

TASMANIAN RACING CLUB INC
RECEPTION TO MARK THE 2026 HOBART CUP CARNIVAL
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2026

VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED

Good evening and a very warm welcome to Government House to mark the 2026 Hobart Cup Carnival. May I welcome amongst us State Government and Local Government representatives, and Tasmanian Racing Club (TRC) Committee members.

May I acknowledge the Muwinina people upon whose land we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their deep connection to land, sea, sky, and waters.

Hosting this reception for members and friends of the TRC is a longstanding historic event, here in this Ballroom. It is an event that reminds us of the importance of continuity and tradition.

Tasmanian Governors have been Patrons of the TRC since the first running of the Cup in Hobart, in February 1875. This year is the 152nd consecutive running of the Hobart Cup. This historic relationship is exceeded only by a few other patronages of Governors such as the Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania, the Royal Hobart Regatta Association, and the Hobart City Mission.

The Cup was first run as 'The Hobart Town Cup' over two miles until 1878. Then, it was renamed 'The Tasmanian Cup' over a distance of 1 ¾ miles. Since 1882 the race has been the Hobart Cup. Records indicate that only one horse, Tasmanian bred Piping Lane, completed the Hobart Cup and Melbourne Cup double in 1972.¹ Perhaps this year there will be an addition to this unique record.

¹ <https://thecoloursofhorseracing.blogspot.com/2019/04/hobart-cup.html> accessed 28 Jan 26

Congratulations to the TRC for hosting last year a number of significant major race-days, including the Ladbrokes Hobart Cup, Graham Family Funerals Tasmanian Derby, Melbourne Cup and Aviso TAS Pink Cup Day.

And thank you to everyone involved in the running of the Hobart Cup this year. I wish the best to all the competitors in this year's event.

Now, please, enjoy your reception.