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Drive for funding

Taking part in the 2009 Variety Bash for the first time, Bass Hill resident Phillip Calaitzopoulos and his team have already raised more than \$40,000 for the Variety Club.

The idea was first suggested at his niece's 16th birthday party, but the owner of Frosty Auto Air became determined after a close friend's 15 year old son was diagnosed with cancer.

As Phillip himself has two teenage daughters, the thought of cancer hitting so close to home was

extremely upsetting.

"Mustering up the boys" the 39 year old will take part in the event with Bass Hill resident Con Diakovasilis and 34 year old George Diamandaras.

Tom and Trifon Dimitrakis of Collision Central in Five Dock will also come along for a portion of the ride which will begin on Sunday, August 16, from Bennelong Point to Broken Hill.

Restoring a 1971 Mercedes Benz, the boys, who are all in the automotive field painted blue and white stripes all over it, as their theme is Bananas in Pyjamas.

The car, aptly named B1B2 is covered with stickers from all the sponsors, many who are local and even a few from the ACT.

"We have had two fundraisers, a masquerade ball at the Concordia in Riverwood and one at Santa Lucia's in Canberra", Phillip said.

"Con's six year old son came up with the Bananas in Pyjamas theme and we all liked it so we even wore Bananas in Pyjamas outfits to the masquerade ball".

Hoping to raise even more funds, for the Variety Club, the B1B2 team are grateful to all their sponsors for their generous donations and much appreciated support.

Celebrating its 25th year, all the Variety Bash entrants from across Australia will meet in Alice Springs this year.

Gathering for dinner, the entrants will be greeted by the event's inaugurator, Dick Smith along with John Singleton who entered the very first Variety Bash.

Variety Bash organisers are planning a party farewell for the 350 entrants before the cars depart the start line at Opera House forecourt at 8.30 am.

Article by Helen Voros Diavatiotis (The Torch)



Phillip Calaitzopoulos, George Diamandaras and Con Diakovasilis cannot wait to hit the road in the 2009 Variety Bash

Gruelling run raises funds

Clemton Park's Andrew Pantermos will take part in the gruelling City2Surf to honour his wife, who passed away from cancer two months ago, and to help raise funds for the McGrath Foundation.

After giving birth to her first child, 38 year old Helen Pantermos felt lumps in her breasts.

Believing that they were just blocked milk ducts, she only went to see her doctor when she took her newborn for a check-up.

While there, the then 31 year old told the doctor that her breast felt lumpy.

As she had a history of breast cancer in her family, she was sent for an X-ray.

The X-ray came back clear, although her doc-

tor said she should get a biopsy which unfortunately revealed a tumour.

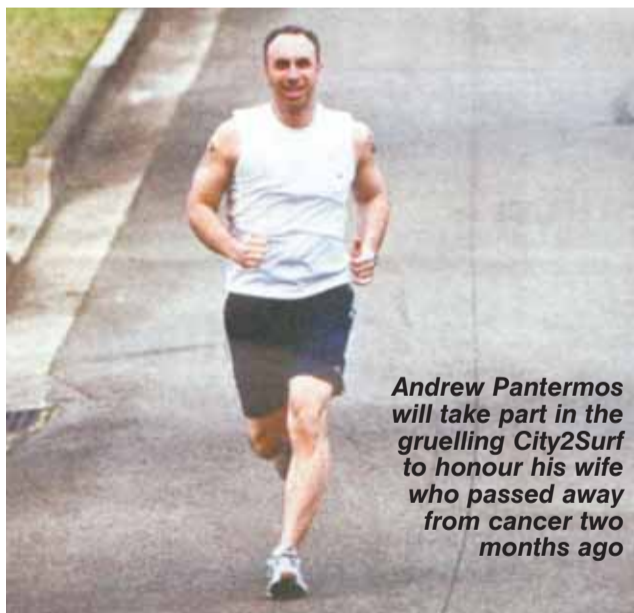
After a lumpectomy to remove the tumour, they found more fragments and Helen had to endure a mastectomy.

Ten, after her son's christening, she began an intensive six month course of chemotherapy, followed by radiation therapy.

After 20 months, the cancer came back with a vengeance progressing to her bones and it could now be treated.

Her husband, Andrew remembers that day all too well.

Feeling worse due to the finality of the diagnosis he had to not only come to terms with the fact that he would lose his beloved wife, but that



Andrew Pantermos will take part in the gruelling City2Surf to honour his wife who passed away from cancer two months ago

the pair could never have the many children.

"She fought the cancer for six years and right up until the day before her passing, she was still saying that she was going to fight it", he said.

"I am going to run in the City2Surf this year to raise money for the McGrath foundation. Helen looked up to Jane McGrath so I think it is fitting to raise money for the foundation".

Hoping to raise \$3000

Andrew has told his son six year old Aaron that he is raising the money for his mother, something that will hopefully ease the pain.

In its 39th year, more than 70,000 people will take part in the 14 kilometre City2Surf which will run from Hyde Park to Bondi Beach on Sunday August 9.

To sponsor Andrew log on to everydayhero.com.au/super_helens_5



Kids are cool for the Kats

BEING musical, it seemed natural for Sonia Hardie to sing to her two boys, now aged three and six.

It also seemed like a good idea to put on a small show at their pre-school at Jannali, singing and accompanying herself on keyboard.

Eventually people asked Mrs Hardie to write and record her songs.

Hence YellowKat was born, a children's act featuring sister-in-law Gabrielle Thomson, a dancer, and brother Matt Humphreys on guitar.

YellowKat has a new album entitled Sing in my Singlet which has already received great reviews.

"This CD from children's entertainers YellowKat is full of energetic fun music for preschooler playtime," one reviewer said.

"The upbeat songs are performed using piano, percussion and vocals. Children are prompted to sing along by the kids' voices that echo the main vocals on the tracks such as Buzzy Bee and Shake a Rattle."

Sing-a-long: Helen Perris (front), with Sonia Hardie and Matt Humphreys. Picture: Chris Lane

If you would like to share your story with us call on 9550 1088 and speak with Anna or send an email to kosmos@kosmos.com.au