

CRICKET TASMANIA
RECEPTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE PLAYERS AND COACHING STAFF
OF THE TASMANIAN TIGERS AS
2023–24 WOMEN’S NATIONAL CRICKET LEAGUE CHAMPIONS
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE 2024

[VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED]

Good evening, everyone, and welcome to Government House for this reception to acknowledge players and coaching staff of the Tasmanian Tigers, the 2023-24 Women’s National Cricket League Champions!

May I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose Country we gather. I acknowledge today’s Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea and waters.

There was a great deal of interest in local media as the Tasmanian Tigers approached the semis and then the finals earlier this year. There was obviously no pressure at all on the team that had secured back-to-back wins in 2021-22 and 2022-23 and were therefore playing for what I often heard called the threepat.

There were, of course, a number of notable performances that contributed to the magnificent outcome for the team and the State. Women’s National Cricket League Player of the Year and Player of the Match for the final was Nicola Carey. She guided the Tigers to victory, scoring 111 not out.

While she missed the final, Hobart local, Amy Smith, made her first five-wicket haul and first fifty, before she was selected for the Australian under-19 squad in Sri Lanka.

Heather Graham was selected and played for Australia throughout the summer against South Africa and on tour in India. New recruits Lauren Smith and

Tabatha Saville now have their first title and we can only marvel at the bravery of Molly Strano, who played the final despite having a broken hand. That is a true demonstration of commitment to the team!

And the Domestic Women's Cricketer of the Year, and our esteemed Tigers Captain, Elyse Villani, has had another incredible season and, along with Head Coach, Jude Coleman, has been instrumental in giving the Tigers their third title.

There is much to celebrate this year, and I am pleased to be able to share in those celebrations with you. Well done. Your example is an inspiration to all Tasmanians, and especially young women cricketers who may be able to further their careers in the Female Pathways Program with Cricket Tasmania.

Thank you, and please now enjoy the refreshments and have a look around our beautiful State Rooms that will be opened shortly.