

**ROTARY 100 MULTICULTURAL GREAT YOUTH ADVENTURE
WINDEWARD BOUND DINNER
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
ROYAL YACHT CLUB OF TASMANIA, FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Many thanks [Chris Ellis, for introducing HE].

I pay my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community and recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea, and culture. I recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of colonisation upon our First People. I commit to a future that listens to and respects Aboriginal stories, culture and history.

This dinner is a wonderful way of celebrating what has been an exceptional 'introduction' to Don and me of all things *Windeward Bound*. The sail in our harbour this morning was memorable, a delightful way to look at Hobart under sail whilst hearing about the wonderful work of Captain Sarah Parry and the crew and how countless numbers of youth have greatly benefited from experience on the ship. We also heard about the fundraising efforts for worthwhile causes of the Rotarians on board with us.

We recently enjoyed a sailing holiday – and where else but Queensland in the Whitsundays! This is a special coincidence given the circumstances of why we're here, marking the 100 Years of Rotary in Queensland celebrations.

Our sailing in the Whitsundays had to be cut short when, following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, I represented our State at the National Memorial Service held in Canberra last Thursday.

In another coincidence, of sorts: in June 2021, just one week before I took office as Governor, my predecessor Kate Warner, the first Governor to be Patron of the Windeward Bound Trust, under Managing Trustee Captain Sarah Parry, officially launched the Rotary 100 Great Youth Adventure, at Elizabeth Street Pier. I am delighted to continue in the role as the second Governor-Patron.

The 2021 launch was to have been followed by ten separate voyages of ten days each. Some 180 young people were to join the adventure of a lifetime between Hobart and Bundaberg. Covid got in the way, as it has done persistently over the past few years.

That is in the past. Now, I am delighted to be here to launch the Rotary District 9620, Southern Queensland 100 Multicultural Great Youth Adventure. I believe that Bob Calvert [Rotary Tasmania District 9830 Governor], Tim Keeler [Rotary Southern Queensland District 9620 Governor], and Sarah Parry will present details of the voyages. So, I shall simply make the observation that Rotary and the Windeward Bound Trust have enjoyed a remarkable and mutually rewarding partnership since 2010.

The opportunities you provide for young people – a home away from home on a Sail Training Vessel – are invaluable for them. You provide a leadership program but also all of the essentials that go with that: teamwork, hard work in often tough, physical conditions, unique responsibilities on the high seas, living in confined space, though having seen them, superbly and creatively set out, and much more.

I am sure that family members will worry about the potential perils of life at sea. However, they must also feel immensely proud of their children in taking on the role of mariners aboard *Windeward Bound*. And you say: “What each member of the team will have learned goes far beyond seamanship and navigation.”¹

I commend Rotary Districts 9830 and 9620 also for your partnership with the Trust and for celebrating the centenary of Rotary in Queensland in such a significant way.

And to Sarah and your crew: STV *Windeward Bound* is already a legend in our port of Hobart. She was launched in 1996, following many years of development. Today, as a registered charity with a substantial corporate and volunteer support base, your commitment to young people is exemplary. As Patron of the Trust, I thank you all for that.

In concluding, I also commend Rotary for placing the focus of the forthcoming Great Youth Adventure on our multicultural society. Bringing together young Australians from refugee and non-refugee backgrounds, is again a substantial testament to the values of Rotary, both here and worldwide.

Perhaps we can reflect that this Multicultural Great Youth Adventure initiative is a microcosm of the Commonwealth commitment to democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Thank you.

¹ “2023 Youth Leadership Challenge”, page 4 of loose pages attached to 20 September email from Captain Sarah Parry to David Owen.