

Camden - Narellan Advertiser

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■ Get ready to take the plunge in support of sufferers of a crippling disease

Time for all to splash out

By **Iliana Stillitano**

IT'S that time again when hundreds of swimmers from Macarthur prepare to don their togs and raise big dollars for cystic fibrosis sufferers.

The Macarthur Swimathon for Cystic Fibrosis will be on again in February but this time, long term supporter Dom Altobelli has helped make it bigger.

Mr Altobelli, managing director of DA Global Logistics, has joined the quest for a cure by becoming the naming sponsor of the 2014 swimathon.

Mr Altobelli said the decision was

a simple one to make.

"It's a fantastic cause so I was more than happy to throw my support into it," he said. "It's great for Macarthur that, as a community, we can get behind it."

"The attitude of many people in business is how much money they can make. My philosophy is also what we can use that money to contribute to and I

can't think of a better way than this."

Since the first swimathon in 2009, the Macarthur community has helped to raise more than \$300,000 for local sufferers of cystic fibrosis, a recessive genetic disease that affects children - including more than 80 who live in Macarthur.

They endure an arduous regime of daily physiotherapy, nebulisers, multiple tablets and extended stays in hospital.

Which is why the entire fund-raising effort this year will be donated to Westmead and Sydney children's hospitals to help buy much needed equipment used at the CF clinics.

To kick off the 2014 DA Global CF Swim Macarthur, the Camden Valley Inn will host a fun launch dinner and auction on Thursday, February 6 at 6pm.

Then on Saturday, February 15,

swimmers will make a big splash at the Wollondilly Leisure Centre in their collective bid to swim more than 65 kilometres. The number 65 signifies the name some children give the disease because the words are easier to pronounce.

Swimathon founder Michelle Ng said the community's generous support of the annual event was inspiring.

"All of the local children living with CF have one wish: that a cure is found," she said. "These beautiful kids and their families are so grateful to the community for their ongoing support."



Big hearts: Businessman Dom Altobelli will sponsor this year's 2014 DA Global CF Swim Macarthur which will raise much needed funds for cystic fibrosis sufferers like Julia Free who has been a keen supporter of the fund-raiser since it started four years ago. Picture: Jonathan Ng



LAUNCH, FEBRUARY 6

■ General admission to the launch dinner at Camden Valley Inn is \$20 a person or \$50 for families and includes BBQ buffet in the garden, beer, wine and soft drink.

■ VIP tickets, which include a two-course dinner in the marquee, are \$100 a person or \$1000 for a table of 10.

■ There will be entertainment, jumping castle, facepainting, auction and diamond draw.

SWIM, FEBRUARY 15

■ At Wollondilly Leisure Centre, Picton. Official start at 9am but early swimmers welcome from 7.30am.

■ To register create an account on the Everyday Hero website (everydayhero.com.au). Join a team, create your own team or join as an individual.

Details: www.cfmacarthur.com

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