

HOBART HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY INC
RECEPTION TO MARK THE 185TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST
HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITION HELD IN HOBART
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2023

Good evening, everyone, and a very warm welcome to this reception to mark the 185th Hobart Horticultural Society's Annual Rose, Iris and Floral 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.

It is my great pleasure, as your Patron, to host you here at Government House. We know that the Hobart Horticultural Society has enjoyed Vice-Regal Patronage for many years. I am delighted to continue that association.

On Friday, the Lieutenant Governor will open your exhibition at the Hobart Town Hall to mark this significant anniversary of the Hobart Horticultural Society. I shall be out of the State, and unable to undertake that duty. So, I am very pleased to be hosting this reception.

Since your first exhibition in 1839, your show has been held on the Domain at Pavilion Point, the Court of Requests Rooms, and other locations throughout Hobart.

It is a credit to the organisers that your Society has for many years had the use of the ballroom in the Town Hall as the regular venue for your annual show. It is always beneficial to have a secure home.

I understand that, for your first exhibition of fruits, flowers and vegetables, the Society erected an Exhibition Booth at Pavilion Point, as part of the Regatta that year.

We know that Sir John and Lady Franklin attended that Regatta and, although there is no record, it is most likely that they would have included an inspection of the horticultural display in addition to their tour of other amusements.

Of course, the role of the Horticultural Society has changed through the years. Originally seeds and tubers were brought from overseas and sold to members. Increased biosecurity measures mean that members now fulfill that role internally and provide bulbs and tubers to other members, without charge or at nominal cost.

Having been formed as a Society in 1839, your Society therefore predates this Government House building. The main neo-gothic structure was completed on the current site over the period 1855 – 1858, when Governor Sir Henry Fox Young and his family took up residence.

That puts into perspective the longevity of our Hobart Horticultural Society. You have that in common with the Launceston Horticultural Society, which shares your same anniversary and whose 185th anniversary exhibition I had the pleasure of opening in Evandale on the 2nd of September.

May I conclude and congratulate all members of the Hobart Horticultural Society for maintaining your long tradition of horticultural excellence and exhibition, in keeping with the original objects of the Society.

185 years is a very significant milestone for an organisation to be in operation, especially when run by and for volunteers.

I close now and invite you all to enjoy the reception.

Thank you.