

**ROVER SCOUTS CENTENARY  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 5 OCTOBER 2018**

Good evening. Dick and I welcome you to this reception to mark and celebrate the centenary of Rover Scouts of Scouts Tasmania.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land— the Mouheneener people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

May I acknowledge among you:

- Michael Hovington, Scouts Tasmania Chief Commissioner;
- Fiona Broadby, Scouts Tasmania Branch Commissioner International;
- Ian Hart, Scouts Tasmania Branch Commissioner Rovers;

As the Chief Scout in Tasmania I think it is especially appropriate that we're able to hold this reception here at Government House. One hundred years is a long time for any organisation in Australia to exist and I congratulate all of you for so energetically continuing the tradition of Rover Scouts here in Tasmania.

I'd like to quote you a short extract from that founding year, 1918 – and although not specific to Rovers, it tells us how active scouting had become in Tasmania. Here is the quote:

“Governor Sir Francis Newdegate, accompanied by Lady Newdegate, held an inspection on Saturday afternoon of the Scouts on the Queen's Domain. The scouts numbered 103. Prior to the inspection, they marched round the Domain with banners flying and bugle band playing lively airs. The scouts formed up for inspection in the Naval Drill-hall. After inspecting the scouts, the Governor, who is Chief Scout for Tasmania, presented certificates and medals of merit awarded for good work.

“His Excellency then addressed the parade, and said he was very glad to see them at their work.”<sup>1</sup>

Not surprisingly he went on to refer to General Baden Powell (as he then was).

That mention of General, later Lord Baden-Powell reminds me that there have been 59 Tasmanian Rover recipients of the Australian Baden-Powell Scout Award, the highest honour available in the scout and guide movement. That's a very fine effort, since the award commenced here in 1956.

I am sure some of you will know that in fact Lord-Baden-Powell visited Tasmania in 1931 after which he wrote up a report of his impressions, and here is some of what he wrote:

“My visit to Tasmania has, unfortunately, been a very short one, but I had the opportunity of meeting the scouters in conference, and of seeing the rally of scouts and guides both at Hobart and Launceston. These gave me the impression that scouting on the whole is on a promising footing in this State ...”<sup>2</sup>

I am sure that Lord Baden Powell would be impressed with the Rover Scouts if he were to again visit Tasmania. And I must say that I think that your activities sound a lot more exciting than ‘marching around the Domain with banners flying’, as scouts were doing for Governor Sir Francis Newdegate! To be fair it is clear that scouting was not all marching and inspections. I was impressed to read that a group of Rovers from Launceston in 1927 helped cut the walking track to Liffey Falls.

And I am pleased to see that rafting is a popular activity for Rover Crews and that you run the Brent Gaffney Memorial Raft Race Challenge. Having had the wonderful experience of rafting the Franklin for 8 days in early 2017, I think white-water rafting on our wild rivers is an experience that everyone should have the opportunity to do, ideally when you in the age bracket of Rovers rather than Governors!

For you Rover Scouts, who are young adults, the maturity of your flexible rules and regulations sits well with your long-time motto “Service”, namely, developing leadership abilities and an appreciation of the value of helping other people.

It remains therefore for me to congratulate you all again on this historic milestone; and Dick and I look forward to regular contact with Tasmania’s Scouts and Guides for the remainder of my term as Governor.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Mercury, Monday 29 April 1918, page 8.

<sup>2</sup> Mercury, Monday 18 May 1931, page 3.