

**TOAST FOR KIDS CHARITY INC**  
**‘TASSIE RHYMES FOR LITTLE TIGERS’ BRAILLE/LOW VISION LAUNCH**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**DRAWING ROOM, GOVERNMENT HOUSE**  
**WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH 2023**

Good afternoon. Thank you for joining us. I warmly welcome you all to this launch of the braille/low vision of *Tassie Rhymes for Little Tigers*.

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

Sonali Marathe is from NextSense, based in Sydney. NextSense supports people with hearing and vision loss and has been a key partner in developing the book. Sonali has flown here for the launch and you are most welcome Sonali.

Don and I are the inaugural Joint Patrons of Toast for Kids Charity. We are especially pleased to be able to host this launch for Toast For Kids President Steve Martin, and author Narelda Joy. May I also acknowledge all those here who are so supportive of the Help Babies Learn project, and very young literacy more broadly. I also acknowledge Toast for Kids’ work in the provision of breakfast nourishment for children most in need.

We enjoyed attending your Toast for Kids Charity Gala last August in Devonport. At that Gala, I provided a ‘soft’ launch of *Tassie Rhymes for Little Tigers* because I was unable to attend the official launch the next day.

This lovely publication is a Tasmanian-themed picture book, featuring our Tasmanian fauna. It is suitable for babies to five-year-olds, and includes an index of indigenous names of our Tasmanian fauna. It is very pleasing to now have this braille/low vision companion version. This will extend this book’s reach.

We all know how important it is to read aloud to babies and young children. Hearing is learning. As I mentioned at the launch, parents can enjoy huge rewards from seeing their infant's increasing recognition of these repeated sounds. This book can be a bridge between parent and child.

Congratulations to Steve and Toast for Kids colleagues, to author Narelda Joy, and to all those involved in the publication of this version of *Tassie Rhymes for Little Tigers*.

Let us now hear from Steve and Joy and Sonali.

And then I shall officially declare this version launched.

Thank you – David ...

[invites Steve then Joy to respond]

[After which: HE declares the book launched and invites guests to enjoy light stand-up lunch.