

**RECEPTION TO MARK THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
CRUISING YACHT CLUB OF TASMANIA
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 5 MAY 2025**

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 enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, sky and waters.

I am pleased to be with you to celebrate the 50-year journey of your Cruising Yacht Club of Tasmania. Your first meeting was held at Donald and Anne Sutherland's house on 9 May 1975 with your first cruise to Rosebanks in Barnes Bay, later that year.

May I particularly welcome founding members of the Club, Erika Shankley and her son, Chris Creese. May I also acknowledge Life Members and other long-term Club members. I hope that you all enjoy the evening.

As you know, your Club's history up to 2015 is captured in two publications¹ by Erika Shankley. Tonight, we celebrate the launch of your latest instalment: *50 Golden Years, the continuing history of the CYCT 2015 – 2025* by Julie Macdonald and Erika Shankley. I look forward to further instalments in the years to come!

I confess that I am not much of a sailor, however I do enjoy the annual opening of our sailing season aboard the ML *Egeria* and the opportunity to view the yachts and cruising boats. It is always an impressive sight, and I can see why you all love sailing, particularly 'cruising in company', one of your Club's stated aims.

¹ Erika Johnson (1996), *Cruising Yacht Club of Tasmania Inc. Twenty One Years 1975–1996*; Erika Shankley (2015), *Fair Winds and Smooth Sailing: History of the Cruising Yacht Club of Tasmania Inc 1996–2015*.

It is a thrill to cruise to and anchor in a secluded Tasmanian inlet and enjoy the company of those who would subscribe to the *Wind in the Willows*' Water Rat's proposition that, 'there is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats'!²

Although I can also imagine it is not always 'plain sailing'. The unpredictable weather that we can experience in Tasmania must make for some testing journeys. As suggested elsewhere, sailing is, 'the fine art of getting wet and becoming ill while slowly going nowhere at great expense'.³ Perhaps sometimes it is the journey, and at other times the destination!

I was impressed to read about the support and education provided to members by the Club and its volunteers.

In particular, your *Women in Boats* program ensures that more women are involving themselves in all aspects of sailing.

May I close with a quote from a Club member that I believe captures what you are celebrating tonight:

*When you sail for the first time, you have one of two experiences: it becomes a one-time bucket-list thing you check off your list; or it becomes a part of your soul forever.*⁴

I can see that tonight, there are many forever souls!

I congratulate you all on 50 years of the CYCT and hope that it may long continue.

Please enjoy your reception and time here at Government House.

Thank you.

² Kenneth Grahame, *Wind in the Willows*.

³ Henry Beard and Roy McKie, *A Dictionary for Landlubbers, Old Salts and Armchair Drifters*, quoted in *Fair Winds and Smooth Sailing: History of the Cruising Yacht Club of Tasmania Inc 1996-2015*.

⁴ Michelle Segrest: https://www.cyct.org.au/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=801661&module_id=270217