

**TASMANIA JACKJUMPERS  
RECEPTION TO MARK THE INAUGURAL NBL SEASON  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL 2022**

Good evening everyone and a warm welcome from Don, myself, and all the staff of Government House. We are all very excited to have you here tonight to mark this inaugural season of Tasmania's JackJumpers NBL team.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community. I recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of colonisation upon our First People. I stand for a future that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal stories, culture, language and history.

May I acknowledge among us here this evening:

- Mr Simon Brookhouse, CEO
- Ms Keryn Nylander, Chair of the Board
- Mr Scott Roth, Head Coach
- Mr Mark Chivers, Team Manager
- Mr Clint Steindl, Captain
- The JackJumpers players and coaches, Board members, and staff and family members

Firstly, may we all congratulate you on your phenomenal inaugural season! In just one season you have become a competitive, successful and cohesive team. You fight to win and you have won the hearts of all Tasmanians.

You have worked tirelessly to establish both our JackJumpers team and our JackJumpers brand.

You have had to deal with the challenges of COVID; separation from family and loved ones, isolation from team mates, cancellation of training and games.

You currently sit a healthy 5<sup>th</sup> on the ladder, and you have a chance of being in the finals. A monumental achievement for an inaugural season.

Importantly, you have given Tasmanians the opportunity to come together; much needed after the COVID challenges.

From the outset, the JackJumpers have strived to give Tasmanians a team to be proud of.<sup>1</sup> To 'defend the island'.<sup>2</sup> You have most definitely achieved this. You now have a solid base of dedicated, loyal and staunchly supportive fans, including Don and myself.

I am a strong supporter of sport and its important benefits for the individual and the community. I congratulate you all on your role in increasing awareness and participation in sport across our Tasmanian community.

I also congratulate you for supporting important causes like SHE for Ovarian Cancer and the Greyhound Adoption Program.<sup>3</sup> Most recently, you touched us all by making one of your youngest fans, George McNees, the happiest little man in Tasmania by giving him a chance to be a part of your team. A small gesture with an enormous impact for such a brave little boy.<sup>4</sup>

May I also acknowledge all the supporters behind the scenes who have worked so hard to support you through your first season. Your family, friends, management, health professionals, and all JackJumpers staff. Your success owes much to this ongoing commitment and support.

In concluding, I feel that I must confess to you when I became your Patron, I had absolutely no understanding of the rules of basketball. I am receiving plenty of advice from my husband, not sure about its accuracy, but I look forward to learning more as I watch another season.

All that remains is for our State to say congratulations, an amazing effort by all the team for a brilliant inaugural season. I am extremely proud to be your Patron.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.jackjumpers.com.au/news/complete-jackjumpers-squad-unites-to-celebrate-club-milestone>

<sup>2</sup> [www.jackjumpers.com.au](http://www.jackjumpers.com.au)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.jackjumpers.com.au/news/jackjumpers-help-tassie-turn-teal-for-ovarian-cancer-support>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.jackjumpers.com.au/news/jackjumper-georges-star-shines-bright>