

**FUNCTION TO SET A NEW UPPER TOPSAIL TO ACKNOWLEDGE A NEW
WORKING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE WINDEWARD TRUST AND
EIGHT ROTARY DISTRICTS
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
STV *WINDEWARD BOUND*, WATERMAN'S DOCK, HOBART
WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2024**

Good morning, everyone. It is my great pleasure for me to join you today for this special occasion to acknowledge a new working partnership between the Windeward Bound Trust and eight Rotary Districts.

I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose Country we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, and waters.

I am honoured to be Patron of the Windeward Bound Trust. The Trust has a very proud 30-year long association with Rotary in Tasmania and interstate. Rotary clubs and members are renowned for their focus on youth development and support for initiatives that include opportunities for youth from all backgrounds and abilities. That commitment has been demonstrated by support for Windeward Bound's award-winning programs.

"People of Action" is used by Rotary International to describe its members and reflects the organisation's emphasis on taking action that has an impact. Since 1905, Rotarians have taken action in many ways to address global and local challenges. They volunteer time and skills, they collaborate to achieve common goals, and they make financial and other investments in projects and programs. May I acknowledge that Rotarians also inspire and empower others to take action.

Last year, voyages of the STV *Windeward Bound* from Hobart to Gladstone and return, coincided with the centenary of Rotary in Queensland. Those voyages significantly increased understanding of the value and benefits of sail training for young participants.

As a result of these voyages, District Governors from eight eastern Australian Rotary Districts decided to work together to fund the purchase of a new Upper Topsail emblazoned with the Rotary logo for the Sail Training Vessel *Windeward Bound*.

May I congratulate and commend District Governors Paul Roger, who led the initiative, and David Harmon, Tonia Barnes, Christine Owen, Andrea Grosvenor, Ian Mackay, Prathapan Sabaratman and Tasmania's Mike Patten for their efforts to bring this project to fruition.

The Upper Topsail is one of the *Windeward Bound's* primary workings sails. This Topsail project by Rotary demonstrates the strength of the partnership between the Rotary clubs of eastern Australia and the *Windeward Bound* Trust. While *Windeward Bound* is proudly Tasmanian based, the success of the 2023 voyages demonstrated the need and acceptance of her programs for the young Australians who participate.

May I note that the area covered by the participating Rotary clubs extends the length of the east coast of Australia and up to Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Voyages again are scheduled for winter, with the proud use and display of the new Upper Topsail. This will promote Rotary to all these east coast communities.

So now, I have the honour to give the order:

"SET THE NEW UPPER TOPSAIL"

(The Ship's First Mate repeats the order and the sail is set by the Ship's crew.)

(Captain Sarah thanks Her Excellency and invites her to meet the District Governors and other Rotarians and a few of the ship's young crew and some past participants.)