

TASMANIAN RACING CLUB INC
RECEPTION TO MARK THE 2024 HOBART CUP CARNIVAL
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
BALL ROOM, WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2024

VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED

Good evening and a very warm welcome to Government House to this reception to mark the 2024 Hobart Cup Carnival. I warmly welcome amongst us State Government and Local Government representatives, and TRC Committee members.

I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose Country we gather, who flourished on Country as part of the South-East Nation of Aboriginal people. We honour them, and today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community, as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea, and waters.

Hosting this reception for members and friends of the Tasmanian Racing Club is a longstanding historic event here in the Ball Room. It is one that reminds us of the importance of social continuity. I join the long list of Tasmanian Governors who have been Patrons of the TRC since the first running of the Cup in Hobart, in February 1875.

This year is your momentous 150th consecutive running of the Hobart Cup. To round off the statistics, I am the 27th consecutive Governor to be your Patron. This historic relationship is exceeded only by a few other patronages such as the Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania, the Royal Hobart Regatta Association, and our Hobart City Mission.

We have a special presentation to make shortly. Before that, may I mention a humorous observation about that historic inaugural race meeting in February 1875. On the first day, all went very well. The second day was ruined by poor weather. So, a third day was hastily planned. The new Governor

Sir Frederick Weld and his wife Filumena arrived at the course on that day in what was described as “a handsome four-in-hand drag.”¹

The third day weather was perfect, unlike – and I’ll quote: “... the discomfort caused by the dust on the opening day, and the mud and rain of the second.” End quote. But alas, not many people pitched up because they couldn’t get a third day off work. There were also some transport issues from town to the racecourse. I quote again, from a *Mercury* account: “At the time announced for starting the first race, only one entry had been received ... and a delay of half an hour took place, when only two horses put in an appearance [for the] Glenorchy Stakes, a match between *Edith* and *Atalanta*, *Edith* winning as she liked, *Atalanta* being unable to come home under the weight.”² End quote.

Fortunately, there were four entries for the next race, the Weld Stakes. One was scratched. The race was won by *Dilke*, with *Edith* second, and, quote, “*Atalanta*, who had shot her bolt, last.”³

Well done to those pioneering TRC members. They persevered with our Hobart Cup for it to become a pillar of our horseracing industry. Now, we have our special presentation.

Thank you. David ...

[Invites Brendan Blomeley, TRC CEO, to speak briefly about Andrew Scanlon who will then receive his Life Membership certificate from HE.]

¹ *The Mercury*, Monday 15 February 1875, page 2.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*