

59th SCOUT GUIDE REGATTA
OPENING ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC,
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
SNUG BEACH, SATURDAY 9 MARCH 2024

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to this 59th Tasmanian Scout and Guide Regatta. I am really pleased to be here to support your Regatta for our second time. As your Governor, I am very proud to hold the office of Chief Scout and patron of Girl Guides 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 continued connection to land, sea and waters.

This Regatta event has been a regular fixture on your Scouting and Guiding calendars for a long time. As this is the 59th Regatta, that means that it was running before your parents were born. In fact, it is grandparents who would have been around at the time of the first Regatta. You all have the opportunity to continue this Regatta and be a part of that tradition.

This year, our Regatta has a swashbuckling program with a Pirate theme. If this is your first Regatta, please enjoy yourself and try to participate in as many activities as possible. If you challenge yourself and try new things, you will grow in confidence and ability.

If you have been to a few Regattas, please try to look after and encourage our newer members. Your leadership will help our new Guides and Scouts on their journeys in our regatta community.

I am sure that, along with the exciting events on the water and on land, this will be a memorable Regatta for all.

Both your Scout and Guide Promises include doing your best, contributing to the community and helping others. Your laws include respect, being courageous and doing what is right.

As your Chief Scout and as patron of Girl Guides, I am delighted to see so many young people who have made these promises and live by your laws. These are significant commitments. It also takes your dedication to achieve your goals. I encourage you all to continue with your commitments.

History and experience shows that many of you will go on to become community leaders, and do important work in your communities.

We shall soon board the ML *Egeria*, the Governor's Launch, to take the salute of the sail past later today. I look forward to seeing those of you who take to the water in different vessels to participate in that event. I hope that you have all thought about the presentation of your vessel as I shall be deciding later which is the best presented craft.

I shall conclude and would like to congratulate Girl Guides State Commissioner, Linda Durran; Scouts Tasmania Chief Commissioner, Phil Harmer; and all your hard-working committees who have done so much to ensure the success of this annual Regatta. I also thank you all for the many Scout and Guide events and activities every year right across our beautiful island State.

May I also thank all the family members and volunteers for your work and giving up your time to make this event so successful.

I now have the great pleasure and honour to declare the 59th Tasmanian Scout Guide Regatta officially open.

Thank you.