

Media release

INNER WEST RESIDENTS LEAVE \$79,000 TRAIL IN CHARITY EVENT

Thursday, 5 November 2009, Sydney – Five inner west residents have been recognised for their significant contributions to Oxfam Australia.

Rozelle residents Cameron Pelling and Darren Cade, together with Craig Berger of Newtown, Stephen Asplin from Redfern and Anthony Ford from Drummoyne, participated in the 2009 Oxfam TRAILWALKER. The five men were members of two teams representing their employer, Macquarie Group, and both teams were recognised as some of this year's top fundraisers.

Anthony Ford was in the overall top fundraising team, called *Walk the Line*, which raised \$58,210 for the cause and which also won the leading fundraiser in the Financial Services category.

His four colleagues Cameron Pelling, Darren Cade, Craig Berger and Stephen Asplin were members of the team *Macquarie Mountaineers*, which won the award for the highest fundraiser in the Banking category.

Altogether, the nine Macquarie Group teams that participated in this year's event won the Oxfam Trailwalker Sydney Corporate Fundraising Challenge for the third year in a row, raising close to \$160,000 in the fight against world poverty, including matching funds from the Macquarie Group Foundation.

The Oxfam TRAILWALKER, now in its 11th year in Sydney, challenges teams of four to walk 100 kilometres through the Australian bush and, collectively raise at least \$1,000 to help overcome poverty and injustice.

Leigh Stewart from Oxfam Australia said the Oxfam Trailwalker is a true test of endurance and certainly no walk in the park.

“Every year teams from Macquarie rise to the Trailwalker challenge and raise the bar with their fundraising for Oxfam's work with people in poverty.”

Walk The Line team member and Drummoyne resident Anthony Ford from Macquarie Group was proud of the fact that for the first time in the Sydney event the same team had raised the highest total two years in a row.

“There was no plan to do it again after last year. But in the end, the team camaraderie got the better of me and on reflection I’m glad we did it again. The experience from last year made a huge difference over the last 30km. The mental hurdle of reaching 70km without any injuries and then the gradual build up of excitement as we got closer to the end was enough to motivate us into running the last 12km.”

Macquarie Group staff are very active in the not-for-profit sector, contributing their time in a volunteering, fundraising and pro-bono capacity to many worthwhile causes. Their efforts complement the work of the Macquarie Group Foundation, the Group’s philanthropic arm, which supports hundreds of community organisations around the world in the areas of health, welfare, education, arts and the environment. All staff who raise money for charity are matched dollar-for-dollar in their fundraising efforts by the Macquarie Group Foundation, thus doubling the total contribution to their nominated charity.

In the year to 31 March 2009, the Macquarie Group Foundation, together with Macquarie Group staff efforts, raised \$A26 million for over 900 community organisations worldwide.

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