

**58<sup>th</sup> SCOUT GUIDE REGATTA**  
**SPEECH BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC,**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**SNUG BEACH, SATURDAY 11 MARCH 2023**

Good morning everyone and welcome to this 58<sup>th</sup> Tasmanian Scout and Guide Regatta. I am really pleased to be here to support the Regatta for my first time. I am proud to hold the office of Chief Scout and Guide in Tasmania.

I begin by paying 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 their continued connection to land, sea, and waters. I acknowledge the impacts of colonisation upon our First People and commit to a future that listens to and respects Aboriginal stories, culture and history.

Our Scout Guide Regatta has been a regular event on the Tasmanian Scouting and Guiding calendar for 60 years. Our Regatta is unique in Australia because it is a combined Scouting and Guiding event. Despite the challenges of the past couple of years that prevented the Regatta from going ahead, it is great to see that the event is back, bigger and better than ever.

The theme of this year's Regatta is 'Welcome Back/Party!' I expect there are many Scouts and Guides here who have not had the opportunity to participate in the fun and challenges of a Regatta. I am sure that the exciting events on water and on land will provide a memorable occasion for us all.

There will also be opportunities to get together, in the evenings, at your campsites to celebrate the event and get to know some other Guides and Scouts.

May I remind you that your Scout and Guide Promises include doing one's best, contributing to your community and helping others. Your laws also include respect, being courageous and doing what is right.

As your Chief Scout, I am delighted to see how many of you have achieved so much as Girl Guides and Scouts. You have been able to do all these things because you are supported by your Scouts and Girl Guides organisations.

It also takes a personal commitment and dedication to achieve your goals. I encourage you to continue to do your best, contribute to your community and help others. Some of you will go on to become community leaders, many will work and help in your communities. The training and experiences that you have had in the Guides and Scouts are a wonderful foundation.

We will soon board the ML *Egeria*, the Governor's Launch, to take the salute of the sail past later today. I look forward to seeing some of you who plan to participate in that event.

May I conclude, and congratulate Girl Guides State Commissioner, Linda Durran; Scouts Tasmania Chief Commissioner, Phil Harper; and all your hard-working committees who do so much to ensure the success not only of this annual Regatta but also all of the many Scout and Guide events every year across our island State.

May I also recognise the many parents, here as volunteers, to support and encourage your children. I thank you for your attendance which makes it a special and better occasion for everyone.

I now have great pleasure in declaring open this 58<sup>th</sup> Tasmanian Scout Guide Regatta. Thank you.