

**CRICKET TASMANIA**  
**WOMEN'S NATIONAL CRICKET LEAGUE CHAMPIONS**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 3 JULY 2023**

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to this reception for our Tasmanian Tigers, and our Women's National Cricket League Champions.

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 enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea and waters.

May I acknowledge among us:

- David Boon, Cricket Legend and Cricket Tasmania Board Chair
- Dom Baker, CEO
- Board members, Jo Bailey, Nicolas Turner, Lyndal Moore, and Jacqui Triffitt
- Elyse Villani, team Captain and all other players here this evening.

What wonderful timing for this event after our women's recent Test win and first T20 victory and our men's Second Test win yesterday.

A Finals win in any sport is thrilling for all involved. Back-to-back Finals wins double that thrill and are very rare. To have achieved this in the manner managed by our Tasmanian Tigers earlier this year was, and always will be, simply an outstanding achievement.

Little wonder that Channel Nine summed it up dramatically in these three words: "Cricket world stunned."<sup>1</sup> We also know the headlines of this year's win went well beyond the sports pages.

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<sup>1</sup> [WNCL Final 2023 Tasmania v South Australia | Cricket world stunned by 'ridiculous' collapse as SA lose five wickets in final over \(nine.com.au\)](https://www.nine.com.au/sport/cricket/world-stunned-by-south-australia-collapse-as-sa-lose-five-wickets-in-final-over/news-story/1234567890), accessed 28 June 2023.

May we all pause here and give a warm round of applause for Elyse and all her colleagues.

May I say that our applause, of course, extends to the entire squad, the coaches, physios, administrators, families and everyone associated with our Women's National Cricket League Final victory in February 2023 over South Australia. May I also acknowledge our victory in March 2022 again over South Australia.

Having represented Tasmania in tennis and hockey and having competed in Real Tennis and squash, I am a sports tragic. May I emphasise the way in which sports are of great social value, whether participating at the elite level or not. Sports at their best teach us about fairness, dedication, determination, modesty, resilience and much more. Many life-long friendships are found in sport. My oldest friend of 60 years played tennis with me from a very young age.

The term 'role model' is often applied to sports players. It is not a cliché. We follow sports players we admire and whose values we trust.

That means that your wonderful victories at Blundstone Arena have a significance and impact far beyond the scoreboard. However, I have to say, five wickets in one over and that was – the final over! – with the opposition team coasting to victory – is seriously surreal!

I understand that Sarah Coyte is now playing for the New South Wales Breakers. I am wondering, are you going to sledge her? It would not be very Vice-Regal of me to answer that question!

Well, I believe you are back in pre-season training and have been for a few weeks now, so all my best to you all. May I, as your Governor and Patron of Cricket Tasmania, on behalf of all Tasmanians, congratulate you again for your twin victories. I wish you all the very best in the coming season.

Thank you.

David ... [invites Cricket Tasmania Chair David Boon to respond briefly]