

**REMARKS BY THE HONOURABLE PETER UNDERWOOD AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA OPENING THE 2013 SEAFEST
MARINE FESTIVAL, TRIABUNNA, FRIDAY, 22ND MARCH 2013**

It is a privilege for my wife and me to have been invited here today and for me to have been asked to open the Seafest Marine Festival. This is the second Seafest Marine Festival, which I have no doubt will build on the very successful first festival, which, I am told, arose out of a discussion between a school teacher and a council officer. The Festival is a good mixture of community, schools, education and business. Today, the emphasis is on education and tomorrow, on community fun.

The first European to visit Triabunna, was the French explorer, Nicholas Baudin, who sailed into Spring Bay in *La Geographe* in 1802, but he decided not to stay and sailed back to France. Today of course, things are different. The invading French arrive in Triabunna on a motor scooter, make a home in the Municipality and take over the local government. At the beginning of the 19th century, Triabunna started out as a garrison town for the penal colony that was established on Maria Island, but it was not long before it became an important centre for the forestry and fishing industries. However, like all Tasmanian towns whose histories are rooted in those primary industries, Triabunna is presently going through a hard patch.

None-the-less, I am confident that the inhabitants of the Glamorgan Spring Bay Municipality will find the ingenuity and the energy to find alternative ways to bring prosperity to this beautiful part of Tasmania. Confidence, energy and a willingness to look for and

embrace new ideas are essential to the process of re-energising Triabunna and its surrounds. And that has to come from the people who take pride in living here. It is no good expecting someone else to do it for you.

In this context community events like the Seafest Marine Festival have an important part to play. First, it involves bringing together the young people in the area for a fun-filled learning adventure. Dedicated professionals will share with young people their knowledge of such matters as the impact of invasive species on the environment; how to care for the coast line and why oysters are an important part of the shellfish industry. Sowing the seeds of knowledge in the minds of young people will produce results if the community nurtures those seeds with optimism and energy. We must never forget that our greatest asset - the one that is most likely to produce new ideas and prosperity - is our youth. Second, an event like the Seafest Marine Festival, put together by the local community, generates the all-important social cohesion that in turn, promotes community spirit, goodwill and mutual support. The provision of relevantly focused education for young people and community support, encouragement and goodwill will combine together to become a powerful long-term force for the betterment of the local community. Of course, it doesn't happen overnight, and this is only the second time the Seafest Marine Festival has been held, but I am confident that history will judge it as an important marker in the start of a new period of prosperity for the Glamorgan Spring Bay Municipality.

Accordingly, it really does give me pleasure to declare open the 2013 Seafest Marine Festival and I congratulate the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and the Triabunna District High School on their collaboration to put together this successful festival.