

MEDIA RELEASE



Tuesday 3 February 2009

Relay For Life revving up on the North-West

More than 500 North-West Coasters are stretching their legs and warming up for Relay For Life in March.

There has already been a buzz of fundraising activity with everything from open gardens to quiz nights to raffles. So far \$40,000 has been banked in the region.

Cancer Council Tasmania Income Development manager Lisa Burstall said 65 teams had registered so far but there was room for more.

"Relay For Life is a wonderful team event to fight cancer and funds more than 80 per cent of Cancer Council Tasmania's support and information services. I encourage anyone and everyone to take part in this event," she said.

"Relay For Life is much more than a fundraiser, as anyone who attended the Penguin Relay last year will testify; it's a community carnival full of light, life and hope."

In 2008, Tasmanians raised \$1.2 million through Relay For Life, the equivalent of \$2 per head of population.

\$250,000 was raised in Penguin alone.

Relay For Life is strongly supported on the North-West, not only in fundraising but also in recognition as a fun, engaging event.

It is held in Penguin on March 21 and 22 at the Dial Sports Centre, Penguin.

The next team captains meeting is Thursday 19 February at the Penguin Sport and Services Club from 7.30pm.

Last year's inaugural Circular Head event was recently recognised by the Circular Head Council in its Australia Day Awards, taking out the Community Event Award.

The Circular Head event runs every second year.

For further information please contact Relay For Life project officer North-West Russell Freeland on 6421 7887, 0408455590, email rfreeland@cancertas.org.au, or visit www.relayforlife.com.au

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