

ROYAL HOBART REGATTA ASSOCIATION INC
CERTIFICATE PRESENTATIONS
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2023

Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to this presentation event for the Royal Hobart Regatta Association.

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 continued connection to land, sea and waters.

There has been a longstanding Vice-Regal patronage of the Royal Hobart Regatta Association. That makes it particularly apt to formally acknowledge these five prestigious recognitions here at Government House.

And in speaking of long-standing patronages, it interesting to reflect that among the closest Vice-Regal connections are those that date back to the early decades of what was then the Colony of Van Diemen's Land.

There are only a few, and I name them, in order of their founding year:

- Anglesea Barracks 1814
- The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens 1818
- The Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania 1821
- Your Royal Hobart Regatta Association 1843
- The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery 1848
- The Hobart City Mission 1852.

As we know, the decision of Lieutenant-Governor Sir John Franklin and Lady Franklin to inaugurate a regatta in 1843 had two features: first to commemorate the European discovery of the island by Abel Tasman in December 1642; and, secondly, to encourage healthy competition among the town's whaleboat men, as their work was a significant part of our young economy.

I expect many of you will also be familiar with artist Thomas Bock's 'Hobart Town Regatta 1852'. It is in the W L Crowther Library collection of Libraries Tasmania. *[HE gestures]*.

May I make two observations about that work. First, note the tented pavilion high up the hill. From there, the Vice-Regal party watched proceedings. That is why the area, even today, carries the name, Pavilion Point.

Secondly, may I quote from a contemporary newspaper about the 1852 Regatta:

The day was beautiful, and the ground filled with visitors from far and near. Stage coaches and cabs were driving spectators to the spot, and numbers of pedestrians were wending their way all day to the festive scene. The various colours ornamented the mastheads of ships in port and flag-staffs on shore.

Shortly before 9 o'clock, a large portion of the Regatta Committee, with the splendid Band of the 99th Foot, assembled at the New Wharf, where His Excellency was cordially received with enthusiastic cheering—and the flotilla, with numerous boats filled with the flower and beauty of Tasmania, gaily moved off to the starting point. The whole scene was prepossessing, and defies our attempt at description.¹

End of quote.

¹ *Hobarton Guardian, or, True Friend of Tasmania*, Wednesday 7 January 1852, page 2.

We may imagine the many volunteers eagerly ensuring the success of those early regattas. That wonderful support and energetic tradition has continued ever since.

The Royal Hobart Regatta Association has no paid employees: everyone is a volunteer. This highlights the value and spirit of today's presentations: recognising outstanding personal commitment to one of Hobart's most popular and respected sporting and social fixtures.

Today, we shall hear details of the contributions and effort of two Life Members and three Fellows.

Thank you. David ...

[invites Association President Ross Doddridge to respond then read out the citations]