



June , 2014

Media Statement

## **MIDLAND BUSINESS BACKS \$1 MILLION DIABETES RIDE**

Three West Australians are hoping to raise \$1 million for diabetes research during a motorcycle, boat and trailer adventure around Australia – and a Midland business has thrown its weight behind the Guinness World Record attempt.

Steve's Motorcycles is providing repairs, maintenance, support and advice for Albany residents Glen, Guy and Marina as they drive two motorcycles more than 21,000 kilometres while towing a boat and trailer to attract vital funds and awareness for Diabetes Research WA.

The Elgee Rd business run by Steve Riley is also playing host to a sausage sizzle fundraiser being organised by the Stratton Lions Club from (time?) on Friday July 11 – just before National Diabetes Week kicks off on July 13.

Diabetes Research WA executive director Sherl Westlund said she was grateful to Steve's for supporting the Hope in a Boat project.

“Since the Lions Club of Albany announced it was spearheading this project, making it possible for Glen, Guy and Marina to undertake this epic ride, the support has come from far and wide as all too many people are aware of the global avalanche of diabetes,” she said.

“We're very excited about the prospect of being able to plough significant new funds into the potentially life-changing medical research studies WA's world-leading scientists are doing into both type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

“Even though type 2 diabetes has already reached epidemic proportions, the current generation of adults can still change the future for their children and grandchildren.”

An estimated 1.8 million Australians are currently living with diabetes and it's predicted that number will rise to 3.3 million by 2031. Every six seconds, somewhere in the world, someone dies from diabetes-related complications.

Glen, Guy and Marina, who leave Albany on July 6 on their fundraising journey, will be on-hand at the July 11 sausage sizzle to chat with locals.

“Steve and his team are amazing – on top of checks and repairs, they've arranged spare tyres for us to take on our trip and a list of people across the country who can help us fit them,” said Glen.

The trio will visit more than 240 Lions Clubs on their 80-day adventure

To support the project, call 0427984154 or donations can be made at any NAB bank or direct deposit to BSB: 086 518 ACC: 84 383 1400.

**-BACKGROUND FOLLOWS-**

## **BACKGROUND**

The Lions Club of Albany was only too happy to back the Hope in a Boat project after being approached by Glen and Guy who have previously towed a boat on a folding trailer from Albany to Queensland. Guy and Glen's previous personal journey garnered a lot of attention from passersby, sparking the idea to go around Australia for charity.

Guy will be towing the aluminium dinghy on a folding trailer and Glen will be towing a trailer. Both will be wearing webcams on their helmets to record the journey.

Bulldog Folding Trailers has come on board as the project's first official sponsor and more sponsors are being sought.

In Australia, the number of new cases of diabetes each year would fill the Melbourne Cricket Ground: approximately 275 people develop diabetes every day. The average weight of Australian adults (aged 18-70) has increased by 0.5kg -1kg a year for the last 20 years.

Diabetes Research WA, based at Royal Perth Hospital, is the State's longest running diabetes research funding group, and has now raised and distributed more than \$4.6 million dollars for this work.

It has recently changed its previous trading name, the Diabetes Research Foundation of Western Australia).

For information, please visit [diabetesresearchwa.com.au](http://diabetesresearchwa.com.au) or call (08) 9224 1006.

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