OPENING OF THE 61ST SCOUT AND GUIDE REGATTA
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
SNUG BEACH, SATURDAY 7 MARCH 2026

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to this 61st annual Scout and Guide Regatta.

For more than six decades, this Regatta has been a highlight of the Scouting and Guiding year in Tasmania. Since the first regatta in 1964, with just 165 competitors,[1] this event has grown into a longstanding institution that provides a unique mix of challenge, camaraderie, skill and fun, on both land and water. This year marks the 100th anniversary of Founders and Thinking Day as your theme.[2]

If this is your first Regatta, may I encourage you to get involved in the many activities. Whether you're keen to learn how to row a patrol boat, paddle a kayak, or sail a Pacer dinghy – or you'd rather stay dry with activities such as gumboot throwing, sandcastle building, and relay races – there's something for everyone.[3] For those who have been to many Regattas, your leadership, encouragement, and example continue to welcome others into this vibrant Regatta community.

The promises and laws you live by[4] – doing your best, helping others, showing respect and courage – are at the heart of Scouting and Guiding, and they are clearly evident in this gathering of enthusiastic young people.

Today we also celebrate and thank the people behind the scenes – the State Commissioners, Regatta committees, Leaders, volunteers and families whose efforts and dedication make this weekend possible. Events of this scale do not happen without all their thoughtful planning, hard work, and enormous enthusiasm. So, to every participant and supporter: thank you for your commitment, your energy, and the spirit you bring to this event.

It is my great pleasure and honour to now declare this 61st Tasmanian Scout and Guide Regatta officially open.

Enjoy the weekend.

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[1] 202502newsletter.pdf
[2] Notes provided to ADC / Mike Wilson, Chair
[3] Scout Guide Regatta 2026
[4] Promise and Law | Scouts Australia