



Hello Claire,

Edition 14, 2019

It's March so that means It is **Epilepsy Awareness Month – Purple Month!**

This edition is a showcase of the activities and events we know are happening throughout Purple Month. If you are doing something for Purple Month or are interested in being involved (it's not too late to host a purple activity) let us know by registering on our [website](#) or calling 6344 6881.

Last month I hinted at something exciting that would require a passport and this month I am proud to reveal that Epilepsy Tasmania has a new ambassador: Jess McCallum from the Derwent Valley is an elite Tasmanian powerlifter who has had epilepsy since she was 17. Despite many challenges in her life and the added difficulty of managing epilepsy while training and competing, Jess has achieved some extraordinary powerlifting results. She has been invited to compete at the World Powerlifting Championships in the USA this September, however epilepsy, tattoos and dreadlocks seem to have prevented her from gaining the sponsorship she needs to get there.

Epilepsy Tasmania has always championed equal opportunities for everyone – whether it be at work, at school or in this case – at sport – and we have decided to champion Jess' opportunity to compete internationally and show the world that epilepsy doesn't have to hold you back.

**Please help us give Jess this opportunity by kickstarting [our Pozible fundraising campaign – Let's Lift Tasmania](#) – with a TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION and sharing it widely for us with your own networks.**

We are also excited to introduce our youngest ambassador for epilepsy, Lily Smith, and you can read more about Lily below.

To find out what's going on around Tasmania this Purple Month [visit our web site.](#)

We hope March will see significant awareness and conversations around epilepsy as together we support and embrace Tasmania's epilepsy community. Don't forget to join our social media campaign by taking photos of anything you see that is purple ((including yourself!)) and sharing to your pages with the hashtag **#purplebomb**.



**Wendy Groot, CEO Epilepsy Tasmania.**



### **Buy Our Purple Merchandise and Support Purple Month**

Shoelaces, bandanas, wristbands, soft toys, pens, lapel pins, KeepCups and more.

Our 2019 purple merchandise range is better than ever. Take a look on [our website here](#) and find something to help raise awareness of epilepsy and funds to provide services and support to Tasmanians affected by epilepsy.



## Minister for Education To Officially Launch Tasmania's

### Epilepsy Smart School Programme On 8th March

Epilepsy can impact a student's learning:

- Cognitive overload can cause seizures.
- Seizures can make it difficult to concentrate and remember new information.
- Memory difficulties can also be a side effect of medication.

The **Epilepsy Smart Schools** program has been created to ensure all children and young people living with epilepsy can enjoy a positive schooling experience and achieve their academic potential.

Phone Epilepsy Tasmania on 6344 6881 or visit our [website](#) to find out how your school can become Epilepsy Smart.



### MEET JESS

Jess McCallum is a 38-year-old mother of 3 who is an elite powerlifter with epilepsy.

Help us give Jess the opportunity to compete at the World Powerlifting Championships and prove that epilepsy doesn't have to hold you back.

Donate to our [Pozible crowdfunder Let's Lift Tasmania](#) and **please share this with your networks.**



## THANKS FOR GOING PURPLE

Epilepsy Tasmania would like to thank our following **generous business fundraisers** (so far) and encourage you to visit and support them:

- G&M Eyelines in Devonport
- Terry White Chemmart in Burnie
- Flick the Bean, Launceston and Invermay
- JJ's Bakery Longford, Lonnie and Campbelltown
- ABC cafe, Hobart
- Bunnings: BBQs at Mornington, Glenorchy, Devonport, Kings Meadows, Kingston

Businesses that have kindly arranged to **turn purple** (so far) this March are:

- Councils – Southern Midlands Council, Lonnie, Hobart, Burnie, Devonport
- ABC building, Hobart
- Railway Fountain, Hobart
- Launceston Country Club
- Hotel Grand Chancellor, Launceston
- Elizabeth Street Mall, Hobart
- Franklin Square Fountain, Hobart
- Government House, Hobart
- Kennedy Lane, Salamanca, Hobart
- paranapple Convention Centre, Devonport
- Cardinal Lights, Hobart

Make sure to visit these places at night and share a **#PurpleBomb** photo on social media!

Thank you to WIN television and Southern Cross Television for generously helping us raise awareness of epilepsy by providing **community service advertisement** space to show our 'Label on Your Head' video. Make sure to watch these channels throughout March to see them for yourself!

Finally, we are grateful to the State Cinema in Hobart for giving us a generous discount on our **awareness-raising advertisements** that will appear before every movie screened there throughout March.



## Last Chance To Join Our Very Special Garden Fundraiser

This is a very special opportunity to enjoy a guided garden tour and delicious morning tea at Tasmania's Government House in Hobart on **THIS WEDNESDAY 6th MARCH**.

This event is an important fundraiser for us as ALL proceeds are kindly donated to Epilepsy Tasmania for the benefit of Tasmanians affected by epilepsy.

The gardens of Government House are extensive and feature many historical plants as well as a beautiful and highly productive food garden. And the morning tea is a treat not to be missed!

Please help us promote this event with your colleagues and friends. And don't forget to book your own ticket for \$20 – or get a group of five or more together for \$18 each.

We look forward to you joining us! Book through [www.TryBooking.com/ZUFO](http://www.TryBooking.com/ZUFO)



## Volunteer – Thank You

10 year old Lily Smith is our youngest ambassador and on *another* fundraising mission for Epilepsy Tasmania: she has been busy making soaps and potting succulents to sell throughout Purple Month – please contact Epilepsy Tasmania if you would like to buy some.

Isa Kingston has also *once again* been proactive in arranging her own fundraising activities for Purple Month:

- Sunday 17th March – morning tea and merchandise sales at Howrah Sandford Parish Church.
- Wednesday 27th March – lunch for a donation at Rokeby Neighbourhood Centre.
- Saturday 30th March – merchandise sales at Emmanuel Christian School.
- All March – fundraising at the Girls' Brigade.
- All March – merchandise sales at Five Star Weight Watchers.

A very grateful thank you to both Lily and Isa for their ongoing dedication to Epilepsy Tasmania.

*"AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT, YOU HAVE THE POWER TO SAY:*

*THIS IS NOT HOW THE STORY IS GOING TO END."*

CHRISTINE MASON-MILLER



Epilepsy Tasmania is a not-for-profit community organisation improving the quality of life of Tasmanians with epilepsy, and those around them, through education, coordination and support.

It relies upon public donations and funding from the Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania.

Epilepsy Tasmania

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Launceston Office: 462 Wellington Street

Telephone: 03 6344 6881

Website: [www.epilepsytasmania.org.au](http://www.epilepsytasmania.org.au)

Friends of Epilepsy Tasmania enhance its ability to speak for  
and advocate on behalf of Tasmanians affected by epilepsy.

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