

ROYAL HOBART SHOW 2017
OPENING ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA SHOWGROUND
THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER 2017

Good morning everyone. It is good to be here at the Royal Hobart Show again.

I begin by paying my respects to the Traditional Owners of the land on which we stand, to pay respect to Elders past present and emerging.

I acknowledge among the guests:

The Honourable Elise Archer MP, Speaker of the House of Assembly; Lord Mayor of Hobart, Alderman Sue Hickey; Mayor of Glenorchy, Alderman Kristy Johnson; Mr Doug Chipman, Mayor of Clarence; Mr Craig Farrell, MLC; Mr Rob Valentine, MLC; Mr Josh Willie, MLC; Archbishop Julian Porteus, Archbishop of Hobart; Dr Rob Wilson, President RASWA (Western Australia) and Mrs Lola Wilson; Mr Angus Adnam, Junior Vice President RNA (Queensland) and Mrs Margi Adnam.

I continue to be honoured to be the Patron of the Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania, not least because it keeps up a very old Vice-Regal tradition of association with the Show.

Last year, those of you who heard me speak may recall I referred to the very long and proud history of this Show and the various venues at which it was held.

In keeping with that theme, I want to go back to the very first show which was held in January 1822 in the Old Market Place, just in front of what is now Parliament House. There were prizes in the form of medals for sheep, cattle, pigs, best acre of wheat, barley and artificial grasses, largest crop of potatoes taken from three acres of land, and a prize for a collection of vegetables. There was also a competition for the colonist who, in the preceding year, had cleared the greatest area of land; and there were awards for the best conducted male and female convict.

So much has changed since 1822 in terms of agricultural methods and caring for and respect for the land particularly. For me this is highlighted by the work of the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, which is working with farmers to protect **their** land. The Midlands, for example, are home to one of the most threatened ecosystems in the world, namely temperate grasslands and grassy woodlands. Less than 10% of the original native grasslands remain, despite the fact that traditional sheep grazing left native grasslands relatively intact. The Midlands Conservation Fund is **therefore** bringing farmers and conservationists together to help protect native grasslands and grassy woodlands on working farms.

In other areas, the Protected Areas on Private Land scheme, a joint initiative between the Tasmanian Land Conservancy and state and federal governments is supporting landowners to conserve natural landscapes and manage native plants and animals.

So there are no longer awards for the most cleared land although perhaps there should be awards for the most clearance of invasive weeds like gorse.

The awards of medals for barley and wheat crops in 1822 reminded me, that some twenty years ago my husband Dick won a prize, a wooden trophy, for the best barley crop in Tasmania. Gossip being what it is, some weeks later there was a rumour circulating that Dick and I had won a trip to Bali!

So it is that this year marks the 195th anniversary of that first ever agricultural show and as I said last year, it's a remarkable achievement.

I am informed that the 2017 Show features some impressive entertainment including the Animal Wranglers Show headed up by Mr Lachie Cossor and, fresh from the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame at Longreach, the WSM Freestyle motocross team from Northern Tasmania, the Tasmanian Light Horse association, Michelle Pears and her Make Believe Farm Show, and the hugely popular Noah's Thoroughbred Racing Pigs.

I understand that the emphasis on animals continues with miniature goats being exhibited for the first time, the return of commercial animal classes, and a beefed-up Life on the Farm exhibit. Also, Homecrafts have expanded with more hands-on exhibits and a bigger café offering fresh scones and sponge cake. Overall there are some 5500 entries across all areas.

Another highlight, as you can see, is the presence of the Tasmanian Light Horse Association commemorating the 100-year anniversary of Beersheba charge by the Australian 4th Light Horse brigade.

I am also informed that in July 2017 the RAST elected the 41st (and youngest) President yet in Mr Peter Spotswood following the resignation of Mr Paul Grubb after 5 years at the helm. This was followed by another history-making appointment of Helen Geard as our first female Vice President. So well done Helen and Peter and congratulations to Paul Grubb for his success in his time as President.

Shortly my husband Dick and I will have a look at the cattle, sheep and poultry exhibits, which we are really looking forward to, so without further ado it gives me great pleasure in declaring the 2017 Royal Hobart Agricultural Show open.

Thank you.