

**RECEPTION TO MARK THE 115TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SOUTH HOBART FOOTBALL CLUB
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 2 MAY 2025**

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to Government House to celebrate the 115th anniversary of the South Hobart Football Club.

I begin by acknowledging 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.

Your Club has such a long and rich history that it is impossible to capture it all tonight, but may I mention that it played its first game at the then newly opened D'Arcy Street ground on 21 May 1910. Your game was against the crew of the S.S. *Westralia*, a passenger and cargo ship sailing the east coast of Australia. You had a great start to your Club, coming away with a 4–1 win.

Your long history celebrates your Club's deep connections to the communities of South Hobart, Hobart, and around Tasmania and to the football community across Australia. You now have over 500 members.

Your Club's aim to inspire and guide players to achieve their potential, both as football players and members of their community, is set out on your Club's website, I quote:

South Hobart Football Club is a strong and vibrant community 100% committed to creating an inclusive and equitable environment — one club, one future. We are a community-based club who have passionate players of all ages, loyal supporters and dedicated volunteers who give their all for the club, sport and community they love.¹

¹ <https://www.southhobartfc.com/>

You have a strong focus on junior and youth development and on creating a learning and playing environment that is safe, challenging and enjoyable for all players. You aim to build a culture of respect and inclusion.

The Club intends to improve the facilities at both Wellesley Park and D'Arcy Street. This will ensure gender-equal and disabled access to change rooms and facilities, and improve the existing club rooms and ground lighting, improving playing and spectating experiences.

You have encouraged greater female participation and I understand that over one-third of your Club's players are female, with your goal of a 50% gender balance.

The success of our Mathildas proves that elite women's sport attracts crowds. Tomorrow's Mathildas are possibly running around enjoying their football here in your South Hobart Academy! As a senior South Hobart player, Jazmin White said recently:

Visibility and representation in women's sports are crucial because they inspire the next generation and reinforce that women belong at the highest levels ...²

Off the pitch, Victoria Morton has served as President for 16 years and the Board has a strong and consistent female representation, with a growing female coaching team.

May I also acknowledge your Club's aim of joining the new National Second Tier, which is scheduled to begin later this year.

Finally, I acknowledge the dedicated involvement of Club leaders and volunteers, local businesses, and – particularly – parents of players.

I congratulate you all on the club's 115th anniversary. Please enjoy your reception and your time at Government House.

Thank you.

² Club newsletter (Issue 3, March 2025): <https://www.southhobartfc.com/news-socials>