



DIABETES TASMANIA POLLIE PEDAL

Speech to the Tasmanian Parliament

Guy Barnett

Tuesday 7 March 2017

[3.55 p.m.]

Mr BARNETT (Lyons - Minister for Resources) - Madam Speaker, the annual three days' Diabetes Tasmania Polly Pedal was completed over the last weekend from Friday until Sunday to raise awareness and much-needed funds to support people with diabetes, their families and those at risk here in Tasmania. It is also designed to promote a healthy lifestyle and was a great success.

Type 2 diabetes is the fastest-growing chronic disease in Australia. The complications associated with the disease are serious. They are devastating. Diabetes is the leading cause of preventable blindness, lower limb amputation and the single most common cause of kidney failure. Heart attacks and strokes are four times more likely to kill people with diabetes. In Tasmania we have an estimated 37 000 with diabetes, so it is important here in Tasmania as it is across the country of Australia.

As most people here know I have Type 1 diabetes and am Diabetes Australia Ambassador. Since establishing the event with Diabetes Tasmania in 2006 I have cycled every kilometre of the nearly 3 300 kilometres of Tasmania for this special cause and we have raised over \$560 000. That is terrific over the three days and for the 2017 Diabetes Tasmania Polly Pedal we raised over \$43 000. That is a great result and, of course, donations can still be forwarded to Diabetes Tasmania.

This year we were honoured to be joined by Her Excellency the Governor, Professor Kate Warner, and Mr Warner on day three of the ride. We were also delighted Diabetes Australia Chief Executive Officer, Greg Johnson, could join us and their support is much appreciated. Our riding team of politicians included Dr Vanessa Goodwin, Mr Mark Shelton and Mr Ivan Dean MLC. Mr Greg Hall MLC was an apology with some other commitments. We had terrific sponsors and community leaders supporting the event, visiting schools, aged care homes and hosted community events along the way.

On day one we started at the Hadspen Caravan Park and we were farewelled by Mayor of Meander Valley Craig Perkins and we rode to the Cressy District School. The Mayor David Downie officially launched us there and we met and mingled with the grade six students. We were asked lots of very inquisitive, important and useful questions from those students. Then we were farewelled by the students as a group.

We started to tackle Poatina Hill. It was a tough gig. We did have the opportunity to stop at Poatina and were greeted by Fusion a wonderful caring, friendly, Christian faith-based

organisation. They gave us a generous welcome and the lunch was provided by the Rapid Relief Team, which gave us terrific support all the way through.

We then continued up Poatina Hill and we conquered Poatina Hill although it was tough. You never doubted us says Mr Groom. Thank you for that. We were very pleased with that achievement. We had a short break at the top and then continued on to the Great Lake Hotel at Miena in the lake country of the beautiful Central Highlands. We had a fly fishing demonstration prior to the dinner that night at the Great Lake Hotel, thanks to Garry France, the Anglers' Alliance of Tasmania President, and also Malcolm Crosse gave us some words on the World Fly Fishing championships coming to Tasmania in 2019. We are very proud of that fact.

Day two saw us depart the Highlands heading to Bothwell where we were welcomed by Mayor Lou Triffitt. We enjoyed the Bothwell Spin In and met patron Barbara and many others of the spin in. We met other members of the local community before riding in 28 degree heat to the Gretna Green Hotel where we had a quiet one to get us all the way through to New Norfolk where we were hosted by the local community who hosted a community barbecue. We were welcomed by the Mayor of the Derwent Valley, Martyn Evans.

On day three we toured Willow Court and thanks to Mayor Martyn Evans and also Damien Lester for that tour. We were given an overview of the Agrarian Kitchen thanks to Rodney and heard some of his great plans for his new restaurant and cafe at Willow Court.

We left New Norfolk and headed towards Government House with Her Excellency and Mr Warner and that was a well appreciated ride. We stopped at Barossa Park OneCare aged care facility on the way through and received wonderful support.

The community support over the years has been fantastic and this year again, some people just stopping us in the street to donate funds for diabetes and offer support. The Diabetes Tasmania Pollie Pedal is designed to make a positive difference and it has. We have helped thousands of Tasmanians and with community support we will continue doing so. We could not have done this without the fantastic support of the cyclists and the corporate sponsors, and I want to acknowledge Norgine, OneCare, MAIB, Tasmanian Medical Laboratories, IGA, and also Colin Etter of Crisp Ikin Agencies and Marcos Ambrose from Thousand Lakes Lodge who donated auction items. A special thank you to Nelson Humber and the many volunteers of the Rapid Relief Team, who gave terrific support all the way through. They have done a great job. They provided important nutrition and sustenance along the way and always went beyond the call.

Finally, a special thanks to the team at Diabetes Tasmania, particularly CEO Caroline Wells, who has spearheaded this together with myself for some 12 years now, and this year with terrific support from Ange Headlam, the Fundraising and Marketing Coordinator, and of course the wonderful support of Caroline Thomas, who also has Type I diabetes like myself, and Sally Stubbs who provided good support in terms of massages at the end of the day as and when required. It was a terrific effort. It was a great Diabetes Tasmania Pollie Pedal and thank you also to Madeleine Ogilvie as co-chair of the Parliamentary Diabetes Support Group for launching us a week or so prior to the actual cycle event.

It has been another successful year, the twelfth year, and it has been great to be able to stand up and support and ride all that way, 270-odd kilometres, for people with diabetes, their families and those at risk.