

**REDWATER CREEK STEAM AND HERITAGE SOCIETY
OFFICIAL OPENING OF STEAMFEST 2026
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
SHEFFIELD, SUNDAY 8 MARCH 2026**

Good afternoon, everyone. I am delighted to join you for this thirty-first edition of SteamFest.

It is a pleasure to return to the beautiful Kentish municipality to experience one of this region's much-loved events.

Last year, I met the Redwater Creek Steam and Heritage Society. We learned about the railway, and the rich history of steam power in Tasmania.

Today, we have experienced these remarkable steam-powered machines, some of which date back well into the 1800s and have been restored and maintained.¹

Watching the threshers, rock crushers, chaff cutters and other machines allows us to step back in time to the age of steam power.

Since 1994, SteamFest has celebrated the steam age with displays, demonstrations and attractions for the whole family.²

This year, patrons are enjoying long-time favourites such as rides on the steam railway, the tractor pull competitions, and the Tasmanian Light Horse training demonstrations. Wood chopping has returned, and there are many fun activities for children.

A special highlight for 2026 is the celebration of the 80 years since the release of the 'little grey Fergie', with Tasmania's oldest and newest Ferguson tractors on display this weekend.³

¹ [SteamFest website](#), accessed 26 February 2026

² Ibid.

³ Information supplied by Redwater Creek Steam and Heritage Society to ADC, February 2026

This morning, we enjoyed our tour of some of this year's many displays and saw several interesting demonstrations. I am sure that the thousands of visitors expected this year will have much to enjoy.

Events such as SteamFest would not be possible without the sustained efforts of dedicated volunteers and the generosity of sponsors.

May I commend Chairman Chris Martin and all the members of the Redwater Creek Steam and Heritage Society, as well as the many friends and sponsors who support this event.

This year's SteamFest theme is 'steaming forward' and may I congratulate the Society on doing just that by making progress on several projects over the past year.⁴

It is now my great pleasure to declare SteamFest 2026 officially open.

⁴ Ibid.