

**MOTOR YACHT CLUB OF TASMANIA
CENTENARY LUNCHEON
SPEECH BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
HOBART, FRIDAY 15 MARCH 2024**

It gives me great pleasure to attend this Centenary event and to mark this historic milestone with all of you. May I thank the Board and the Commodore of the Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania for your invitation to this once-in-a-lifetime event.

I wish to 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.

Reaching the age of one hundred is a major achievement for any person. It is an equally significant achievement for your Club. It is a testament to the hard work, commitment and dedication of the many people who have been associated with your Club over these 100 years. May I acknowledge the current Flag Officers and management of the Club, and the members of your Board.

It is also a testament to the passion of Club members for boating and the waters of Tasmania.

As part of your Centenary celebrations, you hosted the National Powerboat Titles. This demonstrates that your Club is held in the highest regard around the country. I understand that the titles last weekend were once again fiercely contested. I congratulate everyone who was involved in hosting and organising this prestigious event. May I also congratulate all the competitors and winners from around Australia who participated.

Your Club is about so much more than elite competition. You promote healthy sporting activity and boating safety. It is through your efforts that generations

of Tasmanian families continue to enjoy our waters safely and skilfully. Long may this work continue. On behalf of the people of Tasmania, I wish to express my appreciation for all the invaluable work of your Club.

I also wish to recognise and thank you for your Club's many initiatives to raise funds for charitable organisations and causes including the Cancer Council and the Hobart Women's Shelter.

And I also acknowledge and welcome your ongoing work to make recreational boating a more inclusive activity for our whole community. I understand that as part of your Centenary celebrations, you again hosted an event to mark International Women's Day, and to celebrate 100 years of women's participation in – and contribution to – boating in Tasmania.

Over your 100 years, the Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania has become an integral part of our maritime history of Tasmania. This was emphasised this week when I read that the anchor of the ill-fated *Lake Illawarra* was installed at the Club. This is a fitting tribute to that tragic accident in January 1975, and I congratulate you all on this initiative.

Your successful amalgamation with the Lindisfarne RSL in 2008 has seen membership grow. Sharing resources has benefited both organisations and stands as a successful model for other RSL clubs. Your focus on diversity and inclusion is important and has led to your facilities being used by Rotary Clubs, Ladies Probus, Lindisfarne Sailing Club and the Derwent Storm Dragon Boat Club. As we can see today, these premises are a wonderful place to meet, relax, and enjoy a coffee or a meal while enjoying these water views.

I am particularly pleased that the Office of the Governor of Tasmania has an important association with the Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania. As many of you will know, the launch *Egeria*, built with Huon Pine and teak and first launched in 1941, was gifted to your club by TasPorts in 2007. The *Egeria* is often called 'the Governor's Launch,' as it was used as a ceremonial vessel. It has hosted visiting members of the Royal Family and Heads of State, as well as Tasmania's Governors.

It was through the efforts of your volunteers that the *Egeria* was restored to its former glory. In late October 2021, I joined you to celebrate the 80th birthday of the *Egeria* and we had our first sail on it earlier that month for the opening of the yachting season. This was memorable – with Bernie Smith as our skipper.

I am delighted to see that the *Egeria* continues to be carefully looked after and is available for all Tasmanians for dinner cruises and charters.

This Centenary of your Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania is an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate all that you have achieved in the last 100 years. A little later during the lunch I shall join Club Patron, Ralph King, to unveil the Commemorative Centenary Plaque and to cut the Official Centenary Cake.

As your Club embarks on your next hundred years, I wish you Fair Winds and Following Seas and all the very best for continuing fellowship and enjoyment.

Thank you.