

September 2024

MNDnews

The newsletter of the Motor Neurone Disease Association of Tasmania



We have **never** been
this busy!

Until there's a cure, there's care



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



MND Tasmania welcomed four new Directors to the Board at the March AGM - Mel Gray, Kate Lawrence, Paul Kelly and Jodie Sullivan. We thank retiring members Kate Todd, Jules Driessen and Elisa Howlett for their past support.

The Board has been busy supporting our members and families with many positive outcomes and plans. Some of these include:

- * Successful notification of a FightMND Care Grant, towards providing care funding for Tasmanian members over 65 and not on the NDIS.
- * Appointment of a third MND Advisor for Tasmanian members.
- * Working with the Tasmanian Government and MND Victoria to provide equipment needs for members.
- * Building relationships with MND Australia, FightMND, Governments and MND Victoria.
- * Supporting UTAS in the creation of a course specifically targeted to MND.
- * Attending many community fundraising activities.
- * Appointment of a Tasmanian contact within the NDIS for Tasmanians living with neurological conditions like MND, thus providing quicker response times for participant needs.

We send our congratulations to Tasmanian Health Minister, The Hon Guy Barnett for receiving a "Recognition of Service" medal for his services to MND Tasmania. Guy Barnett was presented with his award at the celebration on Global MND Day held at Parliament House. Guy is a past MND Tasmania President, and his mother is a past Secretary of MND Tasmania. We are fortunate to have Guy Barnett as a long-time MND advocate here in Tasmania.

The Board sincerely thanks MND Victoria for their support of our members and the Board.

Chris Symonds

President, MND Tasmania

LATEST NEWS

MND Tasmania Annual General Meeting 2024

We held our Annual General Meeting in March at the Menzies Institute in Hobart, and had record attendance both online and in person.

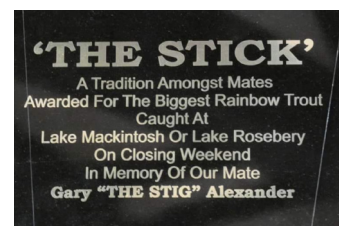
Thank you to everyone who attended and voted. We said farewell to our previous Board Members Kate Todd (President), Julie Driessen (Treasurer) and Elisa Howlett (Member Support) - we will be forever grateful for their immense contribution to MND Tasmania.

We had an overwhelming response for Board positions and are proud to announce the following people have been elected to the following positions, by the majority of votes: Chris Symonds - President, Prof. Tracey Dickson - Snr Vice President, Steve Isaac - Vice President, Lucy Polizzi - Secretary, Mellissa Gray - Public Officer, Kate Lawrence - Treasurer, Jodie Sullivan - Member Support, Saga Hassinen - Fundraising, and Paul Kelly - Board member.



Annual 4x4 Stick Competition in Burnie

In June, the annual Burnie 4x4 Stick Competition in memory of Gary "THE STIG" Alexander took place in Lakes Mackintosh/Rosebery, with 92 Anglers reeling for bragging rights for one of Tassie's biggest fishing fundraisers. The competition has been in place since 2011 and we can't thank Shane Ling - and all the others involved in this wonderful event - enough for their continuous support of MND Tasmania!





SAVE THE DATE: WALK TO DEFEAT MND 2024!

Sunday, October 20th from 10am at Queens Domain, Hobart. More details will soon be available online.

MND MERCHANDISE

Show your support with some MND Tasmania merchandise, available via our online store www.mndatas.asn.au/store



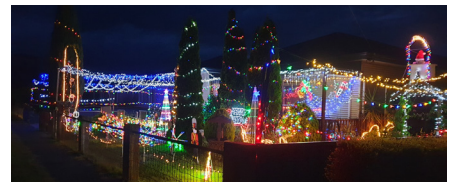
Equipment Discussions

MND Tasmania President Chris Symonds, supported by MND Victoria's CEO Kate Johnson, met with the Hon Guy Barnett MP - Tasmanian Government's Health Minister - in Launceston in June. It was a very positive discussion, and both MND Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government are looking forward to growing our partnership to support those living with MND and KD in Tasmania.



Bunnings Fundraisers

We had a wonderful time getting to know the community and sharing meaningful conversations in our two previous Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraisers. Thank you so much to those who organised, participated, volunteered, and supported our cause!



Murray Yaxley Memorial Lecture

MND Tasmania Board Members Saga and Steve attended the annual Murray Yaxley Memorial Lecture in Lindisfarne in May. It was a wonderful evening of traditional customs, Mason wear and welcoming Brothers and Sisters. We thank them for their hospitality and generous ongoing support of MND Tasmania.



Thank you to William Fraser

After 18 years of bringing smiles to children and adults alike with his wonderful display of Christmas lights, William is set to 'retire' from his Christmas duties! We thank him for this immense effort and continued support of MND Tasmania.

Global MND Day at Parliament House in Canberra



MND Tasmania, alongside all State Associations, MND Australia and Federal Parliamentary Friends of MND, celebrated Global MND Day at Parliament House in Canberra on June 21st.

Leaders in the MND community were recognised with lifetime achievement medals, and key issues and challenges faced by people living with MND were discussed.

Our very own Vice President Tracey Dickson and The Hon Senator Carol Brown were present to proudly witness a recognition of service medal presented to The Hon Guy Barnett, a much-valued advocate for MND in Tasmania.

MND SUPPORT GROUP

The MND Support Groups in Tasmania are independently run by community members for community members. We appreciate their willingness to devote their time and volunteer for such a worthy cause.

North West MND Support Group

The NWSG in Ulverstone invites all MND Tasmania members and supporters to its meetings.

When: Wednesday 4th December at 11:00 am

Where: Ulverstone Returned Servicemen's Club Back Room, 21 King Edward Street, Ulverstone

Contact: Junene Stephens is the secretary and can be contacted on 0428 252 763 or email: jstephens@berendsen.net.au

Northern MND Support Group – can you help?

We are looking for a volunteer to help coordinate a regular support group in Northern Tasmania (ideally Launceston). This would be an informal coffee catch-up group for people living with MND and their family, friends and carers to talk all things MND and Kennedy's Disease, as well as share experiences and helpful tips.

If you are interested in assisting, please contact Emma Forsyth on 0456 182 551 or email eforsyth@mnd.org.au

FUNdraise for MND Tasmania

Are you interested in becoming a community fundraiser for MND Tasmania? You could host an event, get active, set a challenge, celebrate an occasion, have a bake sale... ideas are only limited by your imagination!

When you sign up to fundraise for us, you'll receive your own online fundraising page to help spread the word about your activity and to receive donations. Get in touch with us by emailing info@mndatas.asn.au






We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands in which we live, work, and learn. We recognise and respect the enduring relationship they have with their lands and waters, and we pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.



MND TASMANIA

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