

2019 LAUNCESTON TO HOBART YACHT RACE
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
DERWENT SAILING SQUADRON
TUESDAY 31 DECEMBER 2019

Good afternoon everyone. It's a great pleasure for my husband Dick and me to be here again at the Derwent Sailing Squadron and to have the honour to assist in the presentation of the 2019 Riversdale Estate Wines Launceston to Hobart Yacht Race trophies.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land—the Mouheneener people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession and yet who continue to maintain their identity, culture and indigenous rights.

This race complements the Melbourne to Hobart and the Sydney to Hobart yacht races and was created to take advantage of the celebration of racing that goes with these races. But as we celebrate the competitors and the New Year we must also remember all those who are in danger from these unprecedented December bush fires here in Tasmania, and in Victoria and New South Wales and the volunteer firefighters who are risking their lives.

There was a field of 19 yachts this year for the thirteenth year of this race from Beauty Point at the mouth of Tamar River, then around Cape Portland, down the East Coast, inside Maria Island, across Storm Bay and up the Derwent to the finish line at Castray Esplanade.

For the last few years line honours has been a duel between Peter Cretan's *Tilt* and Gary Smith's *The Fork in the Road*. But this year it has been a duel between *The Fork in the Road* and Robert Green's *Dream*, which was first to Low Head. On Saturday night the majority of the fleet battled the tide and thick fog through Banks Strait with *Lawless* and *Footloose* within metres of each other.

Despite a strong challenge from *Dream* for the whole of the race, *The Fork in the Road* was first across the line at 3.22 pm on Sunday, just 10 minutes ahead of *Dream* with *Rad* third some 40 minutes later.

Melbourne yacht, Tim Olding's *Vertigo* overtook *Heatwave* overnight on Saturday and crossed the line on Sunday afternoon less than a minute ahead of *Heatwave* to become the IRC Handicap winner.

I would like to offer my congratulations to all the yachts that entered and finished the race this year and a special welcome to interstate crews.

And I would like to thank the major sponsor of the event, Riversdale Wines; and to Supporting Partners: Cascade Breweries, TasPorts, Peter Johnston Ship Chandlery, Tasbulk and Musto Australia.

And needless to say I express my thanks, on behalf of all of you, to the Derwent Sailing Squadron, which conducts the race with the cooperation of the Tamar Yacht Club. It's a big effort putting together an offshore race like this one.

Thank you.