

## Newsletter 2019

### From The Chair

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What a year 2019 has been. Our team has again been behind the scenes (and in some cases at the forefront of) meetings, collaborations and events in order to raise awareness of melanoma and skin cancer in Tasmania. The year culminated in Melanoma Tasmania incorporating as Skin Cancer Tasmania in order to meet the needs of Tasmanians affected by all forms of skin cancer, not just melanoma. More on this later.

For a small team with no employed staff, we manage to maintain a voice and presence amongst much larger organisations. It is because of the feedback that we receive from you, that we are continually motivated to maintain our activities and we will continue to be a voice for those and their families who feel the impact of this disease.

Some of the major highlights for 2019 were:

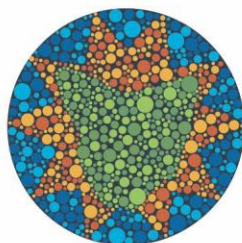
- The inaugural **Melanoma March** in Launceston. It was an honour to walk alongside one of the greats of melanoma research in the field of pathology, Dr Richard Scolyer, who is a Launceston local.
- The Rosny Park Tennis Club ran a **24-hour Tennis A Thon** at the end of March – the first of its kind certainly in Tasmania, with proceeds coming to Melanoma Tasmania. Continuing with the sporting theme, the **Northern Hawks Netball Club** had a Melanoma Awareness Round in July following one of their players being diagnosed with melanoma. The Hawks even had specially designed dresses to wear. Huge thanks to everyone who supported the match and the accompanying silent auction.
- Melanoma Tasmania won two awards at the **Tasmanian Volunteering Awards** held at Government House in May. A very humbling experience considering the calibre of nominees.
- Ken Harriss again flew the flag for melanoma awareness visiting secondary schools and colleges across the state with **Run From the Sun 2019**. This year's event was even bigger and incorporated visits to pharmacies - providing skin scans with our UV face scanner as well as the **Ride and Drive for Melanoma Tasmania** fundraiser on the middle weekend.
- After many years of advocating for a multi-disciplinary approach to the treatment of melanoma in Tasmania, which is standard practice in other states, we took part in the inaugural **Melanoma and Complex Skin Cancer Multidisciplinary Meeting (MDM)** on October 14 at Icon Cancer Centre in Hobart. This will become an ongoing meeting for oncologists, surgeons, skin cancer doctors and nurses to all be able to discuss complex cases and agree on the best treatment plan for each patient as a group.
- In November, Melanoma Tasmania was the recipient of one of the local **Tour de Cure** grants as part of the Peter MacCallum Ride and we were awarded a cheque at the dinner in Launceston attended by 100 riders and support crew.
- Attending the **Global Coalition for Melanoma Advocates Conference** in Salt Lake City with fellow advocates from across the globe supporting each other and sharing ideas and resources.

Heartfelt thanks must go to the volunteers who do so much for us – we really cannot do what we do without you. Special mention must go to Ken Harriss, Kadie Pretzman and Darryn Purcell who have given up countless hours to raise awareness of melanoma in Tasmania. And of course, our hard-working board members: Kate Atkinson (Vice Chair), Scott Nicol (Treasurer), Wendy Sullivan (Secretary), Trish McDonald, Nikki Elkerton, Candice Terhell, Andrew Johns and Tim Jackson as Board Advisor

Di Mason

Chair



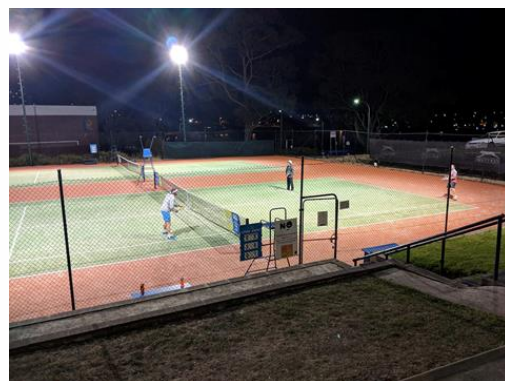


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## Fundraising Events

We had many organisations run fundraising events for us this year and we wish to give each and every one of you heartfelt thanks. We cannot do what we do without your support – both in raising funds but more importantly awareness of us and the work that we do.

- **President's Day Kingston Tennis Club Feb 16**
- **Tennis-A-Thon Rosny Park Tennis Club Mar 30-31**
- **Northern Hawks Netball Club Melanoma Awareness Round July**
- **Point to Pinnacle** – thanks to Andrew Woodford who sweated it out in the world's toughest half marathon on our behalf



The Northern Hawks dedicated their match on July 6 as a Melanoma Awareness Round following two of their players having had melanoma removed and had specially designed dresses for the occasion (they usually wear similar colours to the Hawthorn Football Club) Huge thank you to everyone who supported and cheered the team on. Hope the girls are shooting goals on and off the court.



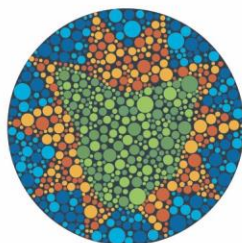
## The Inaugural Melanoma March in Launceston March 3

Professor Richard Scolyer - Co Medical Director of Melanoma Institute Australia, Di Mason (Founder of Melanoma Tasmania) and Emily at the Melanoma March.

People came from the North, North West and Hobart to support it! Thank you to Angie and her crew who did a great job organising the event



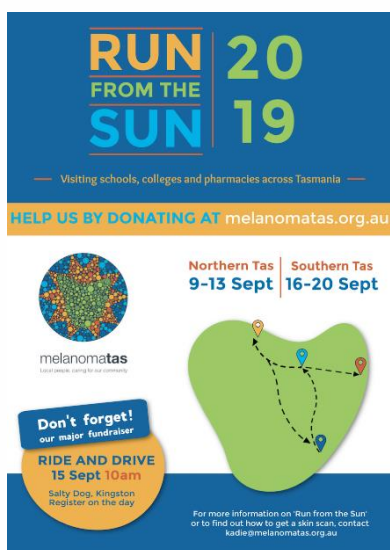




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## 2019 Run From The Sun Melanoma Awareness Ride

Ken Harriss again set off on a two week journey across Tasmania spreading awareness around melanoma. This year the Run From The Sun offered UV face skin scanning at pharmacies across the state for a gold coin donation. The crew presented to 1662 students, 40 teachers and 3 school nurses as well as providing countless skin scans in pharmacies



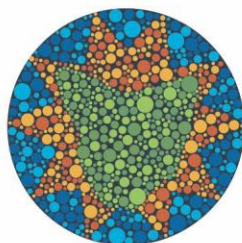
Above: Thank you to Jackson Motor Company for your support of a VW Tiguan for the Run From The Sun. A very smooth ride

## Ride and Drive for Melanoma Tas Sunday 15 September

Held on the middle weekend of the Run from the Sun, this event has grown in the past three years.

Such a generous community and a fun day!





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## 2019 Tasmanian Volunteering Awards

Melanoma Tasmania was fortunate enough to take out two awards at the 2019 Tasmanian Volunteering Awards:

- ☐ CatholicCare Tasmania Volunteer Program of the Year Award
- ☐ Hydro Tasmania Excellence Award for Best Practice in Volunteer Management

Ken Harriss was a finalist in the Anglicare Tasmania Community Care and Health Award. Very well-deserved recognition for all of the work he does not only for us but other community organisations as well



Kingborough Council held a recognition for local volunteer award winners. Di Mason met The Honorable Julie Collins MHR, Mayor Dean Winter, Edna Pennicott – winner of the Aurora Energy Lifetime Achievement Award, Senator Catryna Bilyk and Meg Webb, Member for Nelson.

## Awareness and Clinical Events in 2019

There were many opportunities for Melanoma Tasmania to spread the word and raise awareness not only amongst members of the public but our medical community too, including meeting John Williamson who lost his brother to melanoma.

Skin Cancer Tasmania attended the **Skin Cancer Screening Summit March 25 in Brisbane**

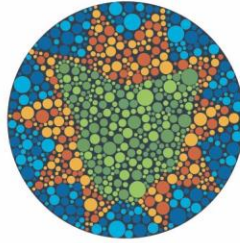
Melanoma Tasmania presented at the Association of Financial Advisors Conference at Wrest Point Feb 19 (below)



Di Wishing Jay Allen all the best before his long march







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## Testimonials

Some testimonials from our talks – we value and appreciate the feedback as it shows how much our work means to you in the community.

Dear Di

Thanks for your visit to TasRail. I must say that the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, having had a constant flow of people stop by to tell me how good it was and the things that they had learnt. There is strong support here for this message to be promoted to the three different regions, being Brighton, Burnie and Launceston workshops.

Logistically, this is going to be challenging as most of the track workers disperse fairly early in the morning. Over the next couple of weeks, I will present some of your information to our safety committees and see what appetite there is to accommodate further presentations, and whether this will be feasible.

In the meantime, many of us have been heading off for skin checks, so evidence is there that the message has got through.

Thanks again, and I will get back to you when I have any further information.

Regards

Loren



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Good morning Di,

Just wanted to say a big thank you to yourself and Ken for your presentation at the Acute Care Conference. The feedback from the participants was amazing they loved your presentation. So again a big thank you and if you could let Ken know next time you see him that would be great.

Kind Regards,

**Nicholas Joyce** | Student Support Officer

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17 September 2019

To whom it may concern

### Melanoma Tasmania Presentation

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2019, we had a presentation from Melanoma Tasmania. The whole school were able to hear this presentation and learned some valuable pieces of information, including:

- The statistics surrounding Melanoma in Australia;
- Risk factors for Melanoma; and
- How UV can still penetrate shade, water, clothing and cloud.

This presentation goes beyond just the standard "slip, slop, slap, seek, slide". It shows students the danger of the sun and practical things they can do, in order to protect themselves as effectively as possible against sun damage and potential melanoma. A powerful video is used as a tuning in activity and sets the tone straight away.

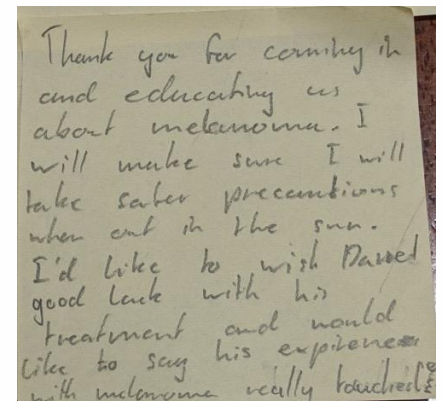
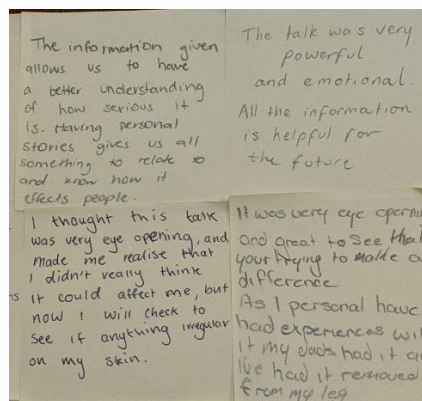
Ken's testimony was extremely powerful and the realisation of how serious this issue dawned on many of our students. It highlights that, while we are blessed with great summer weather in Australia, we need to inform our young people about the potential dangers of the sun and UV rays and what they can do to stay safe.

We would encourage any school to have their students listen to this presentation, particularly your senior students. The presentation is relevant, engaging and important. The information given will assist, quite literally, in saving lives.

Yours sincerely

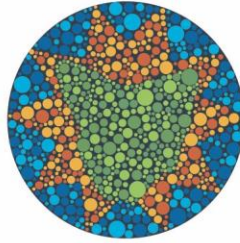
*David Little*  
Dan Ritchie  
HPE Teacher

*David Little*  
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## Re-branding to Skin Cancer Tasmania

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The board of Melanoma Tasmania made the decision to widen our scope of practice and re-brand as Skin Cancer Tasmania. The decision was based on the fact that we recognise the impact of all skin cancers (including Basal Cell Carcinoma & Squamous Cell Carcinoma) and wish to extend our support, awareness and advocacy services to those who have been affected by these skin cancers.

For every one melanoma diagnosed, it is estimated that there are up to three non-melanoma skin cancers diagnosed. With our ageing population, these numbers are set to increase.



Skin Cancer Tasmania will still incorporate Melanoma Tasmania and we wish to thank everyone involved for your support to date. Our passion for supporting, advocating and educating members of the Tasmanian public about the major cause of skin cancers (UV radiation) has not changed.

## Changes to the board

At the AGM recently we had the following changes:



### Farewell

Trish McDonald tendered her resignation effective from the end of December 2019. Trish was part of the steering committee in 2013, advocating for the need for a locally based not for profit dedicated to providing support and awareness in Tasmania. Trish has been an integral part of guiding Melanoma Tasmania, and now Skin Cancer Tasmania to where it is today, and we give heartfelt thanks for her contribution and wish her all the best for the future



### Welcome

Dr Tim Jackson has been a part of the Melanoma Tasmania board in an advisory role since 2015. Skin Cancer Tasmania wishes to welcome Tim as an appointed board director and look forward to continuing to receive his guidance moving forward



**Skin Cancer Tasmania** is delighted that Peter Hodgman will remain as our Patron