

**ROYAL HOBART SHOW
OPENING SPEECH BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA SHOWGROUND
THURSDAY 25 OCTOBER 2018**

Good afternoon and thank you for once again inviting Dick and me to attend the Show and for me as Governor to officially open the 2018 Royal Hobart Show.

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

As some of you will know this agricultural show is the oldest of its kind in Australia and this is no less than the 196th year since the first ever show was held in 1822, near the waterfront at Salamanca Place.

To have such an astonishing track record, any such social and commercial activity must have something special about it. In your case, it is the unique bringing together of rural agricultural endeavour and urban attractions.

I think also it is the fact that very few urban dwellers actually get the chance to visit a farm, and so there is a perpetual fascination about getting close to livestock.

What this show and others also have is the great diversity that is literally “on show” – so that there’s something for every age group to enjoy.

At Government House yesterday evening we hosted a function for Royal Show participants and sponsors, and I mentioned that the cows that have been grazing in our paddocks overlooking the city are here at the Show. They are Short Horns and they belong to Helen White’s Cherry Tree Shorthorn Stud on the Tasman Peninsular, on loan to the Tasman District School – you can see them being shown in the Junior Handler’s section.

The names of the four Cows are Ramona, Stephanie, Enia and Ornamental (who is sometimes just called Mental!) They are delightful and we’re so pleased to have them on agistment as our friendly lawnmowers.

Traditionally, we have cattle in one of the two paddocks in front of Government House and in recent years they have been from one of the School Farms in the

south of the state, either Jordan River Learning Federation or Tasman District School.

Preparing animals for showing is an important task for students at schools with a school farm. Students have to become expert at handling cattle or sheep, ensure they are in great condition for showing and wash and prepare them for the show. All this involves the discipline of early mornings, hard work and good organisational skills. And they have to take responsibility for the welfare of the animals they are showing.

There are 15 active school farms in our State and it is pleasing to see that the Government has recognised the importance of these school farms and has committed to increasing the resources available to them through the Revitalising School Farms Initiative. Probably the best known in the state is the Hagley Farm School, and this is to become a model for other farm schools. Dick and I will be visiting the Hagley Farm School in two weeks and I am very much looking forward to doing so.

In addition to the farm at Jordan River (Learning Federation) which we have visited a number of times for Farm Fest, we have also visited the farm at Sheffield District School with its dairy and the farm at the Tasman District School, the home of Ramona, Stephanie, Enia and Ornamental, the heifers we have had at Government House for the last six or so months.

Students from the Jordan River Learning Federation travel as far as Stanley to show sheep from their Hampshire Down Stud and cattle from the Dexter Cattle Stud, which we learnt when we visited the Stanley Show during our Circular Head municipal visit last December. And we have also seen students from Sorell District School looking after their animals in the wonderful Animal Nursery at the Bream Creek Show.

School Farms are key to providing students wishing to pursue a career in agriculture the hands-on skills needed to reach their career goals, clear education pathways into agriculture and opportunities for learning about primary industries and the science behind food and fibre production.

Agriculture is vital to Tasmania's economic future and it essential that we have the skilled work force to allow us to expand this sector. Shows such as the Royal Hobart Agricultural Show can play a role in encouraging our young people to think about a career in agriculture.

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, we are about to enjoy a tour of the Show with the President of the Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania, Mr Peter Spotswood. I will conclude therefore by congratulating all of the exhibitors, the

hard-working staff and volunteers; and every single visitor, who by your being here ensure that this most famous Tasmanian event keeps rolling on.

Thank you very much.