

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## **Relay For Life is more than just a good cause**

Ivan Walker would do just about anything for a good cause.

Last year he went to work in his nightshirt, Elvis Presley style sunglasses and big, floppy slippers to raise money for Relay For Life.

"The old ladies loved it," he said.

His team Dollar Dazzlers also holds weekly sausage sizzles and ran a Mo-January event in 2008.

Ivan said all team members were keen to support Cancer Council Tasmania events, as cancer was a major stress in the community.

He does more than his bit to help. He is co-chair of the Eastern Region Relay For Life and is also part-owner of St Helens' IGA supermarket, where his team mates work.

Ivan arranges the roster so all staff members can take part in the event, which raises money for Cancer Council Tasmania's information and support services.

He said many staff members were joined by their families.

"It's really a fun family day for the staff," he said.

The Dollar Dazzlers have participated in Relay each year since its inception on the East Coast in 2007.

Ivan said they had raised more than \$15,000 in this time and always had a fun time.

"There's a real country atmosphere. Most people know each other and there is a strong camaraderie between teams," he said.

Relay For Life will be held at the St Helens Sports Complex on February 28 and March 1.

**For comment call Ivan at IGA St Helens on 6376 1177 or Cancer Council Manager Income Development Lisa Burstall on 6233 2172.  
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## **Relay For Life:**

- Relay For Life is an outdoor, overnight event where teams of 10 to 15 people take turns to walk or run around a track for 24 hours
- It is Cancer Council Tasmania's premier fundraising event
- It supports 80 per cent of the organisations support and information services
- In 2008 Tasmanians raised \$1.2 million through the event, which equates to \$2 per head of population, most mainland states struggle to reach \$1 per head
- Relay has been running in Tasmania since 2001
- This year four events will be held across the state:
  - Hobart – February 28 and March 1
  - Eastern Region (St Helens) – February 28 and March 1
  - Launceston – March 14 and 15
  - Penguin – March 21 and 22

## **Tasmanian cancer stats & facts**

- One in two Tasmanian men and one in three women will receive a cancer diagnosis by age 85 years
- Each day seven Tasmanians are diagnosed with cancer; that's more than 2700 a year and that figure will increase with our ageing population
- Each day close to three Tasmanians will die of cancer; that's more than 1000 people a year
- We have the second highest cancer rate in Australia
- For every Tasmanian diagnosed with cancer there are friends, family and colleagues affected
- At any one time, there are about 7000 Tasmanians living with cancer