

LAUNCESTON TO HOBART YACHT RACE 2021
SPEECH BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
DERWENT SAILING SQUADRON, FRIDAY 31 DECEMBER 2021

Thank you Will [Justo] and good afternoon everyone. It's a great pleasure for Don and I to be here at the Derwent Sailing Squadron and for me to have the honour of presenting the 2021 TasPorts Launceston to Hobart Yacht Race trophies.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community. I recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of colonisation upon our First People. I stand for a future that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal stories, culture, language and history.

May I acknowledge among us:

- Madeline Ogilvie MP, Member for Clark
- Anna Reynolds, Lord Mayor of Hobart
- Derwent Sailing Squadron Vice Commodore Will Justo
- and Rear Commodore Heather McCallum.

In stark contrast to the Sydney to Hobart, you had very good conditions off Inspection Head at Beauty Point on the Tamar River, as you set off on the 285 nautical mile race to Hobart. Your conditions were described as “near perfect” on day two, and as “the best conditions the east coast of Tasmania has to offer”,¹ moderating to a light easterly. What an amazing contrast to the terrible battering the Sydney to Hobart fleet was enduring!

I am not much of a sailor, I can only imagine the thrill of coursing through fine blue water and the challenge of steering your boat in angry, unpredictable seas. And I did enjoy reading about what was described as the “exciting close encounter” for the crew of *Big Pup* – Teresa Badrock and Anthony Brezemer –

¹ [Launceston to Hobart yacht race heading for tight finish | The Examiner | Launceston, TAS](#), accessed 29 December 2021.

by almost becoming part of the Sydney-Hobart fleet when it sailed in near the coast.

This year, a total of 24 yachts and more than 200 sailors took part in the 15th L2H. This maintains the great tradition of being a Tasmanian favourite: competitive, affordable, full of camaraderie and sailing along some of the world's most beautiful and dramatic coastlines.

Nearly half of this year's fleet have competed in the race before. The *Fork in the Road*, in particular, is a repeat offender dating back to, I believe, the 2009 race, which was just the third sailing of the L2H.

Congratulations to line honours winner *AdvantEdge* skippered by Launceston-based skipper Andrew Jones and the crew, in a very tight win over Tim Gadsby's *Filepro*.

To all other trophy winners and, of course, to every single competitor: your individual participation ensures the success of this special race each year.

The L2H is special because it is a very Tasmanian enterprise. So, as Governor, I warmly acknowledge and thank the Derwent Sailing Squadron Race Director Scott Bain and Commodore Nick Connor and your colleagues for all your work.

I also warmly thank the Tamar Yacht Club for pre-race festivities, meals, the briefing and yacht berthing.

In conclusion, I'm unable to resist a statement from the Port Dalrymple Yacht Club, five of whose yachts took part in this year's race. Why? Because, and I quote: "Owners and crews voted with their butts on gunwales about the return of offshore racing."²

Thank you!

² <https://www.facebook.com/pdyc.tas/>, accessed 29 December 2021.