

**AGFEST 2019 OPENING SPEECH BY  
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
CARRICK, THURSDAY 2 MAY 2019**

Good morning and thank you for inviting me to open Agfest 2019, here in this country setting at Quercus Park near Carrick.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

Dick and I have now attended Agfest on three occasions since I have been Governor and, as the Patron of Rural Youth Tasmania, it's with much pride that I have watched this great event become a major Tasmanian success story.

I congratulate every one of the many hundreds of exhibitors and sponsors who are spending the next three days here – yes, it is good for business, but it's also a significant personal and professional commitment and for that you are to be commended.

Agfest has become recognised in the top three field day events in Australia.

It is good to know as well that this year's official Agfest charity is Rural Alive and Well. For those of you who might not know, RAW is a confidential outreach service for rural communities, assisting individuals through mental health and wellbeing programs.

Every ATM transaction over the next three days will see 50 cents going to Rural Alive and Well – so please, feel free to spend up big!

And what fabulous choices there are, as you will see from the program – over 700 choices in a quite amazing variety of events, crafts, food and drink, and every conceivable form of agricultural input.

No wonder Agfest is attracting increasing numbers of urban visitors. The collective quality and spirit of this three-day event is unmatched.

Ladies and gentlemen and boys and girls, I will conclude by congratulating the Volunteer Committee of Rural Youth Tasmania: the 50-plus young Tasmanians whose outstanding efforts make Agfest possible each year.

You will recognise them with their distinctive dark tops and logos and I encourage you to chat to them – and if you're young, consider joining a Rural Youth Club near where you live from Circular Head to Sorell.

To Rural Youth State President Dale Hayers, Chairman Owen Woolley, and your hard-working colleagues – well done. We are proud of what you do for young Tasmanians. So everyone – please join me in a hugely deserved round of applause for Rural Youth Tasmania!

Thank you.