

**SCOUTS TASMANIA
FINAL MEETING OF THE
1ST DERWENT SEA SCOUT GROUP AT THE DOMAIN SLIP HALL
ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
1ST DERWENT SEA SCOUTS HALL, DOMAIN SLIP
SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER 2024**

Good afternoon, everyone.

It is an honour to be with you all today. It is a poignant moment in the history of the 1st Derwent Sea Scout group, as we gather to mark the last meeting of the group at your historic base on the Hobart waterfront.

May I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose land 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, sky, and waters.

For nearly a century, the 1st Derwent Sea Scouts have been a cornerstone of Tasmania's maritime tradition. Since 1931, you have occupied the site at the Domain Slip Hall, fostering the spirit of adventure, resilience, and community among generations of young Tasmanians. From sailing and rowing to kayaking and land-based activities, your group has offered invaluable opportunities for young people to develop life skills, cultivate friendships, and learn about our island's rich maritime heritage.

The history of this group is extraordinary. Over the years, the 1st Derwent Sea Scouts have not only nurtured the potential of many young Scouts but also exemplified the values of adaptability, perseverance, and community. Today, you have over 100 members aged from 5 to 18, who are a vibrant part of our community.¹

¹ <https://www.themercury.com.au/news/tasmania/1st-derwent-sea-scout-group-forced-to-find-new-home-after-tasports-ends-domain-lease/news-story/067a50ec67c565739cbfb5f5489297a5> accessed 3 Dec 24

TasPorts' decision not to renew the group's lease marks the end of an era. However, the Domain shipyards' closure cannot overshadow the history and achievements of the 1st Derwent Sea Scouts.

I am heartened by your group's resilience and prospects for the future. You have secured a temporary home at Marieville Esplanade,² that allows leaders to continue providing valuable programs for young Scouts.

May I take a moment to acknowledge Group Leader Klaus Felsche and his dedicated team for their unwavering commitment to preserving this Group. Your advocacy and leadership have kept the spirit of the 1st Derwent Sea Scouts alive.

As Governor and Chief Scout, I encourage all the 1st Derwent Sea Scouts to remember, as you embark on this next chapter, that your strength lies in the skills you have learned, and the values you uphold.

Today, we celebrate 93 years of history and achievements of the 1st Derwent Sea Scouts in our community. While we bid farewell to this historic site, let us all look forward to a future in which the 1st Derwent Sea Scouts will continue to inspire future generations of Sea Scouts.

Thank you.

² <https://www.tas.scouts.com.au/find-a-group/south/derwent-sea-scouts-group-sandy-bay/> accessed 3 Dec 24