April 2026

MNDnews

The newsletter of the Motor Neurone Disease Association of Tasmania



The newly elected Board looks forward to supporting its members for 2026/27.

Until there's a cure, there's care

mnd Tasmania

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MND Tasmania look forward to building on our existing partnerships to support our members during 2026.

Tasmanian Government funding is critical to maintain the Advisor Service and Equipment Scheme. With the current four year State Government funding to expire in June, we are lobbying strongly to build on existing funds. We have already met with the Premier and will meet with the Health Minister in April.

Our partnership with MND Victoria remains strong, with CEO Mary-Jane Stolp and Board President Todd Johnson in attendance at our AGM.

The Board has made the decision to partner with MND Victoria's Community Engagement Team, due to the area being too much for a volunteer based group. We look forward to developing this initiative and working closely with community groups to help us raise the $183K needed to support the Advisor Service and Equipment Scheme. **Funds generated within Tasmania stay in Tasmania to support its members.**

The Equipment Scheme is now gaining traction with donations from the community flowing into the County Care warehouse based at Invermay. I thank those who have donated items for other members to use.

For those wanting to donate equipment, please email tasequipment@mnd.org.au where Racheal or Amy will support you with collection.

With this hard copy newsletter posted out to members six monthly, the MND Tasmania Board have decided to share a monthly communication by email to members' inbox.

Chris Symonds
President, MND Tasmania



LATEST NEWS

AGM Update

MND Tasmania held its Annual General Meeting in Hobart on 9th March 2026. Elected directors are:

- Chris Symonds — President
- Steve Isaac — Vice President
- Dr Andrew Phipps — Secretary
- Kate Lawrence — Treasurer
- Trent Allen — Public Officer
- Dr Sharn Perry — Director
- Lyne Kelly — Director

The newly elected Board looks forward to supporting its members for 2026/27.

MND Victoria's new CEO, Mary-Jane Stolp, attended and spoke of building the partnership and services provided to the Tasmanian members.

The CEO of MND Australia, Clare Sullivan, attended online. She spoke of the $5 billion impact MND has on the community and their lobbying efforts with the Federal Government for improved consultation to have fairer support for members, if on the NDIS or not.

Thanks to all who attended either in person or online.

Our Advisor Service

The Advisor Service is the critical support team for our members and families to "Live Better for Longer" during their MND or Kennedy's Disease journey. The three Tasmanian Advisors also act as Support Coordinators with the caseload split equally between all three.

Emma Forsyth is located at the Launceston General Hospital, Kate Biven and Kate Gregory are both located in Hobart with offices at the ABC building.



Left to right: Kate Biven, Emma Forsyth, Chris Symonds and Kate Gregory.



Give Hope, Give Support, Gain Knowledge: Enrol in the Free MND MOOC

Motor neurone disease (MND) is one of the most challenging neurodegenerative conditions affecting individuals, families, and communities.

Understanding the disease can make a profound difference in the lives of those who live with MND and those who support them. That's exactly why the Wicking Dementia Centre created the Motor Neurone Disease Massive Open Online Course (MND MOOC).

This free online course has become a trusted learning pathway for carers, health professionals, students, and anyone who wants to deepen their knowledge of MND. If you've ever wanted to better understand the condition, improve your ability to support someone living with it, or simply expand your awareness, this course is an invaluable opportunity.

What the MND MOOC Offers

The Wicking Dementia Centre has built a reputation for delivering world-class education in dementia and related conditions. Their MND MOOC is no exception. It provides:

- Clear, evidence-based explanations of what MND is and how it affects the body.
- Insights into the lived experience of people with MND and their families.
- Practical guidance for supporting someone with MND across the progression of the disease.
- Flexible, self-paced learning, accessible from anywhere.
- Completely free enrolment, with no prerequisites.

The course is designed to be approachable and engaging, even if you have no prior medical or scientific background. It blends expert knowledge with real stories, making complex information easy to understand and deeply meaningful.

Who Should Enrol

The MND MOOC is ideal for:

- Family members and friends supporting someone with MND
- Aged care and disability support workers
- Nurses, allied health professionals, and medical students
- Community members who want to learn more
- Anyone passionate about improving care and understanding.

If you're involved in care, education, or advocacy—or if you simply want to be better informed—this course will give you the confidence and clarity you need.

Why You Should Enrol Now

Education is one of the most powerful tools we have in improving quality of life for people living with MND. By enrolling, you're not just learning—you're contributing to a more informed, compassionate community.

And because the course is free, there's no barrier to getting started. You can study at your own pace, revisit modules whenever you need, and apply what you learn immediately in real-world situations.

If you've been meaning to learn more about MND, this is your moment. The Wicking Dementia Centre's MND MOOC is one of the most accessible and impactful ways to build your understanding.

Take the Next Step

Enrolling is simple, and the benefits are lasting. Whether you're supporting someone with MND, working in health or community care, or simply curious, this course will expand your knowledge and strengthen your ability to make a difference.

The Wicking Dementia Centre has created a resource that empowers people with knowledge, empathy, and practical skills. All you need to do is enrol and begin.

Visit: mooc.utas.edu.au

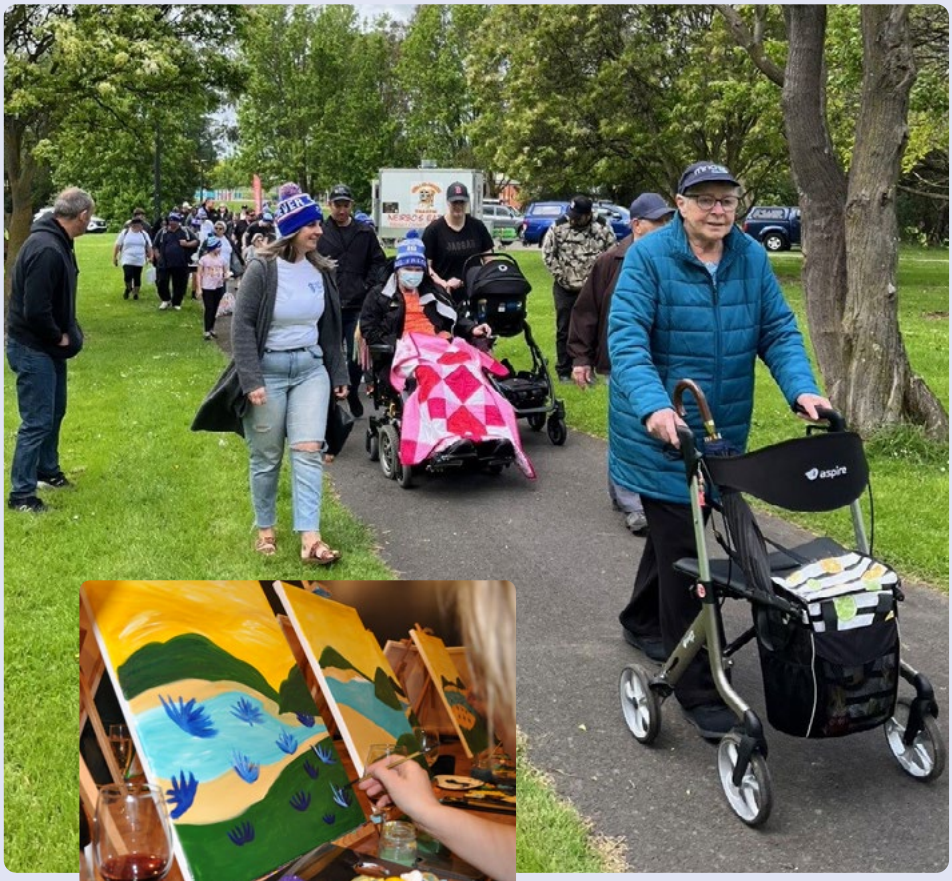
UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA
WICKING
Dementia Research and Education Centre

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE INTERNATIONAL (ADI)
ACCREDITED PROVIDER

MS Queensland

Photo above by kobu agency, unsplash.com

FUNDRAISE FOR MND TASMANIA



Are you looking to make a positive difference this year? One of the best ways to get involved and be a force for good is to fundraise!

Fundraising for MND Tasmania is a powerful way to raise awareness and vital funds to help us continue to provide the best possible care, support and equipment to people impacted by MND.

Fundraising can take a variety of forms, from a bake sale, to a raffle, to a quiz night... anything you can possibly imagine!

Whatever your passion is, we can help you use it to connect with your networks, meet new people, and make a huge difference.

Whether you're a fundraising pro or you've never done a fundraiser before, we're here to help you out!

You can sign up for a fundraiser online at www.mndtas.org.au.

Play FOR PURPOSE

MND Tasmania is proud to partner with Play for Purpose, Australia's charity raffle platform that puts the fun into fundraising.

Every ticket you buy directly supports our work providing care, support and equipment to Tasmanians facing MND. And with life-changing prizes up for grabs, there's never been a better reason to get involved!

Every Play For Purpose ticket gives you the chance to win a first prize worth $300K and hundreds of other amazing prizes like cars, vouchers and more!

Tickets are only $10 and $5 from every ticket purchased gets donated back to MND Tasmania.

Grab your tickets:

MND TASMANIA
PO Box 379, Sandy Bay,
TAS 7006 Australia

Charity ABN: 21877144292

Freecall: 1800 777 175
info@mndatas.asn.au
www.mndtas.org.au
www.facebook.com/MNDTas
www.instagram.com/mnd_tas

mnd Tasmania

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.