

Start Cancer Council Relay for Life and Yellow Spanner for the Riders

As Patron of the Cancer Council in Tasmania it is a great pleasure to be here today and to welcome you all to Penguin for the start of the 2013 Relay for Life. The Relay for Life is indeed a unique event that is repeated right across the country as communities get together to raise funds for cancer research, support and education all designed to minimise the impact of cancer. Thank you all for the fund raising that you have done and thank you all for turning out today for what truly is a celebration of life. You have all done a wonderful job to-date. Since the first relay was held in Tasmania 12 years ago more than 55,000 participants have raised a staggering total of \$7.73m. I am told that per capita Tasmanians raise more money for Relay for Life than any other State; a great effort indeed for such a worthwhile cause.

Your hard work is well supported by service clubs, rotary, Lions and Rural Youth and by sponsors. To all of you I say thank you.

This year the walkers and runners are (again) supported by motor cycle riders. Instead of passing a baton around a sports ground, the bike riders will ride their motorbikes around Tasmania passing a big yellow cancer council spanner - their baton - from rider to rider in designated towns. But the fundamental idea behind this ride is the same as the fundamental idea behind the Relay for Life; to raise money for cancer research and treatment and at the same time raise awareness of cancer issues within our community.

In a minute we will start the relay and the bike ride. But before we do I just want to emphasise that the relay and the ride is truly an event to celebrate life so a high degree of fun is the order of the day. I expect to see genial competition, good humour, high spirits and hear laughter as the Relay and ride get underway for it occurred to me that there is another dimension to this important community event and that is the fact that each of you have volunteered to take part in it sends an uplifting message to those who have cancer and their families. It says we care about you. It says we are going to do what we can to find a cure for this terrible disease and meanwhile raise the funds to improve the treatment. It says you are not alone in this and we are here to help. Well, as the Patron of the Council of Tasmania to all you walkers and all you riders and to all the supporters I say thank you for the great job that you are doing for cancer research, for improving the understanding of cancer and for supporting those who have cancer and their families and friends. They are not alone on their journeys I wish you good luck on your quest, and a happy, safe, and rewarding journey as you go around the oval and ride around the State.