

**RURAL YOUTH ORGANISATION OF TASMANIA INC  
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE AGFEST FIELD DAYS 2026  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
QUERCUS PARK, CARRICK, THURSDAY 7 MAY 2026**

Good morning, everyone. I am delighted to join you all here for this Agfest Field Days for 2026.

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.

As this will be my final year opening Agfest, may I say that that I have enjoyed each occasion that I have attended over the past five years, always impressed by Tasmania's industry and the young people who organise this event.

As a Border Collie lover, watching the dogs is one of my favourite things, but this morning, I have already enjoyed looking at the Kelpies, TKD Tradie Challenge, Anywhere Social Goods and Midlands Tractors.

I shall do my best to visit the many exhibitors who showcase the very best of our agricultural sector.

May I take a moment to reflect on the growth of Agfest since its first in May 1983. This was held at Symmons Plains, Perth, with around 100 exhibitors and 9,000 patrons across two days. Last year over three days, around 55,500 patrons attended and with some 627 exhibitors here. It is now one of the top three field days in Australia.

Agfest highlights the vital role agriculture plays in our Tasmania's economy, while also making a significant contribution itself. Agfest is organised and run by a volunteer committee of enthusiastic young Rural Youth members and ex-members, with an average age in their 20s. The sole motivation of these young

organisers is their desire to make a significant contribution to agriculture by planning and staging the best possible event<sup>1</sup>.

For decades, Rural Youth has provided opportunities for young Tasmanians to learn, lead and build lasting connections within their communities. As Patron, may I thank Rural Youth for their continued commitment. May I also acknowledge the dedicated team of young Rural Youth leaders.

I also extend my warmest thanks to each and all of Agfest's sponsors, exhibitors and patrons for your continued support of this important, enjoyable and friendly event.

It is now my great pleasure to declare the Agfest Field Days for 2026 officially open.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://agfest.com.au/history>