



## MND Tasmania News September - October 2011

MND Tasmania  
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Website: [www.mndatas.asn.au](http://www.mndatas.asn.au)

### Patron

Lady Sallie Ferrall

### Board

President: Joyce Schuringa

Vice-President: Tim Hynes

Treasurer: Dora Hugo

Secretary: Michele Newton

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](mailto:ra_tasmania@mnd.asn.au) (note the underscore between ra and tasmania) or phone 1800 806 632.

### Support

Website: Shane Chugg

### Membership

MND Tasmania is a member of MND Australia with Tim Hynes serving on the MNDA Board. The MND Research Institute of Australia is part of MND Australia.

### 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 health & 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.
- Meetings for people with MND, carers and past carers.

### Freecall 1800 806 632

To assist the volunteer receptionist at the MND Victoria office, please say that you are from Tasmania. If you wish to speak to a specific person, please say so and your call will be returned by that person as soon as possible.

### New members

We welcome new members T. & J. Williams (S).

### Vale

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of R. Dicker, K. Steeden and D. Short.

### Donations

As well as funds still coming in from MND Week, donations were gratefully received from Qantas Tasmania Contact Centre, the Sandford Morning Tea Group and M. Eldridge. Donations have also been received in the memory of P.R. Lipscombe, R. Dicker and P.N. Wiseman.

### Volunteer roles

#### Secretary

The MND Tasmania Secretary position has been vacant for a long time since Anna Nicholas left due to her expanding family. We are now grateful to Michele Newton who has volunteered (after assisting with correspondence for over a year) to fill this role on the Board.

#### HELP Needed: Fundraising Coordinator

Anna Macpherson has done a wonderful job of pulling together all the loose strands around fundraising coordination during the past two years. She has been proactive in improving networks, processes and communication around the State. However, we are pleased to announce that her family of three is expecting an addition early next year. Anna will therefore retire from the position of Fundraising Coordinator as well as from the Board at the end of 2011.

This is a good time to volunteer to become the Fundraising Coordinator as there will be a handover provided by Anna! If you are interested in knowing more and in assisting people with MND in Tasmania, please contact Anna at our email address or by leaving a message for her at our 1800 number.

### **Northern Support Group**

The contact person for this group is Mary Erickson who may be contacted via 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 date has been booked: 25 October. If you will not attend this meeting and would like to join the Christmas Party hosted by our Patron Lady Sallie Ferrall in December, please contact Mary.

### **Fundraising**

#### **MND Week**

Many people put in a great effort this year and we are pleased to have received over \$7,000 in donations from fundraising during MND Week.

#### **MND Entertainment Book**

To order your 2011/2012 Entertainment Book go to: [www.mndatas.asn.au](http://www.mndatas.asn.au)

*Anna Macpherson*  
*Fundraising coordinator*

### **Regional Advisor's Report**

By the time you receive this Newsletter, I will have finally made another trip to Tasmania. What a bad winter it was, and once again, I apologise for cancelling visits in May and July due to my recurring respiratory problems. A holiday in warmer climes has helped and now my health is fully restored and I am looking forward to Spring in Tassie and catching up with the MND family, face to face rather than by telephone.

During my September visit I will be visiting families and also presenting information sessions to five separate groups of health professionals across Tasmania. Around 150 people are expected to attend the sessions. This level of attendance is very pleasing and indicates the interest that health professionals have in MND and their commitment to providing high quality services which appropriately meet the needs of our members. Each participant will be given an MND Information Kit for their

ongoing use and also to share with their colleagues. Please let people in your health care team know that information sessions are available whenever I am in Tasmania. I can be contacted through MND Victoria on Freecall 1800 806 632.

Margaret Eldridge, who many of you know as a friend and supporter of MND in Hobart, has recently sent me information about the Kate McPherson Foundation which has established a new scholarship for Fiji Women Graduates for post graduate study in Education at the University of Tasmania. Dr Kate McPherson made a great contribution to education during her life which was cut short by MND in 2007. For further information about the Foundation and donations, contact UTAS Foundation, Private Bag 40, Hobart TAS 7001, or call 6226 1920.

My next visit to Tasmania will be in early November and that will be followed by my attendance at the International Symposium on ALS/MND to be held in Sydney from 30 November – 2 December 2011. It is very exciting to have the Symposium in Australia. I look forward to catching up with many others working with people living with MND, including several health professionals from Tasmania and also learning about initiatives taking place overseas. There will be reports on the Symposium in future Newsletters.

With best wishes

*Jennene Arnel*  
*MND Regional Advisor*

**Website:** [www.mndatas.asn.au](http://www.mndatas.asn.au)

If you visit our website you will find that it has been reformatted and revitalised. Read and hear stories from some of our members in Tasmania.

### **Research update**

The journal *Nature* published online on 21 August 2011 contains some articles pertinent to MND. Find the link on the MND Australia home page at [www.mndaust.asn.au/research-news/](http://www.mndaust.asn.au/research-news/)

