



**Doug Parkinson, MLC**

Member for Wellington

Friday, 13 January 2006

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### **Wielding the Axe**

***Media Note/Picture Opportunity: Doug Parkinson MLC will officially open the 45th Tasmanian Thousands Woodchopping and Sawing Carnival on Saturday 14 January at 9.30am at The Royal Hobart Showgrounds.***

Armed with axes and big muscles some of the country's finest woodchoppers are in Hobart this weekend.

Member for Wellington Doug Parkinson will tomorrow open the 45th Tasmanian Thousands Woodchopping and Sawing Carnival and said he couldn't wait for the action to begin.

"The State Government's support for this event dates back to 1962 and each year the carnival gets better and better.

"The highlight of the carnival will once again be the "Eric Reece Memorial" 300mm Standing Block event.

76 axemen will contest the \$5000 first prize of the prestigious Blue Ribbon event.

“Interestingly, the age of competitors in this event will range from 16 year-old Queenslander Bryan Wagner, to Tasmania’s very own 83 year-old local, Ken Devine.

“Unfortunately last year’s winner, Joshua Anderson from Queensland will not be here to defend his title.

“It is also pleasing to see that a number of female competitors will be in action today.

“This event provides a fantastic opportunity to showcase a sport that is synonymous with Tasmanian sporting history - a sport that has produced a number of national and international champions and Tasmanian sporting legends.

***Further information:*** Shaun Rigby on 0438021936