

**RECEPTION TO MARK THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF
SKÅL INTERNATIONAL HOBART
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 2026**

Good evening, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to Government House as we mark the 60th anniversary of SKÅL International Hobart.

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.

Tonight, we celebrate a significant milestone. For 60 years, SKÅL Hobart has brought together leaders from our State's tourism, hospitality, and related industries, with a commitment to professional excellence, ethical business practice, and promoting Tasmania as a premier destination.¹ You have played a major role in fostering connection, leadership and collaboration.

Over these past six decades of our Tasmania's tourism and hospitality industries, we have seen exciting milestones including the opening of the Wrest Point Hotel Casino in 1973 and MONA in 2011. You have also weathered challenges such as the 1989 Pilots' Strike and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now, we welcome more than 1.3 million visitors each year.² Some 15 per cent of our Tasmanian businesses rely on tourism, and 1 in 6 Tasmanian jobs are supported by your sector.³

May I acknowledge SKÅL Hobart's contribution to our visitor economy over the past 60 years. May I also commend your members, past and present, as well as all individuals and organisations who have supported our tourism industry.

¹ Information supplied by Katherine Halliday to OS, 3 November 2025

² [Tasmania's Story of Tourism](#), accessed 11 March 2026

³ Ibid.

Thank you for the role you have played in making Tasmania a welcoming and memorable place for visitors.

Last week, here at Government House, Queen Mary of Denmark offered a toast, which of course in Danish is *skål*.

This toast has been adopted by you to unite members around the world – so let us raise a glass to happiness, good health, friendship and long life.⁴ So, ‘skål’!

I wish you congratulations on your anniversary. May you look ahead to another 60 years of success, both for SKÅL Hobart and our Tasmanian tourism sector.

Please enjoy your reception.

Thank you.

⁴ Information supplied by Katherine Halliday to SMCA, 20 March 2026