



## MEDIA RELEASE

**Media Launch Date – Tuesday 26 July 2022**

### **RHH RESEARCH FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY ABSEIL WITH THE TASMANIA JACKJUMPERS**

The EDGE Wrest Point abseil is one of Hobart's most iconic fundraising events, and one of the most successful events on the RHH Research Foundation's fundraising calendar. Now celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary milestone, the event is back again to attract 60 more passionate Tasmanians to 'Do it for Dad' and help raise funds to support local medical research.

On Sunday 4 September 2022, supported by outdoor adventure experts, Aardvarks Adventures, 60 local participants will conquer their fear of heights and scale the 70 metre incline of the Wrest Point main tower to raise funds to support local medical research right here in Tasmania.

As an exciting initiative more recently held on Father's Day, all 60 participants will experience 'the EDGE' and raise funds, with several doing so in honour of a dad who has been a pivotal part of their lives, or by being an incredible dad themselves. Throughout the history of this event, the Foundation has welcomed a mix of amazing ambassadors from the arts, sports, medical and other not-for-profit sectors as they challenge themselves to scale the heights of Tasmania's tallest building.

This year the Foundation is delighted to gain support from another local icon, the Tasmania JackJumpers basketball team which has enjoyed a stellar season in its first year in the NBL. And they're delighted to announce that Jack the Jumper will step up as the EDGE Ambassador for 2022.

This relationship isn't just by sheer coincidence - the RHH Research Foundation and Jack Jumper research have become synonymous over the years. A research study into deaths associated with venomous bites from the Jack Jumper ant was amongst the very first funded by the Foundation and we know that many lives have been saved by ground-breaking research that continues today. Most significantly, there have been no more deaths in Tasmania since 2003 - entirely due to this ongoing local research that's been hailed nationally and internationally.

The JackJumpers team and the RHH Research Foundation's Jack Jumper research program have both made headlines! Now the RHH Research Foundation and the JackJumpers' mascot are challenging the community to get behind this much needed fundraiser – helping to keep local medical research and our local clinicians at the cutting edge of medical practice.

The Jack Jumper ant is one of the deadliest animals in the world. They can be aggressive in protecting their nests and actively seek out to attack their victims. The resulting sting can be quite dangerous to some people, causing life-threatening anaphylactic shock and sadly, previously several deaths occurred in Tasmania each year. The RHH Research Foundation is proud to have been pioneers in funding research into the Jack Jumper allergy, leading to establishment of an innovative

desensitisation clinic that runs out of the RHH in Tasmania – a centre that also delivers venom immunotherapy to South Australian and Victorian patients too.

The Tasmania JackJumpers basketball team are proud to align with the RHH Research Foundation, especially when it comes to desensitising Tasmanians to Jack Jumper ants (they keep their sting for their opponents!).

Coming off the back of a hugely successful inaugural season, the JackJumpers are continuing to engage widely with the community and support causes that positively impact people across the state. So, the JackJumpers' loveable mascot, Jack the Jumper, will brave the heights of Tasmania's tallest building and abseil down Wrest Point tower as part of the EDGE abseil on Sun 4 September.

"We were delighted to be invited to participate in such a great initiative. There's an impressive list of local celebrities who have been ambassadors for this event in the past, so it's humbling for the JackJumpers to be asked to be involved, especially in support of such an important Tasmanian organisation" JackJumpers CEO Simon Brookhouse said.

"When he heard about the initiative, Jack the Jumper was excited to put his hand up. He's a cheeky ant, loves to be around people and be a friend to all Tasmanians, so he's keen to help fundraise for the RHH Research Foundation which does amazing work to advance medical research in Tasmania".

"Community is at the core of all that we do, so it's great for the JackJumpers to be involved in these opportunities, to have some fun whilst supporting a great cause. I can't think of anyone who'd have more fun with this opportunity than Jack the Jumper.

"Hopefully those around Wrest Point on the day will get a kick out of seeing a giant green ant coming down one of Tassie's most iconic buildings and donate generously!" Brookhouse said.

All funds raised from the EDGE abseil will help ensure more vital medical research be undertaken in Tasmania by passionate local researchers who are focusing on those conditions and diseases that are most prevalent across this state. We will be encouraging participants to "Do it for Dad", but of course "Do it for local medical research" too, that's our key purpose!

RHH Research Foundation CEO Heather Francis explained the EDGE abseil for medical research is the largest fundraising event in the Foundation's annual calendar and the team are absolutely thrilled to announce the newest ambassador for 2022. "We warmly welcome Jack the Jumper as our key ambassador for this year's EDGE abseil. Jack is joining a committed group of abseillers that have been building awareness and raising thousands of funds for local medical research since first launching this iconic event in 2013."

"When you support medical research through the RHH Research Foundation, you are helping to build better health for all Tasmanians, now and into the future. The research is broad and the need for research is real."

Registrations are now open with a non-refundable \$75 fee to register. Space is limited, so early registrations are encouraged to avoid disappointment.

**-End-**

## MEDIA LAUNCH EVENT: 10.45AM TUESDAY 26 JULY 2022

Who: Ms Heather Francis (CEO – RHHRF)  
Jack the Jumper (Mascot)  
Frances Lockhart (Head of Community, PR and Stakeholder Engagement,  
Tasmania JackJumpers)

Where: Wrest Point Tasmania

Time: From 10.45pm (Meet in the foyer at the old reception area at the base of the tower)

### For more information:

Chief Executive Officer: Heather Francis - 0407 201 113

Marketing, Communications and Development Coordinator: Brodie West - 0447 771 337

## 2022 EDGE ABSEIL 'DO IT FOR DAD!' – EVENT DAY DETAILS

**What:** 2022 EDGE ABSEIL – DO IT FOR DAD!

**When:** Sunday 4 September 10.00 AM – 2.00 PM

**Where:** Wrest Point

Please visit [www.rhhresearchfoundation.org](http://www.rhhresearchfoundation.org) for more information.

*It is anticipated that the combined efforts from 60 passionate fundraisers will see over \$50,000 raised to support local medical research.*

This event is proudly supported by:



**WREST POINT**