

**JANE COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT DINNER
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2026**

Good evening, everyone, and thank you, Joanna, for inviting me to this special dinner.

Thank you also to Trinity (Shires) for your acknowledgement to Country. May I also pay my respects to the Muwinina people and today's Aboriginal community.

This time of year is significant for many of you: some of you are commencing University, others are part way through your degree and others are in your final year.

This evening, I have been invited to share with you a few words that I hope may be wise, but hopefully may be helpful as you commence or continue your studies and later begin your careers.

Firstly, consider finding a mentor, if you have not already, to help you navigate your studies and plan your future. Don't be worried about approaching someone you look up to or admire. You should find that most senior colleagues are happy to contribute and they will probably be flattered.

On the importance of mentoring, we are reminded of the words of Eleanor Roosevelt,

“For our own success to be real, it must contribute to the success of others.”

Secondly, I am sure many of us here share, or have shared at times, that underconfident feeling. What can you do if you get this feeling?

May I share another quote from Janet Yellen, the 78th US Treasury Secretary, the 15th Chair of the US Federal Reserve and the first woman to hold both roles. She admitted, “a fundamental thing about me is that I do a lot of preparation. I

don't wing it...I don't feel super confident, no matter what position I've been in..."¹

This capable and brilliant woman put in hours of preparation for meetings or speeches to be absolutely sure of her ground. She explained that "I felt better about it, and I needed to feel more confident."

This quote may help you when, at times, you feel uncertain. It is a favourite of mine.

So, my advice for overcoming any lack of confidence is to work hard and prepare well.

Thirdly, what do you do if you have a setback?

My advice, simply, is be kind to yourself. We all have setbacks and make mistakes. Rather than being overly self-critical, it is our attitude to those mistakes that counts.

That's why I would like to share another favourite quote of mine, Arianna Huffington (Founder & CEO of Thrive Global). She said, "We need to accept that we don't always make the right decisions, that we'll screw up royally sometimes. Understand that failure is not the opposite of success, it's part of success."

I do have my own personal motto and that is "never give up." We can all learn from mistakes and setbacks, then persevere and do better the next time.

May I also suggest, always be yourself. Always keep a sense of humour, it is valuable and very therapeutic.

May I wish you all the best in your studies at whatever stage you may be at and please enjoy the remainder of this dinner.

Thankyou.

¹ *The Authority Gap* Mary Ann Sieghart Penguin Random House 2021,p 103.