



MND Tasmania News

March - April 2011

MND Tasmania
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Patron

Lady Sallie Ferrall

Committee

President: Joyce Schuringa

Vice-President: Tim Hynes

Treasurer: Dora Hugo

Secretary: vacant

Northern Support Group: Mary Erickson

Fundraising coordinator: Anna Macpherson

Public Officer: John Hughes OAM

Kate Barnett

Regional Advisor

Jennene Arnel: ra_tasmania@mnd.asn.au

(note the underscore between ra and tasmania) or
phone 1800 806 632.

Support

Correspondence secretary: Michele Newton

Support service

The MND Associations of Victoria and Tasmania work together to provide:

- Information and support by telephone on 1800 806 632, Monday-Friday, 9 am -5 pm.
- Referral to Tasmanian support services.
- Information kits.
- Free membership of MND Victoria and MND Tasmania for people living with MND.
- MND Victoria Newsletter with MND Tasmania News insert for members living in Tasmania.
- Telelink meetings for people with MND, carers and past carers.

New members

We welcome new members P.Steeden (S), D.Bell (N) and Q.&S.Brown (NE).

Donations

Donations have been gratefully received in memory of D.Walker and from members with their annual membership renewal.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held in Hobart on 6 March 2011.

Tim Hynes' President's Report highlighted key achievements of the year including:

- the fundraising by members and supporters coordinated by Anna Macpherson;
- the ongoing support for people with MND provided by the Regional Advisor (RA) and MND Victoria;
- the Health Professionals' Forum organised by MND Victoria and well-received by service providers in Tasmania;
- lobbying the Tasmanian Government re ongoing provision for the RA position.

Issues for 2011 will include:

- ongoing negotiations and work with Dr Jane Tolman, Parkinsons Disease Tasmania and the neurological nurses to ensure the needs of people with MND are addressed by the new service;
- utilising existing philanthropic and MND Tasmania resources to operate the RA position for as long as possible during 2011;
- a gap analysis between the current RA service and the new neurological services;
- the impact of the Productivity Commission Report on the Disability Insurance Scheme.

Office-bearers for 2011 were elected. Appreciation was noted for retiring members Denis Lyne and Anna Nicholas who have each served on the Committee and as Secretary for many years.

MND Week 2011: 1 May – 7 May

MND Week is celebrated nationally in the first full week of May every year. MND Associations work together during this week to raise awareness of MND to realise our Vision of a world free from MND.

The MND Association of Tasmania depends on volunteers. The Committee is grateful to those people who attend Support Group meetings, support MND Awareness Week, organise fundraising activities and send in donations.

This year, our **Button Day is on Thursday 5 May**. We are looking for volunteers to participate in collections and raising awareness on the streets of Hobart, Kingston,

Glenorchy, New Norfolk, Launceston, Devonport, Ulverstone and Burnie. We also have merchandise boxes (with pens, cornflowers, wrist bands) for placement at businesses and workplaces.

If you would like to assist, please contact Anna Macpherson via our email address: info@mndatas.asn.au or telephone 1800 806 632 (leave a message for her to phone you).

Special Event before MND Week 13 & 14 April

The Theatre Royal presents an Ensemble Theatre Production with cast Glenn Hazeldine and Daniel Mitchell:

Tuesdays with Morrie

Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 April at 8pm

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom is the best-selling memoir of all time. Sixteen years have passed since Mitch Albom's graduation when he learns that his former inspirational teacher and mentor Morrie Schwarz has MND. Returning to visit his old professor he is once again captivated by Morrie's wit, wisdom and joy in living. For tickets, contact Theatre Royal: 1800 650 277.

Fundraising

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraisers at:

Bunnings Moonah, Friday 29 April

Bunnings Launceston, Saturday 30 April

Please come along to support MND Tasmania! Have a good time, cook some snags, meet new people and help raise funds for MND! No experience necessary. If you would like to assist (volunteer helpers are still needed for Moonah) please contact Anna Macpherson via our email address info@mndatas.asn.au or telephone 1800 806 632 (leave a message for her to phone you).

Bring and Buy Morning Tea:

Saturday 30 April: 10am – 1pm

43 Manning Ave, Sandy Bay

Entry \$4.00 and scones, tea and coffee provided. Bring a (priced) gift and buy as much as you can! There are lots of donated goods with new and pre-loved jewellery available for sale. Please contact Margaret Eldridge on 6225 1801 if you would like to assist or enquire.

Anna Macpherson
Fundraising coordinator

Freecall 1800 806 632

This number is at the MND Victoria office. To assist the volunteer receptionist, please say that you are from Tasmania. If you wish to speak to a specific MND Tas member or Jennene Arnel, please say so and you will be asked for your contact details. Your call will be returned by that person as soon as possible.

Northern Support Group

The contact person for this group is Mary Erickson who may be contacted on 1800 806 632 (message). Meetings are held on the last Monday of each month at 11am – 1pm at the John L. Grove Centre, Howick Street, Launceston. The following dates have been booked: 30 May, 27 June, 25 July, 29 August, 26 September, 31 October and 28 November.

Regional Advisor's Report

In January, I visited in the South and towards the end of February I visited North, North West and South. The visits primarily focused on visiting people living with MND and their carers.

The visit to the South included a meeting with people who are heading up a new support unit for Parkinson's and other neurological conditions. The program has received funding for the employment of three nurses and an allied health position to work across the State. While initially focusing on Parkinson's disease it is envisaged that the service will ultimately also provide services to people living with MND.

In May, I have been invited to make a presentation on MND and the needs of people living with the disease, to the newly appointed nurses. We will continue our discussions with the program staff to ensure that the needs of our members are understood and appropriately met. We will keep you informed on the program and any services that will be available to people living with MND via this Newsletter.

During the recent visits I also had a number of meetings and discussions with health professionals who are providing support to our members across Tasmania. Health professionals I have been in touch with include doctors, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech pathologists, dietitians, nurses, social workers, personal care workers, and volunteers and their managers. These people work across sectors such as hospitals, community health centres, community outreach services, palliative care, respite, home care services and nursing homes. As I travel around the State I hear so many positive reports about their work.

To all these dedicated and capable people I want to say a big thank you for the care and attention they extend to our members. Tasmanians are fortunate to have such dedicated and competent people providing support.

My next visit is planned for May.

Jennene Arnel
MND Regional Advisor