MEDIA RELEASE

26th April, 2010

COMMUNITY LOSES A GREAT INSPIRATION

The President of Cystic Fibrosis Tasmania Inc, Mr Scott Lancaster, has announced the death of the 2008 Tasmanian Young Achiever of the Year, and immediate past President of Cystic Fibrosis Tasmania, Mr Aaron Mackrill.

"It is with great sadness that we announce that Aaron passed away yesterday at just 29 years of age.

“Aaron was born with Cystic Fibrosis and was not expected to live into his teens, however after receiving a double lung transplant he received a second chance at life.

“Aaron’s health improved and he went on to qualify as a Registered Nurse, as well as becoming President of Cystic Fibrosis Tasmania.

Aaron was named Tasmanian Young Achiever of the Year in 2008 in recognition of his tireless work in raising awareness of Cystic Fibrosis, diabetes and organ donation.

He also received the Young Achiever "Community Service Award" and was a semi-finalist in the "Spirit of Tasmania" category in the same year.

“Aaron’s determination and strength of character in overcoming personal adversity was also recognised when he was awarded the Pride of Australia ‘Courage Medal’ in 2008.

“Aaron was an inspiration to all those that knew him, because he refused to let a 'little thing like CF' stop him from achieving great things,” Mr Lancaster said.

Cystic Fibrosis is the most common life-threatening, recessive genetic condition affecting Australian children and young adults, and is more common in Tasmania than virtually anywhere else in the world.

The condition affects the respiratory, digestive and reproductive systems. Sufferers of the condition are now living longer into adulthood, however, sadly, other complications such as Diabetes and liver damage are emerging.
"Aaron lived life to the full. Unfortunately, that life has been cut cruelly short, and we have lost an outstanding young Tasmanian."

"Until a cure for CF is found, Aaron's passing highlights the plight faced by every family living with Cystic Fibrosis."

Mr Mackrill died on Sunday 25th April from complications relating to his Cystic Fibrosis.

For more information on Cystic Fibrosis please visit the CF Australia website at www.cysticfibrosis.org.au.

The Executive Officer of CF Tas, Paula Wriedt, can be contacted on 0407 329 443.