

ROYAL LAUNCESTON SHOW 2023
OPENING ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
CARRICK, THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2023

Good morning and thank you for inviting me to open this year's Royal Launceston Show. It is a great pleasure to be here with you in this beautiful country setting at Quercus Park.

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.

Looking back, the first Launceston Show was held in December of 1834. There was then a long hiatus until 1873, after which the Show was held annually until 2019, when both the 2020 and 2021 Shows were cancelled, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On the 6 October last year, Don and I were delighted to be invited to open the newly invigorated Show held on this site. I was pleased to do so. It was a wonderful success.

The expansion of the Show to three days came along with the move from Inveresk to this facility in Carrick. I think that everyone would agree that the Show has benefitted from this move and has become even stronger as a result.

This year, the Royal Launceston Show hosts the Agricultural Shows; Australia National Young Judges; the Young Paraders and the Rural Ambassador Finals. Significantly, this is only the second time that all these three titles have been held outside of a major capital city Royal Show.

This is, of course, the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Royal National Agricultural and Pastoral Society of Tasmania. We know that this show has been a fixture on our Show circuit and a significant event in the calendar of this region.

There is an expanded programme of events for this 150th anniversary Show. Over three days, there will be competitions for farm animals, ranging from alpaca to sheep; demonstrations by working dogs, community arts and crafts and woodchopping events.

May I conclude by congratulating and thanking the Volunteer Committee of the Royal National Agricultural and Pastoral Society of Tasmania. Your outstanding efforts make the Royal Launceston Show a reality each year. We are proud of what you do for Tasmanians in the north of our State and more widely.

Chief Executive Officer Brian Bennet and his hard-working colleagues also deserve our thanks for organising another successful Royal Launceston Show.

It now gives me great pleasure to declare the Royal Launceston Show for 2023 officially open, and to invite you to enjoy the three days of exhibits, demonstrations, judging and fun.

Thank you.