



TOUR DE CURE'S SIGNATURE TOUR 2024
FOR THE 18TH YEAR THEY'RE HITTING THE ROAD,
CURING CANCER AND CHANGING LIVES.

Tour de Cure's 2024 Signature Tour is coming your way, 15 - 24 March 2024

- ***CYCLING From Hobart to Adelaide with a Bass Straight crossing on the Spirit of Tasmania, The Great Ocean Road and Mount Gambier***
- ***Riding to raise funds for cancer breakthroughs***
- ***9 riding days, 1,300km, 187 riders and support crew***
- ***2024 Australian of the Year and Co-Medical Director of Melanoma Institute Australia, Professor Richard Scolyer AO riding his home state of Tasmania.***

187 riders and support crew from Tour de Cure are aiming to raise \$2million to fund cancer research, support and prevention projects Australia-wide.

The 2024 Tour de Cure (TDC) Signature Tour kicks off from **Hobart** on **Friday 15 March**. Riders will head north 1,300kms to **Adelaide** with a Bass Straight crossing on the Spirit of Tasmania, The Great Ocean Road and Mount Gambier.

Along the way, Tour de Cure will fund 9 different cancer grants of \$10,000 to the local communities, to help support those affected by cancer in these regions.

Challenge CEO, David Rogers, is grateful to Tour de Cure for the \$10,000 grant. *“Challenge is fortunate to have extraordinary holiday properties which are dedicated to creating a haven for children and families living with cancer. This affords them the opportunity to reconnect, recharge and enjoy much-needed quality time together”.*

Six schools will be visited along the route, to spread the TDC cancer prevention message **“Be Fit, Be Healthy, Be Happy.”** This program has been rolled out to over **175,000 school children Australia-wide**, and aims to teach that **1 in 3 cancers can be prevented** through healthy lifestyle choices.

Cancer researcher and joint 2024 Australian of the Year, Prof. Richard Scolyer AO will be riding 300kms with the team through his home state of Tasmania. As the Co-Medical Director at Melanoma Institute Australia, Prof. Scolyer rides so that the team knows the impact they're having on cancer research. *“Melanoma is Australia's National cancer. We've got the highest incidence of melanoma of anywhere in the world. One Australian is diagnosed every 30 minutes. One Australian dies every 6 hours from melanoma. What has*

happened over the past 12 years is that a certain death sentence has become treatable. The main thing I want to share with the Tour de Cure team is my gratitude to people who are raising funds for researchers and cancer patients and tell them what an impact their efforts are facilitating, changing lives for patients with cancer."

One of the riders on Tour is Tony "Leachie" Leach, a several-time cancer survivor who credits Prof. Scolyer with his survivorship. *"Immunotherapy – if it wasn't that, I wouldn't be here."*

In 2023, Prof. Scolyer was diagnosed with an aggressive brain cancer. Courageously, he has been working with friend, colleague and fellow MIA Co-Medical Director and joint 2024 Australian of the Year Professor Georgina Long AO to utilise melanoma science to develop and apply a series of world-first treatments for his brain cancer. By undertaking the experimental treatment, Prof. Scolyer has risked his own life to advance the understanding of brain cancer and help future patients.

During the pandemic, the **national cancer screening rate dropped by 67%**. This delays diagnosis, moving patients into later cancer stages, with potentially fatal implications.

From humble beginnings in 2007, **Tour de Cure** has become a national movement of thousands of people, walking, running, riding, attending gala events and swimming to raise awareness and inspire support in the fight to cure cancer.

The generosity of supporters has enabled the charity to:

- Raise over **\$118 million**,
- Fund **almost 1,000 cancer projects**,
- Educate **175,000 school children** on how to prevent cancer
- Contributed to **148 scientific cancer breakthroughs** in cancer research.

The following people are available to be interviewed:

- **Mark Beretta OAM**, Director & Rider
- **Simon Rountree**, CEO
- **Prof. Richard Scolyer AO**, Cancer researcher, Australian of the Year
- **Jamie Durie OAM**, Television host & Author

Vision and photographs are available daily.

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Donations to Tour de Cure can be made at <https://tourdecure.grassrootz.com/general-donations/donate/> .

Follow the Signature Tour on social media:

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About Tour de Cure

Tour de Cure raises vital funds to support the researchers, surgeons and clinicians who dedicate their lives to finding a cure for cancer. Through their magical, challenging and inspirational events they raise money to fund the boldest research, the most talented scientists and the ground-breaking projects that they believe will have the biggest impact on cancer. From humble beginnings in 2007, the Tour de Cure community has grown to become a national movement of thousands of people walking, running, riding, attending gala events, swimming and holding community fundraisers to raise awareness and inspire support in the fight to cure cancer.

The generosity of their supporters has enabled Tour de Cure to fund almost 1,000 cancer projects and contribute to 148 scientific cancer breakthroughs, making Tour de Cure one of the most significant Australian charities funding Australian Cancer Research.

Day 1: Friday 15 March – Hobart to Swansea

Day 2: Saturday 16 March – Swansea to Launceston

Day 3: Sunday 17 March – Launceston to Devonport.

Overnight Spirit of Tasmania

Day 4: Monday 18 March - Geelong to Apollo Bay

Day 5: Tuesday 19 March – Apollo Bay to Warrnambool

Day 6: Wednesday 20 March – Warrnambool to Mount Gambier

Day 7: Thursday 21 March – Mount Gambier to Robe

Day 8: Friday 23 March – Robe to Meningie

Day 9: Saturday 24 March – Meningie to Adelaide

Team on Tour – 187 people

Signature Tour Fundraising Target 2024 Target - \$2million

School Visits

The team will continue to share Tour de Cure's 'Be Fit, Be Healthy, Be Happy' cancer prevention message with schools along the route.

Cancer Projects & Grants

Nine cancer support grants will be funded to benefit communities in Hobart, Swansea, Launceston, Geelong, Apollo Bay, Warrnambool, Mount Gambier, Robe and Meningie.

1. Hobart – Cancer Council Tasmania, providing SunSmart event kits to school and community events including shade, sunscreen dispensers and SunSmart behaviour signage.
2. Swansea – Cancer Council Tasmania, training for Regional Ambassadors to connect the people of the East Coast with prevention and supportive care services.
3. Launceston – Look Good Feel Better, helping people to manage the most common physical and psychological impacts of treatment.
4. Geelong – Challenge Cancer Support Network, providing respite accommodation for children and families living with cancer.
5. Apollo Bay – Great Ocean Road Health, funding infusion equipment to reduce the stress, financial cost and travel time by offering infusion services locally.
6. Warrnambool – Warrnambool & District Community Hospice, Offering end-of-life care through trained volunteers who offer practical and emotional assistance, companionship, and respite for caregivers, enabling individuals to spend their last moments in the comfort of their own homes.
7. Mount Gambier – Limestone Coast Local Health Network, offering holistic services like massage therapy, art therapy, exercise physiology, and access to ongoing support programs.
8. Robe – Limestone Coast Local Health Network, providing education to staff for Survivorship care, which can include issues related to follow-up care, the management of late side-effects of treatment, the improvement of quality of life and psychological and emotional health.
9. Meningie – Tailem Bend Community Centre, funding The Medical Bus Service which assists residents with the 250km transport to and from treatment.

Over the last 18 years, Tour de Cure has raised over \$118Million, funded almost 1,000 cancer projects, contributed to 148 cancer advances or breakthroughs, and talked to over 175,000 school children about making healthy lifestyle decisions.

Call to Action

You can show your support and help cure cancer by donating:

<https://tourdecure.grassrootz.com/general-donations/donate/>.

COMING UP IN BRISBANE: Held on 18th April, the Tour de Cure Long Lunch in Brisbane is set to be a sensational day, offering unique auction items, stunning raffle prizes and exclusive entertainment. Money raised at the Long Lunch will fund vital cancer research and also support Melanoma Institute Australia.