

MEDIA RELEASE



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Relay For Life is more than just a good cause

Last year's stormy weather has done little to dampen the spirits of Hobart Relay For Life team the Hydro Shockers.

Team captain Michelle Thurley said they considered a break after a damp 2008 but after a colleague and friend was diagnosed with breast cancer, they will return to the event with renewed vigour.

"I think it's the reality, once you see someone with cancer it makes it hit home," she said.

The Hydro Shockers are just one of 86 teams registered in Hobart's event, which will be held February 28 and March 1 at the Domain Athletics Centre.

They have been involved in the event since its second year, in 2002.

Michelle said they started out wanting to support Cancer Council Tasmania as cancer touched so many people, but it became a fun event they all looked forward to.

"It's not just the cause; the weekend is just such a social thing. To me it's half of Hobart camping together," she said.

"I can't recommend it enough."

Michelle said they usually had about 20 registered team members but in reality about 40 people came along.

"For Hydro it's a real family weekend," she said.

Mrs Thurley said her favourite part was walking during the night, when there was a sense of calm and stillness.

She also enjoys the Candlelight Ceremony, where participants light candles in memory of those lost to cancer or celebration of those who have survived.

**For comment call Michelle on 0410 571 632 or Cancer Council Manager Income Development Lisa Burstall on 6233 2172.
ENDS**

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