

ROLEX SYDNEY TO HOBART YACHT RACE 2025
ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
HOTEL GRAND CHANCELLOR, FEDERATION CONCERT HALL, HOBART
WEDNESDAY 31 DECEMBER 2025

Thank you, Nick, and good afternoon to you all.

May I acknowledge the Muwininna people upon whose land we gather and today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their deep connection to land, sea, sky, and waters.

This 80th Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race has again demonstrated that it is a challenge not only to skill and endurance, but also to the dangerous and high seas. This year, crews battled tough conditions. Over a quarter of the fleet was forced to retire.¹

Since its inception in 1945, this Race has maintained its international reputation for sailing excellence, and also connects our two great cities, Sydney and Hobart.

This year, a Parade of Sail preceded the race start to recognise the founders of the Sydney Hobart Yacht Race 80 years ago. The Parade of Sail included the Sail Training Ship *Young Endeavour*, as the lead ship, as well as classic yachts and previous winning and record holding yachts. May I mention that this is the final year for the *Young Endeavour* to be the Flagship for the Rolex Sydney Hobart Race. The Parade reminds us that the first race saw just nine boats set sail, quite a different fleet from this year. The race has grown and evolved over the years, with as many as 371 boats entering the 50th anniversary of the Race in 1994.²

¹ [More than a quarter of Sydney to Hobart fleet retires as leaders head down Tasmania's east coast - ABC News](#)

² <https://rolexsydneyhobart.com/race/2025/news/pre-race/parade-of-sail-to-set-the-scene-for-80th-sydney-hobart/> accessed 23 Dec 25

This year, solemnly and fittingly, as each yacht passed Bondi, rose petals were scattered to pay tribute to each of the 15 innocent lives taken in the Bondi terror attack.³

May I now congratulate *Master Lock Comanche*, this year's Line Honours winner, and skippers Matt Allen and James Mayo. You arrived in Hobart just after 6.00 pm on 28 December, a race time of 2 days, 5 hours, 3 minutes, and 36 seconds.^{4 5}

My congratulations also to *Law Connect*, second across the line and to *SHK ScallyWag 100*, in third place.⁴

And to *Min River*, the overall winner on handicap and to co-skippers Jiang Lin and Alexis Loison, congratulations. You have made history, becoming the first double handed yacht and the first with a female skipper to take out the overall win⁶.

Commiserations to *BNC* and to co-skippers Yann Rigal and Michael Quinton for the upheld protest.

Finally, congratulations to all competitors.

On behalf of everyone involved, may I thank the organisers, volunteers, and staff, who have all again put in great efforts.

Thank you, Rolex, for your continued sponsorship of this Race since 2002. Your support has indeed maintained this blue water classic as one of the world's most exacting, challenging and famous ocean races.

Thank you.

³ [Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race: Sydney to Hobart crews pay tribute to Bondi victims by scattering rose petals](#)

⁴ [80th ROLEX Sydney Hobart Yacht Race](#)

⁵ [Sydney to Hobart yacht race 2025 | Line honours winner: Master Lock Comanche](#)

⁶ [Min River takes out overall win in 2025 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race after protest against BNC - ABC News](#)