

**HOCKEY AUSTRALIA AND HOCKEY TASMANIA
INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY FEDERATION (FIH) PRO LEAGUE RECEPTION
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2023**

[VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED]

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to this reception for Kookaburras and Hockeyroos team members and all the officials participating in the FIH Pro League. I wish you all a very successful week.

I pay my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community and recognise their continued connection to land, sea, and waters. I acknowledge the impacts of colonisation upon our First People and commit to a future that listens to and respects Aboriginal stories, culture and history.

May I acknowledge among us:

- the Honourable Elise Archer MP, Attorney-General
- the Honourable Nic Street MP, Minister for Sport and Recreation
- the Honourable Josh Willie MLC, Shadow Minister for Sport
- Ross Sudano, President Hockey Australia
- David Pryles, CEO Hockey Australia
- Brett Withington, Chair Hockey Tasmania
- Damian Smith, CEO Hockey Tasmania
- Katrina Powell, Hockeyroos Coach
- Colin Batch, Kookaburras Coach
- Ian Chesterman, Australian Olympic Committee Chair

The seniority of the dignitaries attending tonight speaks volumes for the support of our Tasmanian community for hockey.

May I say a little bit about this Government House, particularly for those from interstate.

The architectural style of this building is Victorian Gothic and it was completed in 1858. There are seventy rooms on three floors, with a very large internal roof space, like a fourth floor.

There are three tennis courts built in the late 1880s – one *en-tout-cas*, and two grass courts, which are among the very few remaining in Tasmania. We also have a croquet lawn made in the 1960s which doubles as a bowling green.

May I give you a direct historical Government House connection with hockey. I believe that Hockey Tasmania is researching the history of the sport here, with work undertaken by Alison Monk, Hockey Australia Life Member, here this evening. So, Alison, this will be well known to you, but here goes anyway.

Sir Ernest Clark was Governor from 1933 to 1945. In 1937, his wife Lady Clark offered to present a hockey trophy for general competition as part of the Coronation celebrations, marking the 1936 accession of King George VI. Her offer met with this reply, and I quote:

Unfortunately the Southern Tasmanian Women's Hockey Association was unable to accept a trophy donated by Lady Clark for general competition as part of the Coronation celebrations. Under the All-England Association rules, which govern hockey in Australia, the association is debarred from competing for trophies. However, it has been accepted for competition among the schools playing in the Southern Association....¹

End of quote. The Lady Clark Cup did become the trophy for annual schools' hockey competitions. Lady Clark also accepted patronage of the Southern Tasmanian Women's Hockey Association, and for some years Governor Ernest Clark's Official Secretary, Joan McLennan, was a committee member.

Hockey thrived in these early years. The Association's April 1939 season opening recorded more than 200 players in 25 teams, including five country teams.²

¹ *Mercury*, Thursday 20 May 1937, page 16.

² *Mercury*, Monday 3 April 1939 page 2.

Hockey continues to thrive in our State and throughout Australia. Forgive me for mentioning our Tasmanians, but we are at Government House Tasmania. Our Eddie Ockenden, who as you all know has played over 400 games for Australia, has led the way in Tasmania, with the Beltz brothers, Josh and Hayden and Jack Welch also in the team, and Maddie Brooks a member of the Hockeyroos. We are all very excited to be seeing them all play here in Hobart.

In conclusion, I shall mention a coincidence that happened today. It has a little to do with hockey and a bit to do with this Government House. This morning we enjoyed a visit from a senior South Australian woman, Nola Kenny, former career journalist. As a child, she spent time in one of the four cottages on this Estate because her grandfather, suitably named Edmund Bentley, was a chauffeur for Governor Sir Ernest Clark. The hockey connection – albeit slight was that Nola Kenny has come to Tasmania for a Friends' School Old Scholars reunion. Back in 1937, you can guess which team won the inaugural Lady Clark Cup? Yes, the Friends' School!³ And Eddie Ockenden attended and played hockey for the Friends' School.

On that note, we now will have the pleasure of hearing from David Pryles, Hockey Australia CEO.

Thank you.

[David invites/gestures David Pryles to centre lectern]

³ *Mercury*, Monday 27 September 1937, page 8.