

ROTARY CLUB OF HOBART 2021 ANNUAL ART SHOW
OPNING ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
WREST POINT, FRIDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2021

Thank you, David Berechree, Kate Domeney and colleagues of the Rotary Club of Hobart for inviting me to open this 32nd Rotary Club of Hobart Annual Art Show.

I wish to pay my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land – the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and who continue to maintain their identity, culture, and their Indigenous rights.

And may I also acknowledge the Honourable Elise Archer MP, Attorney-General, and among her other portfolios Minister for the Arts, and also Mr Dale Archer.

I congratulate the Rotary Club of Hobart for persevering with this annual show, especially during this difficult year. The twin aims of this show are to encourage and showcase Tasmanian artists of all ages and styles, and to raise money for good causes.

This dual purpose ensures that this annual art show has been and continues to be an important part of our social fabric, having been held every year since 1990. The Rotary Club of Hobart promotes the work of Tasmanian artists, with a focus on young and emerging artists to exhibit. However, there is an opportunity for both emerging and established artists to exhibit and sell their works. Works have been exhibited by established artists including Max Angus, Patricia Giles, Geoff Dyer, Tom Samek and Joan Humble.

A great deal of money has been raised at each show which Rotary has distributed widely and wisely, locally, nationally and internationally. The Show usually raises around \$20,000. All the money raised is returned to the community through Rotary Projects.

The visual arts are one of the most popular forms of creative expression in Tasmania, whether by professional, emerging, or hobby artists. Perhaps our “islandness” provides inspiration; perhaps our small population living on a large island or our magnificent nature and space all around inspires our art.

Whatever the reason, there are many entries – and many of them are outstanding – depicting landscapes and seascapes.

There is an equal wealth of talent across the many other subject areas including: wildlife; botanical works; portraiture; abstract works; whimsical works; townscapes, and more, and in a range of mediums, many applied with great skill. And presenting the works alphabetically by artist stimulates the viewer’s sense of the variety and confidence of the exhibition’s creators and curators alike.

Your Rotary Club of Hobart is one of the oldest clubs in Australia. You were chartered in 1924 and are approaching your centenary. “Service above self” is the *Rotary International official motto* and excellence is your aim of being “business, professional and community leaders who strive to make the world a better place through practical efforts.”¹

Making the world a better place through art is a fine aim and achievement. Working in the arts can be unpredictable and hard to make a living. But I have no doubt that artists know that they are contributing through Rotary to helping others, through what we know is by far the oldest form of human cultural language. Some Tasmanian and mainland Aboriginal petroglyphs and some European cave art dates at more than fifty thousand years old.

So, what we are able to see all around us here this evening are fine contemporary examples of a shared cultural expression. It is very uplifting. I thank each artist for contributing to this 2021 Rotary Club of Hobart Art Show.

Of course, I encourage all the guests here this evening to consider purchasing an artwork, and also to recommend this weekend’s show to your friends.

Thank you and I have great pleasure in declaring open this 32nd Rotary Club of Hobart Annual Art Show.

¹ Home Page | Zone 8 (rotaryzone8.org), accessed 13 September 2021.