

**RECEPTION FOR THE ROYAL HOBART REGATTA ASSOCIATION INC
TO MARK THE 188th ROYAL HOBART REGATTA
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2026**

[Vice-Regal Salute is played]

Good evening, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to Government House to mark the 188th Royal Hobart Regatta.

May I acknowledge 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 delighted to host this reception for the Royal Hobart Regatta, which is an important fixture on the Governor's calendar.

This year the Office of the Governor is supporting the Regatta Committee's aim of bringing the Regatta back to where it all began, on the Queen's Domain. We are aware of one of my predecessor's concerns in 1855 about broken beer bottles and other rubbish that accumulated on the Domain during the Regatta.¹ In spite of that concern, the gardens of Government House will certainly be open to the public on Sunday, as part of the Regatta program. There should be plenty of room to picnic and to enjoy the view along the Derwent. To avoid the potential for a recurrence of the events of 1855, we will, however, not be providing free beer. And there will be plenty of bins in our grounds!

On this year of the 188th Royal Hobart Regatta, I acknowledge the Association's response to community expectations and the challenge of rival events, while remaining faithful to its original purpose. It is also a wonderful reflection on the Association's volunteer nature that the Regatta remains a free event for everyone to attend and enjoy. At a time of increasing costs, I commend the Committee for maintaining that position. Incidentally, 188 in numerology signifies abundance, success and progress, so keep up the fine work.²

¹ <https://www.hobarthistory.com.au/the-first-hobart-regatta/> accessed 27 Jan 26

² www.astrology.com/numerology/angel-numbers/188-meaning accessed 29/01/2026.

You may notice a solid silver cup on the table. This year, the Royal Hobart Regatta Association has taken custodianship of the Sir Thomas Lipton Cup. This Cup was originally donated by Sir Thomas to the Regatta Association and the Royal Yacht Club in 1914. It is still utilised for Lipton Cup sailing events. The display of this Cup tonight is a fitting symbol of the regard in which the Association is held and the strong links to sailing in Tasmania.³

Since 1838, the Regatta has attracted more than half a million spectators and held 10,000 events. May I acknowledge the support of more than 250 volunteers each year⁴ and all the staff, who devote hundreds of hours to planning, preparing, and managing the many events, on land and water, and that make the Regatta such a fixture on our Tasmanian calendar.

May I congratulate and thank everyone who is part of our Festival and everyone who has worked to bring us another Royal Hobart Regatta.

And now, please enjoy the reception. Thank you.

³ Email Joel Solak 23 Jan 26

⁴ <https://royalhobartregatta.com/about-us/> accessed 28 Jan 26