

15 January 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

The Tassie community 'Jumps in to save a life', and fund lifesaving medical research!



Each year the RHH Research Foundation offers a pool of funds for a specified number of grants and uses a rigorous assessment process to select those which will proceed on the basis of merit. We were overwhelmed with submissions for 2018 – so many of the research proposals were of a very high standard and therefore had the potential to be funded, but of course we can only fund a proportion of these.

The Basophil Activation Test for Jack Jumper ant venom allergy is a research project that we are extremely passionate about, and because of this we chose to run an appeal during the month of December where the RHH Research Foundation and the Tasmanian Community could come together to get this project up and running!

The funds raised will assist Troy Wanandy and his team at the Royal Hobart Hospital to work on the Basophil Activation Test. This test will advance the understanding of whether the treatment for allergic reactions to Jack Jumper ant stings is effective and provides particular value in predicting the chance of patients having allergic side effects while receiving the treatment.

We asked the community to help us raise \$10K so we can **all** help Troy and his team delve into what it is exactly that causes individuals to suffer from life-threatening anaphylaxis as a consequence of their allergy. We know that this can save lives. Importantly, this insight can be used to support future research into food, drug and other insect venom allergies.

The Foundation is delighted to announce that with the Tasmanian communities help we have reached our 10k target, and have come across some incredible stories along the way. Phil O'Halloran was just one of the many generous contributors to our appeal, and had a unique experience as a previous Jack Jumper program participant.

“As part of my jack jumper desensitization an irregular heart rhythm was detected, and I was found to require urgent bypass surgery – which wouldn't have been discovered unless I was undergoing my treatment via the Jack Jumper Program.” Phil said.

Please join us for our formal announcement, and the chance to speak with Troy, his team and previous program participant and appeal donor, Phil O'Halloran.

Media Opportunity:	Tuesday January 16, 2018 Jack Jumper Clinic – Level 9, Wellington Centre, 42 Argyle Street TAS 7005 2pm for interview opportunity with Dr. Troy Wanandy & Phil O'Halloran
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