

**75<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY OF MOTOR LAUNCH EGERIA**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AM,**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**HOBART THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER 2016**

Good afternoon and thank you for inviting me to attend and share in this celebration of the M.L. Egeria's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land—to pay respect to those that have passed before us and to acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community who are the custodians of this land

As many of you here today would know, the ML Egeria, 'the Governor's launch', is a 18.9m Huon Pine carvel Motor Launch with Teak combings and white beech decking.

Designed by John L. Thorneycroft (c. 1937) she was built by Purdon & Featherstone, of Napoleon Street, Battery Point for the Hobart Marine Board. Egeria was launched on 20 October 1941 and replaced the old steam vessel of the same name. Egeria was named after HMS Egeria, flagship for The Hobart Regattas of January 1888 and 1889.

The Australian Navy requisitioned Egeria for harbour patrol in the River Derwent in June 1942. The Egeria then worked as a naval auxiliary launch.

Initially built as the Harbour Master's Launch, she later became known as the Governor's launch, conveying many distinguished guests, including Royalty and our Tasmanian Governors, around the harbour.<sup>1</sup> Prince Charles and the Late Princess Diana are among the royal guests who have been on board.

The Egeria was 'sold' to the Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania in 2006 and has continued to be used as a Vice Regal launch.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://ehive.com/collections/3906/objects/501066/egeria>

I am informed that the Club has over 600 members today involved in all aspects of recreational boating, power boat racing, pleasure cruising and sailing and that it is a club with a strong sense of community and history.<sup>2</sup>

The Egeria is crewed by the club's volunteer professional skippers and crewed by trained volunteer crews and is available for private charter. Income from these operations goes towards upkeep and improvement of the Egeria as well as providing the opportunity for the community to enjoy her charms.<sup>3</sup>

I am informed that there have been thousands of working hours put in by a diligent and growing group. 'Friends of the Egeria'. This enormous volunteer effort has been critical in getting this wonderful craft to its 75th birthday and it is in the best condition it has been in for decades.<sup>4</sup>

I understand that generous funding has been received from the Tasmanian Community Fund and also that the MYCT and its membership have contributed considerable funds.

A cursory Google search reveals that the M.L. Egeria has quite an Internet profile, with hits including its current home here at the Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania, to articles in the Mercury newspaper, to the ABC with Christopher Lawrence, a TasPorts brochure, links with the Wooden Boat Festival and the Australian National Maritime Museum. So it's fair to say the Egeria is a famous 75-year old.<sup>5</sup>

Dick and I enjoyed a day on the Egeria at the recent Combined Clubs Open Day on 8 October; we have led the wonderful Parade of Sale at the Wooden Boats Festival in 2015; and we have twice been on board for the Scout Guide Regatta at Snug.

It is such a treat to be able to spend time on the beautifully maintained Egeria. It really is an absolute credit to the many people who have ensured

---

<sup>2</sup> Email from Kim Crew from MYCT dated 11/10/16 – in the folder

<sup>3</sup> ibid

<sup>4</sup> ibid

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.google.com.au/?gfe\\_rd=cr&ei=UTb8V4naJ6vu8wfSg4GYBA#q=ml+egeria](https://www.google.com.au/?gfe_rd=cr&ei=UTb8V4naJ6vu8wfSg4GYBA#q=ml+egeria)

that it is kept in the pristine condition that it is today. I only wish I could have a facelift and look as good at 75!

As Governor I look forward to many more days aboard the Egeria and I know Dick does too.

And so on that note, I wish the Egeria a very happy 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. And congratulations MYCT for looking after her so beautifully!

Thank you.