

**THE WINDEWARD BOUND TRUST
RECEPTION TO MARK THE DEPARTURE OF
STV *WINDEWARD BOUND*
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 3 APRIL 2025**

VICE REGAL SALUTE

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to Government House.

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 deep connection to land, sea and waters, and their ongoing commitment to community.

I am pleased to be with you tonight to celebrate the departure of the *Windeward Bound* on her long voyage up the east coast of Australia for the 2025 Youth Leadership Challenge.

Windeward Bound is a beautiful presence in Hobart's docks and has:

- sailed over 100,000 nautical miles
- circumnavigated Tasmania and the Australian continent
- sailed to New Zealand (and back!), and
- crossed Bass Strait more than 30 times.

As many here know, the *Windeward Bound*, under the caring leadership of Captain Sarah Parry and her crew, and the Windeward Bound Trust, has become a standard-bearer in the development of young people, and particularly those with disadvantage.

This has developed into the Youth Leadership Challenge, a series of transformative 10-day voyages to foster leadership, inclusiveness, and community spirit.

The East Coast Challenge was established in 2023, through a partnership with Rotary International, particularly the Tasmanian, Queensland, and New South Wales districts.

Rotary support includes recruitment and other logistical and operational tasks, and allows Captain Parry and crew to get on with sailing and training. Rotary also assists with financial support to trainees, complementing the Windeward Bound Trust's ethos of no applicant missing out on the opportunity to sail.

This year, the Challenge provides 10 separate voyages, heading as far north as Mackay in Queensland.

The Challenge requires young people to live, work and play with people they have never met before, and to take responsibility for their actions. Captain Parry and her crew ensure the highest standards of safety and care on *Windeward Bound*, and teach participants to develop their skills and learn about life at sea.

As one sail trainee put it, I quote:

*The crew onboard the Windeward Bound played a huge role in making the experience so great... I gained skills that would help me sail a tall ship, but more importantly I gained skills I can take away from the experience like working effectively as a team, communicating with others and sharing empathy for others.*¹

May I also acknowledge the Windeward Bound Trust members, who are volunteers, and work tirelessly to ensure the Trust's mission to foster good character and a spirit of enterprise in the youth of Tasmania and Australia.

¹ <https://www.windewardbound.com.au/our-impact>

May I thank everyone here tonight who has supported the *Windeward Bound*, the Trust and particularly the East Coast Challenge. Your support is making a difference to many young people.

For those who are embarking on the East Coast Challenge, I wish you all safe voyage.

Please now enjoy your reception.

Thank you.