

Newsletter 2017

From the Chair

Melanoma Tasmania has continued to grow this year with many highlights in 2017. Our newsletter is an extensive one but it showcases what we have been up to over the past 12 months – working on your behalf to minimise the impact of melanoma here in Tasmania.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge our Patron the Hon Peter Hodgman as well as our board members: Scott Nicol (Treasurer), Wendy Sullivan (Secretary), Dr Di King, Kate Atkinson, Trish McDonald, Andrew Johns, Dr Nikki Elkerton, Dr Tim Jackson and Candice Edmondson, who have been integral in the success of Melanoma Tasmania.

We have seen a 40% increase in the number of people following us on Facebook over the past 12 months. We celebrated 1000 'likes' on our Facebook page and have enjoyed great interactions with Tasmanians via social media. The number of contacts we have had from families affected by melanoma continues to rise and we have attended some fantastic events which have enabled us to raise awareness about the disease and our organisation.

This year I represented the Australian perspective at the Melanoma International Patient Advocates Coalition (MI-PAC) in Munich as well as the Global Coalition for Melanoma Patient Advocacy in Brisbane in November. It was wonderful to be able to present issues for rural and remote Australia. A highlight was attending the World Congress of Melanoma in Brisbane and hearing from doctors and patients about progress in treatment outcomes as well as areas which still need our attention.

We saw some amazing fundraising feats this year – none more so than Meters for Melanoma where Anne Steele swam the length of Loch Earn in Scotland in 13-degree water. A huge physical feat. Anne has inspired Pete Williams to set sail in early 2018 on his Nautical Miles for Melanoma – a solo circumnavigation around Tasmania in his small yacht. Ken Harriss headed around the state on his motorbike for the Run from the Sun tour, which culminated in the Rise and Shine Bike Show at Sorell. Now we just need something involving the sky ...

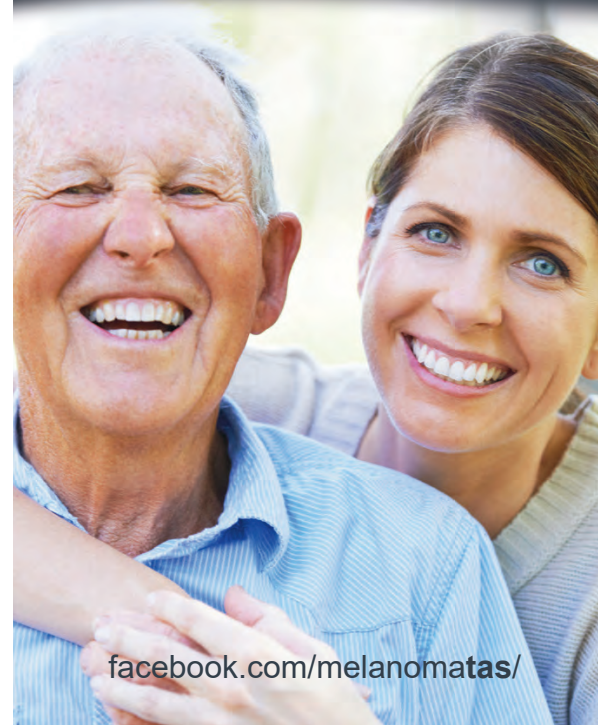
We have achieved so much together – for an organisation that does not have any paid staff, or indeed any members or volunteers who assist us full time, it shows that passion and dedication can make a difference to the health of our fellow Tasmanians. Whilst we are yet to secure a major sponsor, your support shows that Melanoma Tasmania is needed and we know that bigger things are on the horizon. A huge and heartfelt thank you to everyone who continues to help us! We cannot do it without you and we look forward to a continued relationship in 2018 and beyond.

Di Mason
Chair, Melanoma Tasmania



melanomatas

Local people, caring for our community



Our 2017 achievements

- ✓ Presentations – Presented to 12 secondary schools and colleges (over 2000 students) and six community groups across Tasmania.
- ✓ Support – Provided direct support to a dozen families and many others indirectly via social media.
- ✓ Advocacy – We are now on the world stage having attended global advocacy meetings in Munich, Brisbane and Sydney.
- ✓ Fundraising – This year you upped your generosity and we received in excess of \$30,000 thanks to community fundraisers and events.
- ✓ Media – We featured on state-wide radio, television and even nationally: Anne Steele's story featured in *Your Magazine*.
- ✓ Award – Nominated in the Excellence as a Not For Profit category in the National Melanoma Awards.

Our goals for 2018

1. Secure a major sponsor.
2. Employ an officer three days per week.
3. Launch our 'Say NO to melaNOma' campaign.
4. Launch our awareness campaign with EGO skincare aimed at tourists.
5. Secure a grant to bring the Lions Skin Cancer Screening Facility Bus to Tasmania.

Clinical news

In 2018:

- Melanoma Institute Australia is providing the Ultimate Melanoma Masterclass on 13 February for GPs, clinicians and researchers. Admission is free. For more details visit <http://bit.ly/MelanomaMasterclass>
- Melanoma Tasmania will be working with Primary Health Tasmania to facilitate education sessions for GPs around treatment updates.
- Melanoma Tasmania in partnership with Roche Pharmaceuticals will facilitate clinical updates for Tasmanian specialists.

Fundraising events

We had many fundraising events this year – some big, some small – and while we cannot showcase all of them here, please accept our sincere thanks for your contributions. They all make a difference and will be used to minimise the impact of melanoma here in Tasmania.

Meters for Melanoma

Anne Steele trained in the Derwent River over the winter months to ready her body for swimming in icy cold Loch Earn in Scotland – the only person without a wetsuit! Her son Lachlan swam the last few kilometres to motivate Anne to the end. Anne's incredible effort raised over \$13,000 for Melanoma Tasmania.

Anne, you are an inspiration! Thank you.



^ Ryk Goddard, Anne and Di at ABC Hobart

< Anne and Lachlan Steele before the swim

Our champion! >



Melanoma March Devonport

Thanks to the wonderful organisation of locals Raeleen Bound and Angela Kenzie, both of whom lost their husbands to melanoma, Tasmania hosted its second march. It was a stunning day made even more special with Don Hardman cutting the ribbon to launch the walk. Don's wife Jo passed shortly before the march this year after a long and hard-fought battle with melanoma.

Our thoughts are with Don, his family and everyone who has lost a loved one to melanoma.

Go Quackers, Mt Nelson Primary School

Our annual fundraiser was held again at Mt Nelson Primary School and saw over 600 ducks sold – our biggest Quackers yet!

Many people attended the event in person this year, which made it all the more special. We really value your support whether scooping your ducks in person or purchasing a duck and allowing one of our volunteer crew to scoop on your behalf.

We could not hold the event without the many, many wonderful sponsors who jumped on board this year. Special thanks to Telstra for donating an iPhone7 – a huge drawcard! Thanks too to Ego who provided many sunscreens and hampers for this year's event.

Finally, a massive thank you to Mt Nelson Primary School for allowing us to host our event on campus.



Run from the Sun Ride

Ken Harriss, a stage IV melanoma fighter, jumped on his trusty Triumph and toured Tassie sharing his story about his battle against melanoma. Ken also spoke about the dangers of UV and the fact that melanoma is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in 18-39 year olds – a timely message for secondary school students.

Although the weather was wet and windy, the welcomes were warm and we were so impressed with the reception each of the schools/organisations gave us. We couldn't include photos from all of the places we visited but wish to thank everyone for their generosity in hosting us.

Ken is excited to make this an annual event and we have already begun to plan our route for 2018 – let us know if you would like a visit at your school/organisation.



Rotary Club of Scottsdale



^ Bridport Café hosted us for lunch – it was not all work!

^ Ken with students from Tasman District High School



< We chatted to some golfers at Barnbougle

Run from the Sun at a glance:

- Ken rode 1200 km
- Rode through 14 municipal areas
- Rode through 5 electorates: Franklin, Lyons, Bass, Braddon and Denison
- Spoke to over 600 people
- Recruited many people to get involved in our 'Say NO to melaNOma' campaign



^ Ken with staff at Glamorgan Spring Bay Council offices

v Hanging with the senior school from Scotch Oakburn College in Launceston



^ Bothwell District High School



A huge thank you to the staff at Tas Gas who chose Melanoma Tasmania as a nominated charity money. Tas Gas matched dollar for dollar the amount donated by staff and we are thrilled to be receiving a cheque for over \$4,000. Thank you to CEO Simon Himson for initiating this and our presentation at their end of year meeting.



Rise and Shine Bike Show, Uniting Age Well Ningana

The Run From the Sun Ride ended at Sorell at the Rise and Shine Bike Show hosted by Uniting Age Well Ningana.

Fast becoming an annual event, this wonderful show merges age with beauty with indications that it will be bigger and better next year.

The residents enter their mobility scooters for judging along with dozens of beautiful, shiny bikes of all ages and backgrounds.

Many thanks to Ken, Melita and all of the volunteers who balanced running a nursing home with wrangling bikies and members of the public on this day. Special thanks also go to Leon Cupit who donated proceeds from the sale of his book *A Riders Guide to Touring Tasmania* to Melanoma Tasmania.



Rise and Shine Bike Show

in support of
Melanoma Tasmania

Saturday 23 September 2017
10am – 2pm

Uniting AgeWell Sorell Community, Ningana
The Circle, Sorell

AWARDS

BEST AMERICAN	BEST BRITISH	BEST EUROPEAN
BEST JAPANESE	BEST SCOOTER	BEST PRE 1980
PEOPLE'S CHOICE	RESIDENTS CHOICE	
BEST TOY/LEGO/MODEL MOTORCYCLE		
BEST RESIDENT'S MOBILITY SCOOTER		

Competition entry \$10 on arrival
(For more than one entry, please contact prior)

All money raised will be donated to Melanoma Tasmania
Melanoma Tasmania supports Tasmanians and their families affected by melanoma

For more information contact Ken at
kharris@unitingagewell.org, T: 6269 1000
unitingagewell.org

Advocacy

Melanoma Tasmania has been hard at work ensuring the voices of Tasmanians affected by melanoma have been heard at a national and international level.

Founder and Chair Di Mason represented Australia at the Melanoma International Patient Advocacy Commission in Munich. We also attended the World Congress of Melanoma in Brisbane in November, which incorporated the Global Coalition for Melanoma Advocacy meeting. Tasmania is not the only place that faces challenges around our population size and geographical location when it comes to accessing treatment and it was an honour to provide the rural and remote perspective for Australia in these forums.

It was wonderful to see oncologists, surgeons and skin doctors from across Tasmania attending the World Congress of Melanoma which showcased improvements in treatment outcomes but also a warning that we must not become complacent. At this stage only 50% of patients respond to the new targeted/ immunotherapies, so it is imperative that we continue to focus on prevention strategies.



^ World Congress of Melanoma Brisbane



^ Dr Andrew Castley, Di and Dr Louise Nott

< Board members Dr Di King, Di Mason and Dr Nikki Elkerton

Melanoma Tasmania is working with the Tasmanian Health System to assist with the development of a Multi-Disciplinary Meeting at the Royal Hobart Hospital. This is where clinicians from different areas of expertise discuss cases to design the best possible treatment plan for the patient. It is something that other common cancer streams have in place and is a crucial component of the Cancer Care Pathway in the treatment of melanoma. It is also something that Melanoma Tasmania has been advocating for for the past 2 years. We look forward to seeing its inception in 2018.

We were honoured to be asked to attend the Cancer Community Together meeting in Sydney hosted by Bristol Myers Squibb, which brought together advocates from different cancer streams as well as industry and government representatives to discuss issues around access to treatment.

Melanoma Institute Australia is hosting the Masterclass in Melanoma for general practitioners, clinicians and researchers in February 2018 at which Melanoma Tasmania will sit on the consumer advocacy panel.

Media and communications



< This year we welcomed Kadie Pretzman, doing a fantastic job assisting with social media.

National Skin Cancer Action Week

Our focus this year was 'It's not just a skin cancer'.

Tracy Barton shared her story about losing husband Chris 12 months ago aged 39. Thank you Tracy for sharing your family during this difficult time.



^ Dr Tim Jackson being interviewed by WIN TV



< Dr Tim Jackson and Terry



Education and awareness

This year, on top of the Run from the Sun Ride, we have spoken to over 2000 secondary school students as well as sporting and community groups. We are fortunate to have people such as Ken Harriss and Matt Kean who are passionate about sharing their stories to highlight the dangers of melanoma in Tasmania.

In 2017 we visited:

- Health Fest at Hobart College
- Prospect High School Launceston
- St Virgil's College Senior School Austins Ferry
- Sacred Heart Grade 10 Health Studies class New Town
- St Patrick College Senior School Launceston
- Sorell and Scottsdale Rotary Clubs
- Kingston Council Volunteer Program
- Sorell High School.



< Prospect High School Hat fundraiser



^ Dr Nikki Elkerton at Hobart College



< Di and Matt Kean at St Virgils College



v Sorell High School

Testimonials from Sacred Heart College Grade 10 students

As a part of the Grade 10 Health Studies class, we were very lucky to have Di Mason from Melanoma Tasmania come and inform us about skin cancer. She clarified how skin cancer is developed and the many ways it can be prevented as she encouraged us to take care of our skin. Melanoma is such as fast spreading cancer that affects many people all over the world. Approximately two in three Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer by the time they are 70. The organisation, Melanoma Tasmania, provides support for people affected by the cancer, while also caring for their family. The association strives to promote awareness and also raise funds for research into treatment and a cure for melanoma. I personally learnt a lot from Di and I was so thankful she took the time to come and spread her knowledge about this horrible type of cancer, melanoma.

Zoe

I think it was very important that we learn about this type of information as skin cancer is a very dangerous and common cancer that goes undetected if unchecked. Learning about it at a young age is very important as we all love going out and enjoying the sun. We often forget about getting sunburnt and when we do get burnt we brush it off and think "it was only a sunburn, it will be gone in a few days," but it actually has a long term effect. I'm very grateful Di visited our school and taught us about sun safety, and will certainly be changing my ways as a result.

Olivia

I think that the Melanoma Tasmania talk was a powerful message because it made each person have a think about decisions they have made in the past that could have already affected their skin, and also think about what they can do in the future to prevent further damage. The statistics that Di used to demonstrate the damaging effects of poor skin safety were very powerful. As young people, we do need to be educated in what we should be doing to help keep our skin healthy throughout the rest of our lives.

Paige

I thought the talk Di Mason gave us was very educational. Melanoma is a type of cancer I never really knew that much about. Because of Di I now have a better understanding of what melanoma is and how to tackle it. The PowerPoint Di presented was a good source of information and the little gifts of sunscreen were an effective way of promoting being sun smart and reminding us all of the importance of using sun screen.

Chloe

I personally found the presentation very interesting, the information about what damage the sun can do in so little time was really fascinating and eye opening. I think that all schools should have a similar presentation.

Harrison