

**OPENING OF THE 60<sup>th</sup> SCOUT AND GUIDE REGATTA**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**SNUG BEACH, SATURDAY 8 MARCH 2025**

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to this 60<sup>th</sup> annual Scout and Guide Regatta.

May I begin by acknowledging the Palawa 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.

It is a great pleasure to be here with you today. As your Governor of Tasmania and as your Chief Scout and Guide in Tasmania, I am honoured to officially open this special 60th anniversary of the Tasmanian Scout and Guide Regatta.

This Regatta is a cherished tradition, bringing together Scouts, Guides, Leaders, Rovers, volunteers, and families from across our State for a weekend of camaraderie, competition, and adventure.

In 1964, 165 competitors paid the equivalent of about \$1.50 to participate in what was then called the Sea Scouts/Sea Ranger Regatta. 63 of the competitors from outside the Hobart area were billeted. There were Sea Scout groups from 18th Launceston, 2nd George Town, 1st Derwent, 2nd Prince of Wales Bay and 1st Kingston.

Sea Rangers were Guides over 16 years who belonged to a Sea Ranger unit and were invited to attend. So, Sea Rangers from Sea Ranger Ships — *Albatross* (Lindisfarne), *Discovery* (Hobart), *Heemskerk* (Launceston) and *Mercury* (Kingston) attended. Since then, regattas have been held in Hobart, Snug, St Helens, George Town, Port Sorell, Deviot and Strahan.

The Regatta in 1964 included events that appear on the schedule for this weekend, including the greasy pole, sailing, and rowing. Today's gathering has expanded to over 600 participants.

This weekend will see exciting challenges on land and water—sailing, rowing, kayaking, raft-building, and, of course, the legendary greasy pole! And I understand that tomorrow, 100 eager Cubs and Junior Guides will arrive (or, to quote Regatta Chairman, Mike Wilson – will invade) to get a taste of the Regatta experience. Undoubtedly, they will look up to all of you as role models of teamwork, leadership, and resilience.<sup>1</sup>

As we reflect on 60 years of Regatta tradition, may we welcome Sea Rangers who attended the very first Regatta in 1964. The fact that the Regatta is still a high point on the Scout and Guide calendar is a testament to the event's popularity. Their presence is a reminder of the legacy that has shaped this event—and of the lifelong friendships that scouting and guiding foster. Let's welcome back Helen Larner, Ann Kruse, Sieneke Martin, Roby Cornelius, Marie Bowden, and Helen Ford.

May I make particular note of a great honour that was announced yesterday. Girl Guides Tasmania joined many outstanding individuals and organisations, and was inducted into the Honour Roll of Women! That Award was for community advocacy and inclusion, and education and training. The Award also recognises that, since 1911, Girl Guides have been at the forefront of initiatives and activities encouraging girls to explore their potential, develop leadership skills, and contribute positively to the community. I congratulate all Girl Guides and those who support the organisation on this achievement.

To all participants: take pride in being part of a movement that values respect, service, and courage—principles that will serve you well throughout your life.

To the leaders, volunteers, and families who make this event possible, thank you for your dedication and support. Your commitment ensures these young people gain experiences that shape their confidence, capabilities, and community-mindedness.

As your Chief Scout and Chief Guide, I am pleased to declare this 60th Tasmanian Scout and Guide Regatta officially open.

Enjoy the weekend, stay safe, and most importantly—have fun!

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<sup>1</sup> Email Katrina Spark / David Hughes 28 Feb 25