

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA (RAST)
ROYAL HOBART SHOW 2025 OFFICIAL LUNCHEON AWARDS
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
OLD WOOLSTORE HOTEL, THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER 2025

Good afternoon, everyone. It is a great pleasure to join you all, along with senior members of the Royal Hobart Show community, to celebrate the successes of the past year.

One of the finest and grandest traditions of our Royal Hobart Show is the annual award of the Living Legend of the Show. This is the pre-eminent honour of the Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania. This award is bestowed on an individual who has contributed to the success of both the Society and our Royal Hobart Show.

This year's recipient has been involved with the Show since the 1960s, and it is my pleasure to announce that the Living Legend of the Show for 2025 is Paul Grubb.

Paul first became involved in the Show as a member of Junior Farmers. He assisted in the cattle shed and with junior judging¹. In 1965, he raced go-karts on the trotting track in the Main Arena.

Later, in the early 1980s, Paul's Rotary Club was asked to assist with the Equestrian Section, so he became involved in this section for several years until he became a steward for the Fleece Section. In 1990, Paul became a judge in this section.

In 2002, Paul was appointed to the Show Council and shortly after became Chair of the Sheep Section.

¹ Email ADC and Mitch Spong

Since 2002, Paul has been Chair of the Fleece and Woodchopping sections. He has been involved in Equestrian, Animal Nursery, National Junior Judging, All About Animals, as well as serving on the Audit and Nominations Committees.

Paul was elected Vice President of RAST in 2009, was President from 2012 to 2017 and was made an Honorary Life Councillor in 2017.

During his tenure as President, he also served as National President of the Australian Council of Agricultural Societies, representing all Royal Shows in Australia. During his tenure as President, he oversaw a substantial period of change within the Society.

Paul, please come forward.

[applause; Paul Grubb to stage; HE presents certificate; photo; possible brief words in response TBC]

We also have a Life Membership award to present. This year's life membership is presented to Peter Spotswood.

Peter's first involvement in the Show was in 1971 when he entered one of his ducks in the Show. He won first place.¹ Following this, he was given birds by Graham Verrier and Reg Cornish, and he has shown them ever since.

Peter won Grand Champion Bird in 1997 after winning runner-up for seven years in a row prior to this.

Peter is a respected judge across the country and has judged at almost all Royal Shows in Australia. He has also acted as a steward at the Royal Hobart Show for over 40 years.

Peter was elected to the Poultry committee in 1991, he joined the Show Council in 2011 and joined the Board a couple of years later. He became President in 2017 and recently stood down to take the role of Vice President and Chair of the Show Council.

Peter now serves as the President of Tasmanian Agricultural Shows and as a Director of the Agricultural Shows of Australia.

Peter, please come forward.

[applause; Mr Spotswood to stage; HE presents certificate; photo; possible brief words in response TBC]

My congratulations to Paul and Peter along with Debbie Emmerton who received her Life Membership at Government House on Monday. All are worthy recipients of awards this year.

Now, I invite you all to enjoy the rest of this lunch.

Thank you.