

**RECEPTION TO MARK THE 187<sup>th</sup> ROYAL HOBART REGATTA AND THE  
2025 AUSTRALIAN WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL**

**REMARKS BY**

**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2025**

**[Vice-Regal Salute is played]**

Good evening, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to Government House to mark the 187<sup>th</sup> Royal Hobart Regatta and the 2025 Australian Wooden Boat Festival.

May I acknowledge the Muwinina people upon whose land we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of country. I recognise their enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, sky, and waters.

I am delighted to host this reception to recognise your ongoing partnership. When both these events coincide every two years, our Hobart waterfront becomes a hive of activity centred around our river.

Hobart is fortunate to host the Australian Wooden Boat Festival, the largest festival of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, enhancing our maritime reputation. For the four days of the Festival, Hobart becomes a place for wooden boat enthusiasts from around the world to gather, exchange ideas and experiences, and enjoy all that Hobart and Tasmania have to offer. This year, eleven tall ships from Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Devonport, and Hobart will participate, with more than 400 other boats.

We welcome national and international visitors from around the Pacific. Boat builders, navigators, artists, and historians from New Zealand, Tahiti, New Caledonia, Japan, Hawaii, Samoa, and the Marshall Islands showcase vessels with links to the Pacific and those with a distinctly Pacific design.

This year is the 187<sup>th</sup> of our Royal Hobart Regatta. As Patron of our Royal Hobart Regatta Association, I acknowledge its longevity and how it has responded to community expectations while remaining faithful to its original purpose – “to execute

the governance and coordination of the iconic three-day aquatic carnival on the waters”<sup>1</sup> of the Derwent River.

Since 1838, the Regatta has attracted more than half a million spectators, held 10,000 events and may I acknowledge the support of more than 250 volunteers each year.

Volunteers and staff devote hundreds of hours to planning, preparing, and managing the many events on land and the water that make the Regatta such a fixture on our Tasmanian calendar.

May I congratulate and thank everyone who is part of our Festival and everyone who has worked to bring us another Royal Hobart Regatta.

And now, please enjoy the reception and please look around our beautiful State Rooms.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://royalhobartregatta.com/about-us/> accessed 28 Jan 25