

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
ROYAL HOBART SHOW 2023 RECEPTION
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2023

Good evening and a very warm welcome to this reception to mark our 2023 Royal Hobart Show, the 202nd year of the 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 connection to land, sea and waters.

This reception is a longstanding event and feature in the Government House annual programme of events. Don and I are very pleased to continue our support and to contribute to one of our great Hobart traditions.

As we all know, October is Show month in Tasmania. Two weeks ago, at Quercus Park, Carrick, I opened the Royal Launceston Show which made great use of the large and well-appointed Rural Youth facilities there and continued the recent tradition of holding a three-day event.

Our Royal Hobart Show has similar event timelines. The program has been diligently put together by our Show committees. The popularity of our Show is in no small part thanks to the hard work and organisation skills of the agricultural show societies. Our societies have demonstrated an ability to adapt to change, and to take advantage of change.

Personally, I recall fondly attending the Royal Hobart Show as a child and as a parent with our children. I believe that it is essential for our children and young people to continue to engage with agriculture and with our environment. This can encourage our young people to continue to be exposed to and learn about the huge role of agriculture for our community and for our environment.

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

We know that events such as the Royal Hobart Show are only made possible by the unstinting support provided by many committed volunteers.

It is my pleasure to award Life Membership of the Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania to one of the people in the room. As everyone here will know, this person has been a key pillar of the RAST for many decades and is a well-respected member of the Society by everyone involved throughout the Show.

This person first took on the role of ringmaster for the Equestrian section in the mid-1980s, a role he continues to undertake to this day. In the early 1990s he joined the RAST Show Council and by the late 1990s he was a part of the RAST Executive. He became RAST Treasurer in 2002 and continues in the role of Director and Company Secretary and Treasurer to this day.

He has been a key pillar of several committees over many years, particularly through his involvement in the Redevelopment Committee during the first two stages of the Showground redevelopment and now continuing to sit on the committee during the process for the ongoing Stage Three.

I would like to congratulate him on receiving Life Membership of the RAST. Please join me in congratulating Mr Russell Cripps.

[applause; Mr Cripps to the stage; certificate presented by HE; photo]

I extend my congratulations and thanks to everyone involved with the planning, preparation and running of this year's Royal Hobart Show. All your hard work is valued and appreciated by our community.

The Show continues to be an important part of the fabric of our community. In these uncertain times, we can always be certain to rely on our Royal Hobart Show to provide entertainment, education, and enjoyment for all.

Thank you all.