

RECEPTION TO WELCOME HOME THE STV *WINDEWARD BOUND*
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
STV *WINDEWARD BOUND*, WATERMAN'S DOCK, HOBART
SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER 2023

Good evening, everyone. I am delighted to be here to welcome you home on the *STV Windeward Bound* on this last leg from Devonport to Hobart. Captain Sarah Parry and crew have spent six months away, having departed for Sydney on the 15 April on the start of their East Coast Voyage Program.

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 connection to sea, land and waters.

Shortly, I will present certificates to the trainees. However, before I do so, I would like to say a few words about the Voyage Program. The *STV Windeward Bound* has sailed more than 3400 nautical miles (some 6,300 kilometres) completing 11 voyages up to Gladstone and as far north as Middle Percy Island (near Mackay in North Queensland) and back.

Some 192 trainees have had the special experience of crewing the vessel. We should acknowledge the generosity of Rotary, with a total of 75 Clubs supporting the Voyage program.

According to Joanna Mahuru, voyages are not just an adventure on the water. In her program participant evaluation, Joanna speaks of facing fears, overcoming adversity, self-discipline, patience, perseverance, and mindfulness as areas of personal growth and insight. The voyage was, in her case, transformative.¹ I am sure that all the voyage trainees have similar experiences and stories of discovery and personal growth.

¹ Navigating Leadership Waters: a Participant's Evaluation of the Windeward Bound Trust's 2023 East Coast Youth Leadership Challenge. 2023, Rotaract Club of Port Moresby.

Welcome home to Sarah and the crew. Thank you all for your significant and continuing contributions to youth and to our community through the work of the Windeward Bound Trust.

Thank you also to the family of the trainees for their support. And especially well done to each and all of the trainees, to whom I shall now have the honour to formally present certificates acknowledging their voyage and time aboard the *Windeward Bound*. Well done and welcome home.