

18 September 2014

## MEDIA STATEMENT

### Public holiday declared ahead of inaugural community fun run

In an extraordinary demonstration of community spirit and solidarity, Friday 19 September has been declared a public holiday on Elcho Island to encourage mass participation in the Island's inaugural community Fun Run.

More than 1000 participants are expected to take part in the community driven Alpa Cool Ridge Galiwinku Fun Run, initiated and organised by 2014 Indigenous Marathon Project (IMP) runner, Rachel Baker, in partnership with the NT Police and Shepherdson College.

Rachel said the significant community involvement will contribute to the event's success.

"It's fantastic to see the community getting together and being active. It's been a real community effort and collaboration, and we're all really looking forward to sharing the day with as many people as possible," she said.

The event will get underway at 9:30am with a 100m Toddlers Dash and 400m run for Year 1 students.

The morning session also includes an 800m run aimed at students in years 2 and 3, 3km run for years 4, 5 and 6, and a 5km run open to the community and students from Years 10, 11 and 12.

Ceremonial dance will be performed during the lunch hour with Award presentations taking place at 1pm followed by the 21km event at 4pm and the 10km run kicking off at 4:30pm.

IMP Founder and marathon legend, Rob de Castella, will be part of this significant community driven event which he believes will reignite a running culture in the community.

"The Galiwinku Fun Run is creating change. It is encouraging businesses and people from the community to unite as one and experience the benefits of participating in an active and healthy lifestyle.

"Rachel has worked extremely hard with the locals to organise this event and it is set to be something quite spectacular and hopefully, a permanent event for Galiwinku," he said.

An award ceremony will be held at 6:30pm with bands and entertainment to conclude the inaugural event.

The event is generously sponsored by Alpa, Coolridge Water, East Arnhem Shire Council, Miwatj Health, Marthakal, NT Police, Northern Territory Emergency Services, Shepherdson College, George Mu, Lynne Walker, Belinda and Tim Wethers and the Indigenous Marathon Project.

*For more information please contact Communication and Fundraising Manager: Kellie O'Sullivan (02) 6162 4750 or 0437 699 950. Rob will be available for interviews from Galiwinku.*

*More information about IMP can be found at [www.imp.org.au](http://www.imp.org.au) or visit our Facebook page, The Marathon Project.*

