

**MORNING TEA TO MARK THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE EASTERN SHORE RAMBLERS INC
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 16 JUNE 2025**

Good morning, and a warm welcome to you all to Government House to celebrate your Eastern Shore Ramblers Club's 50th anniversary.

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.

In January, I had the honour of recognising another, more solemn half-century milestone – the anniversary of our Tasman Bridge disaster.

That tragedy not only claimed the lives of twelve people but also had a profound impact on Hobart. Our city was cut in half, leaving those on the Eastern Shore without easy access to their workplaces or their usual recreational, social, and sporting activities.

Just a few months after the bridge collapse, an enterprising group of residents led by Mr Gordon Goward saw the need for a ramblers' club for the Eastern Shore.¹

In May 1975, the Club held its first walk at Risdon Brook Dam. Thirty-five people crossed the lower slopes of Mt Direction and had lunch at the Bowen monument.²

Since that first day out, your Club has gone from strength to strength. Today, you have nearly 100 members, all of whom regularly appreciate the environment, enjoy bushwalking, and prioritise good physical and mental health.

¹ Information supplied by Club President Brendon Bowes, 25 April 2025

² Information supplied by Club President Brendon Bowes, 25 April 2025

Your Club holds walks every Sunday, catering to all interests and fitness levels, as well as social activities such as annual dinners, Christmas celebrations, and weekends away beyond Hobart.³

Over the years, you have stayed and walked in all areas of our State, from Strathblane in the south, to Marrawah in the north; and from Maria Island in the east to Strahan in the west.

All of your activities would not be possible without the time and energy of your volunteers, including your walk coordinators and the Club executive.

May I congratulate you once again on your Club's 50th anniversary. Here's to another fifty years – and more – of rambling across Hobart's Eastern Shore and beyond.

Please enjoy your morning tea.

³ Ibid.