

**PRESENTATION OF KELLION AWARDS BY THE
HONOURABLE PETER UNDERWOOD AC, GOVERNOR OF
TASMANIA ON BEHALF OF DIABETES TASMANIA,
BELLERIVE YACHT CLUB, TUESDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER 2012**

As Patron of Diabetes Tasmania it is a pleasure to welcome you all to this award celebration today. Although World Diabetes Day is not until tomorrow, Diabetes Tasmania decided to conduct this ceremony today which is just another example of Tasmania being just a step ahead of everybody else.

Type 2 diabetes is a common and serious health problem which for most countries has developed together with rapid social and cultural changes aging populations and increasing urbanisation, dietary changes, reduced physical activity and unhealthy activities. The amazing thing is that although “Diabetes currently affects more than 300 million people worldwide, and a further 350 million are at high risk of developing diabetes no cure for the condition has yet been discovered. Indeed, The International Diabetes Federation predicts that by 2030, close to half a billion people will live with diabetes worldwide.

However, there is ample evidence that nutrition counseling, increased activity and modest weight reduction can prevent the onset of diabetes. In addition, increasing social awareness, and reducing stigma, myths and misconceptions are important tools in the prevention of diabetes and the care of those who live with it.

A principal charter of Diabetes Australia is to help others by education with particular emphasis on preventing complications. As part of its encouragement programme Diabetes Australia here in Tasmania and elsewhere, make annual awards called Kellion Victory Awards to people who have lived with diabetes for more than 50 years. I see this medallion as a congratulatory message to the recipient who has successfully lived a long life with diabetes, and to others it is a signal that it is possible to live a long, happy and productive life even if you have to live that life with diabetes. So that is something to celebrate, and those celebrations also include the families of those who live with diabetes for it is a condition that affects them too. In recognition of that fact there is also a Kellion Carer's Medallion which shortly will be awarded here today

Before we call on the 4 Kellion Awardees to be presented with their medallions today as Patron of Diabetes Australia in Tasmania I would just like to pay tribute Gordon Melsom and his Board, CEO Caroline Wells, Carmen Jenkinson and all the wonderful members of their team together with the many, many volunteers and supporters of Diabetes Tasmania for the fantastic job they do to support and encourage all those in this State who live with diabetes.

Present the awards.