



ROYAL HOBART HOSPITAL



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Date:	17 January 2007	Number of Pages (inc. cover):	1
To:	News Editor		
From:	Den Robin		
Fax Number:			
Subject:	TASMANIAN CYCLIST TO RIDE FROM PARIS TO ISTANBUL FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS		

41 year-old Devonport man, Walter van Praag, is in training for an epic bicycle ride from Paris to Istanbul to promote international awareness of cystic fibrosis (CF). His journey – which will take about 70 days – will start at the Eiffel Tower on 28 July and follow the route of the Orient Express railway.

On Friday, 19 January, Walter will cycle up the zigzags to the Signal Station on Mount Nelson to demonstrate his training technique and to outline his plans for the forthcoming ride.

Walter attends the Tasmanian Adult Cystic Fibrosis Clinic in Hobart. Although not Tasmanian-born, he is aware that Tasmania has one of the highest incidences of Cystic Fibrosis in the world. In Walter's case, his lung function is about 40% of a male his same age and height. But through his amazing drive, determination and spirit, he manages to live a fulfilled and very active life. He is keen to raise community awareness of CF and to support others with the condition. RHH Respiratory Physician, Dr David Reid, and State-wide Coordinator of Adult Cystic Fibrosis, Jenny Busch, will be at the Signal Station for Walter's arrival and to provide background information.

Walter will be available for interview:

Time: 12 noon Friday 19 January 2007*

Venue: Signal Station, Mount Nelson

Contact: Den Robin 6222 8050

***If television crews want to track Walter cycling up the mountain, he plans to be around the water tank (near Tilleys Bend) and will stop for a drink about 11.40am.**

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