

1 October 2014

## MEDIA STATEMENT

### New York Marathon squad announced

The 2014 Indigenous Marathon Project (IMP) squad to take on the world famous New York City Marathon was announced in an intimate presentation ceremony held at Alice Springs on Sunday 28 September.

The squad's selection epitomises Indigenous resilience and achievement, to emerge from no running experience to taking on one of the world's largest marathons.

To qualify for the final squad, team members had to complete a 30km test run, demonstrate consistent training throughout the IMP program, and complete their Certificate IV in Leisure in Health.

Broome representative, Adrian Dodson-Shaw, was overwhelmed at what can be achieved in a short amount of time.

"Since taking up running, it's changed my whole lifestyle. It's a different avenue for me now. I'm healthier and happier and it shows in my running. I've lost 15kgs and it makes my running much easier. I felt really comfortable throughout the whole 30km so I know I have a bit left in the tank for the marathon," he said.

IMP Head Coach, Mick Rees, said every runner deserved their place in the squad and will proudly represent their community, IMP and Australia.

"Their attitude to training and ability to overcome adversity has been incredible. They take their role as Indigenous role models very seriously and fully deserve their shot at the New York City Marathon," he said.

The final 2014 squad selected to represent their communities and IMP in New York is:

NAME	HOME TOWN
Nathan Riley	Dubbo, NSW
Brendan Peeters	Cairns, QLD
Harold Matthew	Thursday Island, QLD
Raymond Ingram	Sydney, NSW
Adrian Dodson-Shaw	Broome, WA
Allirra Braun	Katherine, NT
Elsie Seriat	Thursday Island, QLD
Toni Daisy	Townsville, QLD
Ruth Wallace	Adelaide, SA
Sarah Carmody	Alice Springs, NT

Fellow 2014 team mate, Rachel Baker from Galiwinku on Elcho Island, who has been suffering stress fractures and unable to run since August, will run in the Tokyo Marathon in February 2015.

IMP Founder, Rob de Castella, said the 2014 squad is a beacon of inspiration for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.





"It's been an historic year for IMP runners right from the start. We received a record number of applications this year, demonstrating the incredible drive and tenacity our Indigenous Australians have to achieve.

"In atrocious conditions in Canberra, for the first time, the entire team finished their first training run which was the furthest most had ever run. That was consolidated with every member of the team crossing the line of their first half marathon on the Gold Coast just one month later.

"To have a number of runners representing their communities for the first time is an outstanding achievement. Each of our runners has had an immeasurable impact in their communities, spreading the positive benefits of leading an active and healthy lifestyle.

"We constantly remind the runners that 'The harder the struggle, the greater the reward'. IMP is about celebrating Indigenous resilience and achievement. This is at the core of what IMP is about and we will continue to drive this philosophy and build on it for the future."

The IMP is a not-for-profit foundation established in 2010 by world marathon champion, Robert de Castella. Each year IMP selects 12 young Indigenous men and women (aged 18 to 30yrs), to train for the New York City Marathon and through their achievements celebrate indigenous resilience and success.

The IMP relies on the generous support of the Australian Government Department of Health, Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport, Qantas, Accor, Good Oil Films and the generosity of the Australian public.

*For more information please contact Communication and Fundraising Manager: Kellie O'Sullivan (02) 6162 4750 or 0437 699 950.*

*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.*

