

**AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC DIVISION  
OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF RSV *NUYINA*  
SPEECH BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
MAC02, HUNTER STREET, HOBART, SATURDAY 18 DECEMBER 2021**

Our thoughts this morning continue to be with the families of the five victims of the Hillcrest Primary School tragedy, and those whose children are in hospital.

We thank the friends of those families for the support they are offering at this most difficult time.

We thank the Devonport community for your strong support for each other, and we thank all of those Tasmanians who are doing what they can, professionally and privately, to work through this very sad tragedy.

Distinguished guests, including:

- Their Excellencies
- The Prime Minister
- The Premier of Tasmania
- Sir Guy Green.

—I am honoured as Tasmania's 29<sup>th</sup> Governor to be associated today with the launch of RSV *Nuyina*.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people.

Twenty-three years ago, in Hobart, our then Governor of Tasmania, Sir Guy Green, opened an international symposium on Operational Weather Forecasting in Antarctica. Sir Guy said, and I quote:

“For over 160 years Hobart has been closely involved in every aspect of activity relating to the Antarctic, the Subantarctic and the Southern Ocean... The involvement of Tasmanian scientists, suppliers of products and services, the Port of Hobart, the general community and even the Office of Governor, in the exploration and study of

the Antarctic and Subantarctic which started all those years ago, has continued down to the present day.” End of quote.

May I give some historical context in support of this:

- In 1837 French Captain Dumont d’Urville’s exploration vessel, *L’Astrolabe*, set out from Hobart in 1837 on a groundbreaking Antarctic voyage.
- In 1841 Captain James Clark Ross RN, with Lieutenant-Governor Sir John Franklin established a southern hemisphere magnetic observatory in Hobart, and then set out on his voyage in search of the magnetic South Pole.
- In 1912, after his momentous expedition to the South Pole, Roald Amundsen’s first landfall, in his vessel *Fram*, was Hobart, and was from where he sent his famous telegram.
- And between 1907 and 1931, Sir Douglas Mawson provisioned and set out from Hobart on each of his three epic Antarctic voyages.

Today, some 42 per cent of Antarctica is administered from Tasmania, while Tasmanian businesses have long been at the forefront of supplying cold-climate products and services.

Many recipients of prestigious Australian Antarctic Medals have been invested at our Government House here in Hobart.

And such has been this enduring strength and commitment of Tasmanians to Antarctic exploration, scientific advancement and protection of that great landmass, that we we are now home to RSV *Nuyina*, the world’s most advanced oceanic research and icebreaking vessel.

I heartily congratulate everyone involved in bringing us to this historic moment in Antarctic research.

And in conclusion, to all Australian Antarctic Division personnel, on behalf of every Tasmanian, I thank you for your dedication to your work. We wish you all the very best in your custodianship of RSV *Nuyina*. As our Governor-General has said, our brand new ship means “southern lights,” in palawa kani, the language of our island’s First Peoples.

Thank you.