

SCOUTS TASMANIA
90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1ST DERWENT SEA SCOUTS
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
DERWENT SCOUT HALL, DOMAIN SLIP
SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2021

Thank you, Eloisa, for that very rousing rendition of the Australian National Anthem. I am very pleased to be here with you today to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the 1st Derwent Sea Scouts.

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 Aboriginal People. I stand for a future that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal stories, culture, language and history.

I also acknowledge:

- Klaus Felsche, Group Leader;
- Andy Flies, Chair, Group Support Committee;
- Michael Patterson, Coordinator, Lease renewal team;
- Leaders, Sea Scouts, parents and supporters.

This is only my second outing as your Chief Scout of Tasmania. I had the memorable experience of attending and opening the 26th Tasmanian Cuboree about a month ago. I was also invested as Chief Scout. We both very much enjoyed the flying fox and the famous bush donuts at the Cuboree! You may not be aware, but my husband, Don, was both a Cub and a Scout many years ago (although not quite 90 years!) So, we have a family connection to the Scouting movement.

Today is a celebration of 90 years of history of scouting here at the Domain Slip. This is also an acknowledgement of the efforts of thousands of Scouts, their leaders, friends and families over these 90 years.

I would like to record our special thanks to TasPorts for their support both to the foundation of this Group and to the Scouts Heritage Centre staff.

In March 1946, Sea Scouts from the 1st Derwent gathered for a similar day of activities. It was reported in the *Mercury* on 18 March that year that Sea Scouts participated in games of skill and I quote, 'boiled the billy in the pouring rain'.¹ It is fortunate that we have much better weather for this important anniversary for the group.

Today, we all celebrate a very impressive milestone for the 1st Derwent Sea Scouts. Few organisations are able to stand the test of time and reach their 90 years anniversary.

The celebrations today are not just about looking to our past. We should also look forward and see that scouting is a vibrant activity, supported by our community. This year alone our Group's membership has grown by 17 per cent. We shall showcase today camp activities on the Domain and an afternoon of sailing on the Derwent.

Today is also the start of the future of scouting here on the Derwent. 1st Derwent is looking to the future, ready to support the community with challenging and rewarding programmes.

The three principles of scouting², Spirituality, Duty to Others and Duty to Self will help us respond positively to future challenges and grasp opportunities as they emerge. That is because spirituality — our feelings and beliefs regarding our purpose in life, duty to others and duty to self, underpin our resilience as Scouts.

As your Governor and your Chief Scout in Tasmania, let me leave you with a few important tips that I also shared at the opening of our Cuboree:

One: enjoy each other's company.

Two: help each other whenever that might be necessary.

Three: be nice and polite to the grown-ups!

Four: offer to help tidying up, arranging things, moving things – because you're all young and full of energy.

Congratulations again on our 90th anniversary.

Thank you.

¹ <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/26176118> accessed 17 Nov 21

² <https://scouts.com.au/blog/2018/02/01/purpose-principles-mission/> accessed 19 Nov 21