



MND Tasmania News

November - December 2011

MND Tasmania
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Patron

Lady Sallie Ferrall

Committee

President: Joyce Schuringa

Vice-President: Tim Hynes

Treasurer: Dora Hugo

Secretary: Michele Newton

Public Officer: John Hughes OAM

Northern Support Group: Mary Erickson

Fundraising coordinator: Anna Macpherson

Kate Barnett

Regional Advisor

Jennene Arnel: ra_tasmania@mnd.asn.au (note the underscore between ra and tasmania) or 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.
- Victorian Newsletter with Tasmanian News insert for members living in Tasmania.

Freecall 1800 806 632

This telephone 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 Board member or to 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.

New Members

We welcome new members C. & C. Mackie, D. Bell and D. & L. Blackwood.

Vale

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of J. Cumes.

Donations

Donations have been gratefully received from M. Viney, ACL Bearing Co. Launceston, M. Eldridge and D. & L. Blackwood.

Volunteer roles

Fundraising Coordinator

Anna Macpherson will be retiring from the position of Fundraising Coordinator as well as from the Committee at the end of 2011. We are pleased to announce that Mary Erickson, our irreplaceable Northern Support Group Coordinator, has volunteered to take over from Anna for 2012. Thank you Mary!

Fundraising

TOTE Tasmania held a free dress day and raised \$108 for MND Tasmania. Thank you to Adrian Munnings for organising this successful fundraising activity.

It is with regret that I will no longer be continuing in 2012 as volunteer Fundraising Coordinator due to family commitments and the impending birth of my second little girl in February. I am very grateful to all the volunteers who have assisted with fundraising activities and to the regular volunteers for their fantastic commitment each year during MND week. MND Tasmania could not offer a number of really important services without people donating their time as volunteers.

I would like to thank MND Tasmania Committee member Mary Erickson for taking on the role of volunteer Fundraising Coordinator from January 2012. Mary is also a member of the Northern Support Group and has made a significant contribution to fundraising for many years.

MND Entertainment Book

To order your 2011/12 Entertainment Book go to: www.mndatas.asn.au

Anna Macpherson
Fundraising coordinator

Regional Advisor's Report

In mid November, I visited a number of our members living with MND in Tasmania and also met with relevant health professionals across the State.

Immediately after this visit, I attended the International Symposium in Sydney which provided an exciting opportunity to hear people from around the world present papers on their work with people living with MND. It also provided the opportunity to meet with international researchers and allied health professionals.

With the assistance of funding from MND Victoria's Nina Buscombe Award, a number of Tasmanian health professionals attended the five day meeting in Sydney, and together with representatives from MND Tasmania we proudly flew the Tasmanian flag and spoke of our work in supporting people living with MND. In the next Newsletter there will be a report on highlights from the Symposium.

As the festive season approaches I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of you a joyous Christmas with friends and family, and a safe and happy New Year. I look forward to working with you in 2012.

Best wishes

Jennene Arnel
MND Regional Advisor

Northern Support Group

Meetings for 2012

Hi everyone, I hope you can all continue to come next year. We welcome any new members and non-members to our group - just come for a cuppa and a chat. We also have small gifts to raffle as part of our fundraising. We meet on the last Monday of every month at the John L. Grove Center on Howick Street, Launceston.

Time: 11am to 1pm

Dates: January 30, February 27, March 26, April 30, May 28, June 25, July 30, August 27, September 24, October 29 and November to be decided.

Cricket Match report



Saturday 8 October started out as a lovely day. Craig set up the BBQ and many others helped to set up for the day. Ted and Graham from the Road Trauma support team were there and the Umpires of the day were Guy Barnett and Rob Soward.

After the coin was tossed, team Skeggs opted to bat first. Everyone loved watching the match as well as remembering loved ones lost.



Lots of people bought cornflowers and wrist bands in support of MND.

The sky was getting darker and we could see the rain coming! We got through the first innings: Team Skeggs All Out 9- 143- and 19 overs. As we were all having time out for lunch the rain hit and did it pour!! Everybody scattered and unfortunately the rest of the game was cancelled due to the ongoing rain.

I would like to thank all who were involved including Guy, Rob, Hayden, Greg, Kerri and also the two little helpers Ashleigh and Tyler for running around collecting donations. It was my great pleasure once again to be invited to represent MND of Tasmania for this memorial match.

Mary Erickson
Northern Support Group

Home Modifications

Amongst our most longstanding members are Kerry and Sharon Upchurch. Since Kerry was diagnosed with MND, their family has grown to include their three sons. This year, their church community in Ulverstone assisted Kerry and Sharon to significantly enlarge their home and to make it more wheelchair accessible. MNDTasmania was one of the donors which supported this project. An open day and afternoon tea was held on 4 June at the home to mark occupation and to give thanks to all those who assisted in this marvelous project.

Please note that MNDTasmania will provide funding towards the cost of equipment for members on a case by case basis following a referral from a health professional.

Neuromuscular Alliance of Tasmania Keeping Cool Campaign

The Neuromuscular Alliance of Tasmania (NMAT) is an association of the following associations in Tasmania: MND, Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease, Muscular Dystrophy, Spina Bifida, Parkinson's disease and Multiple Sclerosis.

NMAT is combining with other neurological disorder associations to lobby for financial support, not just for running air conditioners but also for the capital purchase of them. People with neurological conditions feel better when the temperature is kept even and consistent.

On 18 October, a campaign website was developed: <http://www.keepingcool.org/campaignplatform.htm>

If you have no access to the Internet, you can contact MS Tasmania via telephone – (03) 6220 1111.

Project officer Michael Bowman would like your assistance: are there any members who may be able to speak to the media or be the subject of a newspaper article? You can contact him directly on 0418 527 803, or email michael.bowman@mstas.org.au (letter writing tips can be provided).

Thank you for your assistance.