



## PRESS RELEASE

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TASMANIA's elite cyclists should make fast work of Launceston's steepest hill at this year's Launceston Eye Institute Balfour Burn for StGiles next Sunday, March 15. The Balfour Burn is open to all the community and includes sections for pets, prams, schools and community groups. It is a major fundraiser for StGiles early childhood service.

The Launceston Cycling Club juniors will be racing, looking to beat Ben Grenda's time last year of just 0.46 of a second.

This year's course will start with a flat 100m sprint from near Elaia Cafe, Charles Street, round the roundabout and up the city's steepest 400m climb, Balfour Street to George Street.

Last year nearly 800 people accepted the challenge to push a pram, walk a dog, run as a team, or even just walk up the hill which has the city's steepest grade.

The Burn stretches 400 metres from the Charles St roundabout. At its steepest, the gradient is nearly 30%, and over its length it rises about 60 metres, StGiles Danielle Blewett said.

“There's a division for everyone from a No-Burn Walk to the elite run – Kate Pedley is among the elite runners entered.

“The event's patron, elite wheelchair athlete Dom Monypenny will return to take on the climb and we're hoping for other wheelies to have a go with Dom.”

Dom, unassisted in a manual wheelchair, took 6 mins 50 seconds to climb Balfour Street last year. All winners were timed with the help of volunteers from Launceston's Park Run community.

Last year's fastest pet was `Bindi' owned by Jarra Burns in 1.3 and the fastest runner Chester James Smith did the climb in 1.09. The fastest team was a group of wig-wearing Trevallyn Primary pupils who crossed the line at 2.38.

Registration is from 9am with volunteers from Westpac and 100 per cent of the \$20 fee goes to StGiles.

Mayor Albert van Zetten will set off the first race of the day at 11am with races concluded by 2pm.

Registration is also online at [www.stgiles.org.au/balfour-burn-2015](http://www.stgiles.org.au/balfour-burn-2015)

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