

**AFTERNOON TEA TO MARK THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SOUTHERN TASMANIAN NETBALL ASSOCIATION
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 30 JULY 2025**

Good afternoon, everyone. It is a pleasure to warmly welcome you all to Government House to celebrate the 60th anniversary of your Southern Tasmanian Netball Association.

May 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 Association has grown over 60 years to become the largest netball association in Tasmania.¹ We celebrate not only your 60th anniversary and your history, but also acknowledge all your volunteers, who have made the Association what it is today, including your life members, many of whom are here.

Formerly called the Southern Tasmanian Women's Basketball Association, a dedicated group of volunteers moved the Association to its home at the site of the former Hobart Tennis Centre, with four outdoor 'basketball' courts. I was interested to learn that netball was then known as basketball, until it officially became 'netball' in 1970. In 1964, 38 clubs came together at that site; eight of those clubs are still active today. I fondly recall playing netball, as we called it, in the late 1960s in primary school, where I played as a goal attack and was selected to play in a southern Tasmanian team.

Your Association continues to support vibrant netball participation. You have more than 3,000 players and over 270 teams participating annually. From school rosters to the elite Women's Premier League and the newly developed

¹ Email Eva Loring / Amanda Banks 9 Jul 25

Men's Division, STNA provides an inclusive and supportive environment for players of all ages and abilities.

Over the years, STNA has expanded and operates from a facility with ten courts—soon to be twelve—and two indoor stadiums. May we acknowledge, in no small part, the tireless advocacy and leadership of your members.

STNA may have a small team of dedicated operational staff, but you continue to be powered by volunteers. The Life Members gathered here, including Patron of the last 25 years, Beverley Harris (soon to celebrate her 100th birthday!) and Glynis Devereaux, whose work with the Association has spanned some 40 years, made significant contributions that have had a positive impact on the growth and success of the game.

I offer my warmest congratulations to the Southern Tasmanian Netball Association on reaching this important milestone. May your future years be as successful as the past.

The Association inducts a new life member each year. This year, that honour is being bestowed on Ms Clare Bush. Please come forward.

[HE and Ava Loring, Program and Events Administrator, present flowers]

Thank you and please enjoy this afternoon's celebration.