



MEDIA RELEASE

30 June 2021

The Pearl Beach CHALLENGE 5km COMMUNITY WALK 1.30pm Saturday 10 July 2021

**Starting points - outside the Memorial Hall or the Amenities Block at the beach.
Refreshment stops at 9 Diamond Road, or 49 Cornelian Road**

The Pearl Beach 'Challenge Walk' is to raise necessary funds to finance the hall's rising costs and complete the extensive renovations being undertaken at the rear of the Pearl Beach Memorial Hall.

The idea for a Hall at Pearl Beach goes back as far as 1929 when the Pearl Beach Progress Association was formed. In 1943 three members of the Association, jointly purchased the land at 9 Diamond Road and gave it to the Association for the purpose of building a community hall. Building work was delayed due to WW2. During 1949, local builders were employed on the foundations and framework, and working bees under their supervision did the rest. The building was opened officially on 16 September 1950. The Hall has been repaired, extended, and refurbished several times over the years.

The continuation of the COVID 19 related restrictions to our community activities and consequences for our finances and the unforeseen increase in the cost of the back deck hall renovations see the necessity to extend and expand fundraising activities.

The Challenge has been issued for groups and individuals to walk a set 5km course around the streets of Pearl Beach on Saturday 10th July. A number of specialist groups have accepted the Challenge to promote Heart ailments, Orthopaedics, Cancer, or simply walk by yourself or form your own special interest group. Walkers are looking for sponsorship and proceeds will go toward the completion of the hall's finances and renovations.

Two local residents, Bev Lapacek and Taras Mencinsky have their own walking stories to tell.

Bev's story - "In 1997, together with another Pearl Beach neighbour, I co-founded The Pearl Beach Plodders walking group and over the years have 'plodded' many kilometres. As well as the monthly walks I used to meet other neighbours at 8 am, 3 times each week, for a 40 minute walk around our streets. Last year I started having symptoms indicative of heart disease, namely an ache down my left chest and arm. Having previously worked for a Cardiologist I decided not to ignore the symptoms and sought medical advice. A Stent was inserted and I thought that would fix things however, 5 months later, I learnt that other vessels were blocking and in late April underwent a Triple Bypass. I am still undergoing a Cardiac Rehabilitation Program and walking longer distances each week. My tolerance for exercise has gone from being unable to walk more than 100m to undertaking The Challenge to walk 5km. My Cardio/Thoracic Surgeon at "Cardiac Rehab at Brisbane Waters Private Hospital" has committed to sponsoring me".

Taras a marathon runner has another story, "I have run all my life but only started running longer distances once my children were getting older and I was in my late 30's. I started with marathons and then progressed to trail marathons and ultra-marathons. That's why I love living in Pearl Beach. The Brisbane Water National Park is on our doorstep, and I can run literally for a hundred kilometres or more just exploring the many tracks and fire trails within it and surrounds. The Memorial Hall in Pearl Beach is a meeting place for the residents. It brings us together and reminds us of the generations past that we have to thank for what we enjoy now and it is our responsibility to ensure the hall is here for future generations as well. To help raise funds for the hall I intend to run 20 laps of the 5km course, 100km in total, starting at midnight Friday 9 July and will begin the second and subsequent laps exactly 45 minutes after the previous one. This should see me finish the 100km at 3pm on Saturday afternoon. I look forward to people joining me along the way and keeping me company!

The Pearl Beach Community are invited to leave an outdoor light on to light Taras on his way, and to sponsor his walk. The community are invited to participate or sponsor a walker, to donate to the Memorial Hall 'Go Fund Me Campaign' - <https://www.gofundme.com/f/pearl-beach-memorial-hall-support> and to walk or register a donation for the Pearl Beach Challenge fundraising campaign - <https://pearlbeachprogress.org.au/walk-to-progress/>

End: Photo - Bev Lapacek & Taras Mencinsky with Greg McPhee warming up at Pearl Beach, plus map of the route

Further information, Lynne Lillico, Publicity Pearl Beach Progress Association, 4344 2319