Press Briefing

Attention:
Company: Muscular Dystrophy Association
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1. Muscular Dystrophy Assoc

1.1 Devoted dad breaking cycle of despair
North West Advocate, 17/04/2007, General News, Page 16
By: Kathryn Duffy
Keywords: Muscular dystrophy (3), association (2)

They say a parent's love knows no bounds, and that's certainly the case for David Rowe, who plans to cycle across Cambodia's rugged terrain to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Mr Rowe's son Vincent was diagnosed with the degenerative muscular disease Duchenne muscular dystrophy in May last year.

1.2 Zarlee doing well
Portland Observer, 13/04/2007, General News, Page 8
By: None
Keywords: spinal (2), muscular (2), atrophy (2)

JULIE Cini has moved to Melbourne to be closer to medical assistance for her daughter Zarlee, but she is staying in regular contact with Heywood. Zarlee has Spinal Muscular Atrophy like her late sister Montanna, however, at three months old she is developing well and progressing according to Ms Cini.

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THEY say a parent’s love knows no bounds, and that’s certainly the case for David Rowe, who plans to cycle across Cambodia’s rugged terrain to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Mr Rowe’s son Vincent was diagnosed with the degenerative muscular disease Duchenne muscular dystrophy in May last year.

He and Vincent’s mother, Lisa, have battled to get their son into the Department of Human Services’ Early Childhood Intervention program to help improve and prolong the boy’s quality of life and extend the time before he is confined to a wheelchair.

Now Mr Rowe is facing another challenge: to raise at least $5000 for muscular dystrophy research and support services offered by the MDA by completing the 512-kilometre trip.

“I wasn’t really a bike rider, but I am now. I’ve started training and started fundraising. ‘I need to raise at least $5000 to take part in the trip and pay $500 myself to register.’”

Mr Rowe will be joined on the ride by old school friend Patrick Allen and his cousin Kerrie Cameron.

Vincent is receiving treatment at Uncle Bob’s Early Childhood Intervention Centre, attends a playgroup and goes for a swim once a week with his dad.

“He’s not doing too bad,” Mr Rowe said.

“Doing the ride is a positive thing for us to focus on because we feel we are helping the cause by raising money to assist with research and hopefully find a cure. Half the money raised will go towards research and half will be used for services [run by the MDA].”

Mr Rowe said the Yarraville Rotary Club had been very helpful in raising money for the ride. A special movie fundraiser will be held at the Sun Theatre in Anderson Street, Yarraville, on April 25.

Anyone wanting to purchase a ticket, make a donation or sponsor Mr Rowe can do so at www.challengemd.org/challengemd2007 Tickets for the movie night can also be purchased directly from the Sun Theatre.
Zarlee doing well

JULIE Cini has moved to Melbourne to be closer to medical assistance for her daughter Zarlee, but she is staying in regular contact with Heywood.

Zarlee has Spinal Muscular Atrophy like her late sister Montanna, however, at three months old she is developing well and progressing according to Ms Cini.

She sat up quite straight with the help of big sister Billie recently, and has plenty of “little idiosyncrasies” that always keep Ms Cini entertained.

National Nine News have shown renewed interest in Ms Cini and Zarlee’s story, so expect them in the news soon.

Meanwhile in Heywood a dedicated team of friends and supporters are going on a shopping day to at least nine toy, clothing, household and food warehouses in Melbourne on September 15, and tickets for the day are already selling fast.

In spite of the 4am start, the trip was “an absolute ball,” last year according to Ms Cini.

Last year the day raised $1000 for the Spinal Muscular Atrophy Association of Australia that Ms Cini founded with her partner Ross Brownlaw before he died tragically last year.

The funds go towards specialised equipment that helps improve the lives of babies and children suffering from the terminal condition.

Ms Cini is also involved in organising a fundraising dinner in Melbourne on August 4, which would have been Montanna’s third birthday.

People from the district are also expected to attend that dinner.

The seats for the shopping trip are going fast, so for more information contact Faye Holmes as soon as possible on 5527 1284.

Ms Holmes can also be contacted about the fundraising dinner, with a bus possibly going to that if enough people would like to attend.