

GEEVESTON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION ART SHOW COMMITTEE
OPENING OF THE 2023 GEEVESTON ART SHOW
ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GEEVESTON TOWN HALL, FRIDAY 14 APRIL 2023

Good evening to you all. Thank you for your invitation to be here tonight for the opening of the annual Geeveston 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 and continued connection to land, sea, and waters.

May I also acknowledge:

- State and local political leaders
- Show judges, Margie Nolan, Wren Fraser-Cameron and Annie Baker
- and all the organising committee, led by Trish Tinkler.

As Governor, I enjoy the many opportunities I have to promote the work of our many talented Tasmanian performing and visual artists.

May I mention that I have been working on a project in conjunction with the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery to refresh some of the artworks on display at Government House. We plan to include works by Tasmanian Aboriginal artists and contemporary Tasmanian artists. We expect to have them on display by June.

Only several weeks ago, working with the Peter Underwood Centre, Government House exhibited works completed by students from Prep to Grade 5 from six schools. The students were supported by the provision of crayons, paints and canvas boards and with photographic images of Government House, so they could create pictures of aspects of the House and gardens. Their works will be displayed at Government House.

We have also hosted musicians, the latest as part of a recent 'Music in the Gardens' event.

The arts are not only for the artists but also for the benefit of our community. Tasmanians are increasingly positive towards the arts generally, almost half now create, produce or collaborate in the making of art.¹

Research by the National Advocates for Arts Education indicates, quote:

"There is a strong relationship between the cognitive capacities developed through learning and communicating in dance, drama, media arts, music and the visual arts, and students' academic and social skills. Positive effects of young people involved in arts-rich education programs include achievements in reading, language and mathematics development, increased higher order thinking skills and capacities, increased motivation to learn, and improvements in effective social behaviours."²

Of course, we all know the benefits of artistic expression; that is why we are here tonight.

The Geeveston Art Exhibition was launched in 2015 with the purpose of showcasing work of local talent within the Huon Valley. The Exhibition has run annually since that time, and in 2021 changed the name to the Geeveston Art Show.³

Last year, the Art Show attracted 123 entries from 61 local Huon Valley artists. Just under 1000 people attended in person. 5700 hits were recorded on social media channels,⁴ a significant achievement. I commend the organising committee for

¹ https://australiacouncil.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/NAPS-State-Documents_TAS.pdf accessed 30 Mar 23

² <https://naae.org.au/evidence-and-research#:~:text=An%20arts%20rich%20education%20from,of%20children%20and%20young%20people>. Accessed 30 Mar 23

³ <https://www.facebook.com/GeevestonArtShow/> accessed 30 Mar 23

⁴ Letter to GH from Trish Tinkler dated 17 Jan 23

those outcomes. I hope this 2023 Art Show exceeds those figures and we see this Show on the Huon Valley calendar of events for many years to come.

This Show would not be possible without the enormous contributions of many volunteers and supporters, many of whom are here tonight. May I thank you all for your efforts and support. Philanthropy is certainly alive and well in the Huon Valley, supporting many of the community events that the Valley hosts throughout the year.

May I also thank the judges for undertaking the difficult task of selecting winners from the works on display this evening.

It now gives me great pleasure to declare open this 2023 Geeveston Art Show.