

RURAL YOUTH ORGANISATION OF TASMANIA INC
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE AGFEST FIELD DAYS 2025
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
QUERCUS PARK, CARRICK, THURSDAY 1 MAY 2025

Good morning, everyone. I am delighted to welcome you all to the Agfest Field Days for 2025.

May I begin by acknowledging the Palawa people upon whose land we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of country. I recognise their enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, sky, and waters.

Thousands of visitors come to Agfest each year. There are over 600 exhibitors. Agfest is one of the top three field days in Australia¹ and highlights the vital role the agricultural industry plays in Tasmania's economy. This event also makes its own important contribution to our State's economy, conservatively injecting some \$26 million every year.²

Patrons will be able to discover the latest agricultural machinery, and innovations in business and lifestyle.

Agfest's official charity and wellbeing partner, Rural Alive and Well (RAW)³ provides much-needed face-to-face support programs to build resilience and positive mental health in communities across our State. I hope everyone will walk out in their best-decorated boots for tomorrow's Gumboot Day to show their support for RAW.⁴

There are activities, demonstrations and presentations focusing on the latest in sustainability, research and innovation in agriculture⁵.

¹ [About: Agfest website](#), accessed 9 April 2025

² [About: Agfest website](#), accessed 9 April 2025

³ Karen Robinson, Rural Youth Tasmania CEO, 'A Celebration of Agriculture', Tasmanian Farmer, 2 April 2025

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ [Agfest 2025 Official Guide](#), accessed 23 April 2025

There are also activities to engage even the youngest patrons, such as the Agfest Learning Trail. And for the little ones, Bluey and Bingo will be making an appearance here very soon.⁶

This year, the Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania, a committed group of young volunteers, is celebrating 75 years in the Tasmanian community.⁷

As Patron, I thank Rural Youth for your work over these years, providing opportunities for our rural young people to learn, develop and form lasting connections.

I also thank the dedicated team of young rural leaders, aged between 15 and 30, who have worked so hard to make this year's Agfest a success.

May I also acknowledge Agfest's sponsors and all the many exhibitors and patrons for supporting this year's event.

It now gives me great pleasure to declare the Agfest Field Days for 2025 officially open.

Thank you.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.