

**RECEPTION TO CELEBRATE THE 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
LAUNCHING OF ML *EGERIA*  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
MOTOR YACHT CLUB OF TASMANIA, LINDISFARNE  
WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2021**

Good afternoon everyone and thank you Commodore Hebbink for that introduction. It is my great pleasure to be here with you to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launching of the Motor Launch *Egeria*.

I pay 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.

I would also like to acknowledge amongst us

- Club Patron, Ralph King;
- The Honourable Jacqui Petrusma;
- Doug Chipman – Mayor, Clarence City Council; and
- Geoff Duggan – Chief Financial Officer, TasPorts.

The ML *Egeria* (which is commonly referred to as the Governor's Launch) has traditionally been used for all the on-water transport of Tasmanian Governors as well as Regal and Heads of State visitors to Tasmania since it was launched in 1941.

Constructed of Huon pine at the Purdon and Featherstone Battery Point shipyards for the Marine Board of Hobart as the Port of Hobart Ceremonial Launch, it is listed on the National Register of Historical Vessels. It was named after HMAS *Egeria*, flagship for Hobart Regattas of 1888 and 1889. This vessel was engaged in surveying in Tasmanian waters at that time.

When I was on board for my first cruise with my husband, Don, for the opening of the Yachting Season on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, I was interested to read a framed depiction of the name's origin. It reads, "the name *Egeria* comes from a fountain in Rome which was supposed to have sprung from the tears shed by the nymph

Egeria on the death of her husband Numa, a mythological Roman King.” I found the origin of her name quite touching.

In 2007, following the amalgamation of all Tasmanian Ports, it was decided that there was no longer justification to retain the Launch. Because of its historical association with the Hobart community, the *Egeria* was offered to the major Hobart Yacht Clubs. There was a condition that it should be preserved for future generations subject to carrying out her previous community engagements. The Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania, based at Lindisfarne, agreed to take the vessel, as a community project. The Club assembled a team of around 35 volunteers to complete all non-professional maintenance as well as providing skippers and crew for all the cruises.

In 2016, with a \$46,000 grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund, the Motor Yacht Club’s project returned the 18.9 metre classic Huon pine and teak vessel to its former glory. The restoration project included stripping the hull back to bare timber, splining the planking to achieve a watertight seal and re-painting. [I must confess that I had to do some homework on “splining the planking” also a tongue twister.]

Now, after 80 years since her launch, the *Egeria* is used regularly for tours and cruises. As already indicated, I was on board for the Opening of the Yachting Season. On that day, we had the privilege of Bernie Smith as our skipper. He gave a tour of the *Egeria*, pointing out all the immaculate restoration work and the beauty of the Huon pine and teak throughout. He gave all aboard a memorable day.

I conclude my remarks and note there will be a presentation by Geoff Duggan, Chief Financial Officer, TasPorts, before we cut the cake. Congratulations to the Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania for all the work done to restore and maintain the *Egeria* as a significant page in the history of Tasmania and of the Governor. At 80 years she is going strong, and I am sure our community will see her on the Derwent River for another 80 years.

Thank you.