

**ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA**  
**OPEN THE 2023 ROYAL HOBART SHOW**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**HOBART REGATTA GROUNDS, THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER 2023**

Good morning and welcome to our 2023 Royal Hobart Show. This is the 202<sup>nd</sup> year of the Show and the second Show held here at the Hobart Regatta Grounds.

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 connection to land, sea and waters.

As the Patron of our Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania, it is a pleasure to officially open the Royal Hobart Show for 2023. Show day is often referred to as the day when the weather changes in Hobart. Today, we shall hope for the best. We do know, however, that regardless of the weather, our community of greater Hobart will be here in large numbers to support our Show and to enjoy time together with family and friends.

October is Show month in Tasmania. Two weeks ago, we opened the Royal Launceston Show at Quercus Park, Carrick, where great use was made of the large and well-appointed Rural Youth facilities over the three days.

Here, in Hobart our three-day event timetable has been diligently planned by our Show committees. The popularity of our Shows is in no small part thanks to the organisation skills of our agricultural show societies. Together they have an ability to adapt to change, and to take advantage of change.

I recall fondly attending the Royal Hobart Show as a child and as a parent with our children. I firmly believe it is essential for our children and young people to continue to engage with agriculture and our environment. By being encouraged to attend our Royal Hobart Show, our young children and people can continue to be exposed to and learn about the essential and huge role of agriculture in our community.

One of my priorities during my term as Governor, is to support youth and education. While entertaining, our Show provides a wonderful opportunity for our young people to experience and learn about agriculture.

This is the second year that the Show has been held, substantially, here at our Regatta Grounds. However, there are parts of our Show in other locations, including at the City Hall for the Arts and photography sections, and the Goods Shed for Cattle and Cats, and at the Hobart Equestrian Centre. I encourage you to have a look at these activities at these venues.

We are not using the Showgrounds at Elwick, as there is a significant redevelopment taking place for a new arena and Showground Pavilion. In partnership with the Tasmanian Government, this redevelopment will provide some 150 new dwellings. This is a magnificent effort and much needed.

There are plans for the Show to return to Elwick in 2025. We all look forward to that happening.

My congratulations and thanks to all involved with the preparations for and running of this year's Royal Hobart Show. Your hard work is appreciated by all our community. The Show continues to be an important part of our community. In these uncertain times, we can always rely on the Royal Hobart Show to provide entertainment, education, and enjoyment for all.

It is now my great pleasure and privilege to declare this 2023 Royal Hobart Show officially open.

Thank you.