

**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA
50th ANNIVERSARY OPEN DAY
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GLENORCHY, SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER 2025**

Good morning, everyone. It is a great pleasure to join you today to celebrate fifty years of the Riding for the Disabled Association of Tasmania. As your Patron, I was delighted to host an afternoon tea in July to mark this significant anniversary, and I am again honoured to speak with you on your Open Day.

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.

For half a century, RDA Tasmania has provided opportunities for Tasmanians living with disability to experience the joy and freedom that comes from connecting with horses. What began as a grassroots initiative in Mount Pleasant in 1975, spread to Acton, Kingston, Bagdad, Snug and the Huon by 1977¹. Today, the Association offers statewide safe, healthy, and rewarding programs for people of all ages.

Through your programs, participants develop confidence, independence, and physical wellbeing, while also building friendships.

None of this would be possible without the volunteers and coaches who support your organisation. Your nationally accredited coaches lead with professionalism, and your volunteers are your foundation. Without volunteers, Riding for Disabled Tasmania simply could not operate. They are the reason this program has thrived for fifty years and will continue to thrive for many more.

¹ Email ADC and Claudia Nevah, EO

May I also acknowledge the support of the broader community, including individuals, businesses, and organisations that donate, lend equipment, and offer in-kind assistance.

To all who have been part of the RDA Tasmania story, thank you all for your support.

Congratulations on this 50th anniversary. I wish you every success on your Open Day and for your next fifty years.