

**2016 NATIONAL PIES LAUNCESTON TO HOBART YACHT RACE
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AM
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
DERWENT SAILING SQUADRON
SATURDAY 31 DECEMBER 2016**

Good afternoon everyone. It's a great pleasure for my husband Dick and me to be here again at the Derwent Sailing Squadron and for me to have the honour of presenting the 2016 National Pies Launceston to Hobart Yacht Race trophies.

May I begin by paying my respects to the Mouhaneener People, their community, and elders past, present and future, as the original and continuing custodians of the land on which we meet.

As I have noted in the past, 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.

This is the tenth year of this race, which this year has a record 48 yachts racing the 285 nautical miles from Beauty Point down the East Coast, inside Maria Island, across Storm Bay and up the Derwent to the finish line in Hobart at Castray Esplanade. I would like to offer my congratulations to all the yachts that entered and finished the race this year.

While this year's Sydney to Hobart has been the fastest race on record, this year's L2H, starting a day later, has possibly been the slowest on record, with the fleet becalmed in fog north of St Helens on Wednesday afternoon and night.

In fact I understand visibility was so bad the whole way south, it was a matter of steering by numbers. But this does not mean it has not been an extremely competitive race, with line and handicap honours remaining very open.

Dick and I were on the docks to see Peter and Catherine Cretan's *Tilt* take line honours just ahead of *Fork in the Road*. It was an amazing finish for *Tilt*, with its mainsail split in two after rounding Tasman Island and *Fork in the Road* catching up to within 200 metres. However, the crew of *Tilt* managed to use a cruising headsail in place of the mainsail, and with the Code O headsail also up managed to keep ahead and cross the line first.

Handicap honours were hotly contested with the added complication of a redress hearing last night to determine how much allowance should be made to *Young One* and *Mr Burger* for rendering assistance to *Rumbeat*, which lost its rudder and needed to be towed as it was heading towards rocks. These adjustments to results are necessary to ensure that assisting boats in trouble is encouraged and safety of competitors is paramount.

The jury has determined that the AMS handicap should be awarded jointly to *Emotional Rescue* skippered by Michael Hutchinson and to Peter Haros's *Mr Burger*. Congratulations to both crews.

I also offer congratulations to the major sponsor of the event, National Pies; and to the six Supporting Partners: Tassal, Cascade Breweries, TasPorts, Helly Hansen, TasBulk and Peter Johnston Ship Chandlery.

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; and to Race Director John Blackwood. It's a big effort putting together an offshore race like this one.

What a great idea of Ian Marshall's from the Geilston Bay Boat Club ten years ago and it's great to see the race not only continues but grows in popularity. When I first came to this event as Governor this time two years ago, there were only 24 yachts competing, a number which has doubled this year.

And now, I now have great pleasure in presenting trophies for the 2016 National Pies Launceston to Hobart Yacht Race.

Thank you.