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media alert

Diabetes TASMANIA announces the launch of the 2009 Pollie Pedal.

Pollie pedal, the annual charity bike ride by politicians from the three tiers of government, will be held by Diabetes TASMANIA over the weekend of 27 February to 1 March 2009.

Pollie Pedal is now in its fourth year in Tasmania. The event raises public awareness of the benefits of increased physical activity as well as much needed funds used by Diabetes TASMANIA in its community health activities.

This year the event will take in the Derwent, Huon and Coal River Valleys, providing participants with a physical challenge, as well as the opportunity to enjoy some of the attractions the various regions have to offer.

Caroline Wells, CEO of Diabetes TASMANIA, says that Pollie Pedal is an important event in the organisation's calendar. "The ride gives us the opportunity to engage with members of the three tiers of government in an informal way" Ms Wells said. "It is very important that our community becomes more aware of the benefits of increased physical activity, especially in regards to the reduction of risk factors associated with chronic disease" she said. "Funds raised from Pollie Pedal go toward running our Camps for Children with type 1 diabetes, a much needed support service for children with the auto immune disease" Ms Wells added.

This year's riders will include Senator Guy Barnett, Tony Abbott MP, Greg Hall MLC and local Mayors Mark Shelton, Graham Bury, Bertrand Cadart and Alderman Helen Burnet.

A full schedule of the event is available from Diabetes TASMANIA by phoning 6215 9010.

Media opportunities exist at:

9.00am Friday 27 February - launch of the event by Mayor Jock Campbell, at Bellerive Primary School's netball courts, Leslie Street Bellerive.

3.30pm approximately Sunday 1 March 2009 - the conclusion of the event at Salamanca Square, featuring a welcome of the riders to the City of Hobart by the Lord Mayor.

For further media information and interviews please contact:

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