

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA (RAST)
ROYAL HOBART SHOW RECEPTION
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 20 OCTOBER 2025

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to this reception to mark the 2025 Royal Hobart Show, now in its 204th anniversary year.

May I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina 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.

As we all know, our Royal Hobart Show is one of the largest annual events in Tasmania. More than 6,000 entries are received each year. Judges from all over Australia and overseas attend, from South America, to Europe, Japan and Malaysia.

This year, as ever, there is something for everyone. The Paw Patrol will be moving around, so too George the Farmer, the popular Racing Piglets from Queensland, Brian Fish's bullocks from Oatlands and Pandara Kelpies from Carrick will join the educational *Life on a Farm* activity to keep all entertained. The Goods Shed will host the arts and craft shows and a horticultural display. And across the river, equestrian events will be held at the Tasmanian Equestrian Centre in Lauderdale.¹

More than a decade ago, the Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania (RAST) recognised that aging infrastructure needed a redevelopment of the Elwick site. Since 2011, you have progressively developed the site, continuing to make progress, notwithstanding planning and other challenges. Redevelopment will include a new Showground precinct, a new visitor centre to showcase

¹ Email Mitch Spong to ADC 30 Jun 25

Tasmanian agriculture, food and wine, an emergency centre for people and their animals in times of natural disaster, Motorhome Park and housing.²

This evening, I am now delighted to present an important award, a Life Membership. These are the highest awards of the Society and recognise those who have made a significant and sustained contribution to the Society.

And tonight, the awardee is Debbie Emmerton. Debbie first attended the Royal Hobart Show as a 10-year-old. She began her work for the Society in December 1975, first as a receptionist and later in space allocation, show entries and sections. She has worked with six RAST CEOs and several Presidents. Now, Debbie is the Society's administration supervisor, overseeing several Show sections and memberships, as well as assisting with the Motorhome Park. Debbie has witnessed many changes made by the Society in the past 50 years, including the construction of the main grandstand in the 1980s and the ongoing redevelopment. Congratulations, Debbie, on your 50th anniversary with the Society and your award of Life Membership. Debbie, may I invite you to join me on the stage.

[Debbie to stage, certificate presented (photo), Debbie leaves stage]

My congratulations and thanks to all involved with the redevelopment and the preparation for and running of this year's Royal Hobart Show. Your dedication and commitment are much appreciated by our community.

May the winds blow elsewhere, and the sun shine throughout the three days of the Show!

Thank you and enjoy your reception.

² <https://www.hobartshowground.com.au/royalhobartshow>, Redevelopment RAST, accessed 20/10/2025.