

Tough Tassie trekker

Wes Moule, 46, has a rugged job: to get food and supplies to tour groups in remote areas of the Tasmanian wilderness. In remission from non-Hodgkin lymphoma since 2005, Wes donates \$1 for every kilometre he walks to Launceston's Holman Clinic, where he was treated.

● **Is it fitting that your name sounds like "mule"?**

It is – my job is to pack-haul supplies on foot through the wilderness, so a mule is exactly what I am.

● **How did you come to do this?**

I was a diesel mechanic in South Australia for 22 years and used to come to Tassie regularly on bushwalking trips. I learned about the job through Tasmanian Expeditions [the outdoor travel company Wes works for]. Basically, it's so physically demanding, nobody else wanted to do it. Some drops are so remote it takes a week to get there and back.

● **How heavy is your pack?**

About 45kg. I carry two packs – one for the clients and one for myself.

● **How cold can it get?**

In winter, easily cold enough to kill you quite quickly. Minus 30C with wind chill will mean your gloves freeze and the straps on your back are frozen straight.

● **You always seem to be in shorts – do you ever wear anything else?**

If I wore shorts through horizontal hail in freezing conditions I'd be in a bit of trouble, but other than those occasions, I wear them.

● **Do you meet unprepared walkers you've had to help?**

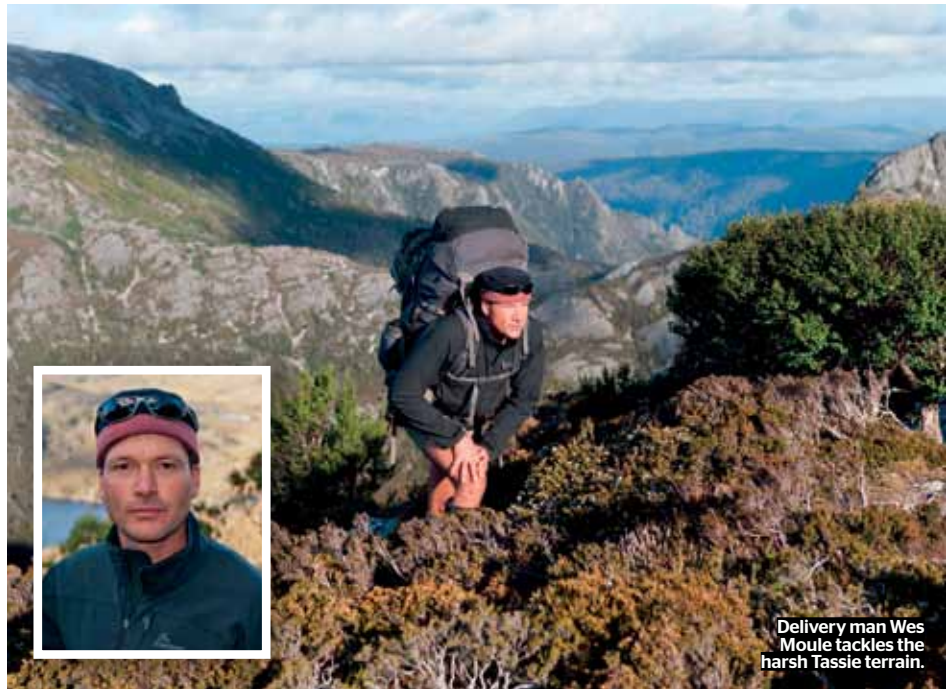
I could write a book. People are always underestimating the erratic climate and are often unprepared in terms of gear, clothing or food.

● **What's the plan if you break a leg or get bitten by a snake?**

I guess my training comes into play. Obviously, a satellite phone is a must. I can call the air ambulance or Search and Rescue, wear a high-visibility vest and perform as much first aid as possible until help arrives.

● **Do you ever get compared to Bear Grylls?**

People do jokingly compare me to him. They might think I'm a bit eccentric, but I live for my job. I used to watch episodes of *Man vs. Wild* when I was too sick to get off the couch. I love that show. During chemo I'd put it on and laugh my head off – it's great entertainment.



Delivery man Wes Moule tackles the harsh Tassie terrain.

● **Do you listen to any music along the way?**

I like anything that gets me going a bit. *Thunderstruck* by AC/DC is a favourite. I like a bit of Kings of Leon and John Butler too.

● **Are there times you'd like to have a less demanding occupation?**

No, never. I love it and thrive on it. If I die out on the track, so be it. It'll be worth it and will be while doing something I love. This is me and what I do. I will literally go until I drop. It's all I wanted to do and if it's my time to go, I can think of no better place for it to happen.

● **How much have you raised in the past three years?**

Between the Holman Clinic and Appin Hall Children's Foundation, around \$12,000. I donate \$1 per kilometre of my own money to the Holman Clinic and have sponsorship from the Tasmanian government and businesses such as World Expeditions and Macpac.

● **What's one thing that would make your job easier?**

An actual mule. 🐎

– Nathan Eden

For more about Wes or to donate to the causes he supports, go to wesmoule.com.

What is non-Hodgkin lymphoma?



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1. Non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) and Hodgkin lymphoma (HL) refer to a group of blood cancers that form in the body's lymph nodes – some are in your armpits, neck and lungs. 2. NHL and HL are caused by white blood cells (lymphocytes) that have mutated and formed a tumour, affecting the body's immune system. NHL is more common in people 60 and over, while HL is more likely to affect teens to people in their early 30s. 3. There are more than 30 subtypes of NHL divided into two groups according to the rate at which the tumour grows: indolent (low-grade) and aggressive (intermediate/high-grade). While standard treatment can't cure indolent NHL in its advanced stages, aggressive NHL can be treated – a famous survivor is Gene Wilder, the original Willy Wonka.