Show now has seventy years of operation. That is a very significant milestone. This is especially because it is a community event, run by volunteers. This Show as always is well organised by an enthusiastic committee. May I congratulate Mr Jack Beattie and his committee for all their work to bring us this 2023 Hamilton Show.

It was a great pleasure to be with you last year for the first ‘post-pandemic’ Hamilton Show. This Show has continued to be resilient in the face of many challenges, which is a reflection of the resilience of all our rural communities. I am delighted that the committee has been able to continue to grow the Show for this year.

I am told that your main objective is to ‘promote agriculture in the Central Highlands and Derwent Valley’.¹ Given the attendance today and your full program of events, your committee has excelled in its objective.

Your emphasis is still on wool, sheep, cattle and more recently miniature goats.

¹ <https://hamiltonshowtasmania.com/about-2/> accessed 21 Feb 23

Your food and beverages feature local produce.

There are also a wide range of events for all to enjoy.

There are chainsaw sculpting sessions, face painting, car and ute shows and even clay target shooting, something which I think I should stay clear of. I am looking forward to the working dog competitions, including the dog high jump. These will showcase the best of the training of dogs to be partners in farm work.

As always, your Show is about new machinery and new methods of farming. It is time for friendly competition, in the home and decorative arts, as well as on the sporting field.

Equally, and perhaps most important of all, this Show is a time for people in the district to get together, exchange ideas and to just have some fun. I have no doubt that there will be plenty of that throughout the day.

I look forward to sharing the day with you all, to having a look at the various exhibits and, later, to make some awards of prizes.

One of these awards will be for me to grant Life Membership of the Hamilton Show to long-time volunteer, Tony Bradfield. Tony has been involved with the Show for a magnificent 30 years. During his 30 years, he has been ground announcer and important sponsor. Tony will join just eleven other Life Members. I congratulate him on this prestigious accolade. I am thrilled to be able to give this to Tony, being a long-time family friend!²

Now, may I declare this 70th 2023 Hamilton Agricultural Show officially open.

² Email Chris Cosgrove / David Hughes 22 Feb 23