

Newport Surf Club Members to Walk 1000km in Spain for a Charity – “DARTS”

Newport club members **Jenny Rushforth** and **Ian Storey (Hon Treasurer)** will set out on a 1000km walk on the 12th April, along one of the Pilgrim's Camino walks in Spain, **to raise money for DARTS, “Disabled Alternative Road Travel Service”** a Sydney community transport organisation.

DARTS is a unique and very important community service in the north east area of Sydney, providing social and leisure trips using accessible door-to-door transport for adults, who use wheelchairs because of physical disabilities. **DARTS** aims to reduce social isolation and overcome transport difficulties for it's members and has volunteers who assist as carers on the trips.

Inspiration to raise money for **DARTS** from the walk came from **Jenny's friend, Helen Perry**, who has become quadriplegic through Multiple Sclerosis and for whom the transport provided by **DARTS** is invaluable in keeping her connected to her community.

The **DARTS organisation** has operated for nearly 30 years through the support of volunteers, the **Home and Community Care (HACC) program** as well as local government funding and sponsors. The **DARTS** story is a wonderful demonstration of what can be achieved in the community by people pulling together.

Jenny and Ian will walk the 'Pilgrim's Camino' walk along the **Via de la Plata**, a total of **1007 km's from Sevilla in the South of Spain to Santiago De Compostella in the North West**. While the walk is a great personal challenge for both **Jenny and Ian**, who are in Jenny's words “no spring chickens”, **they wish to raise sponsorship for DARTS** along the way, **in the true spirit of the pilgrims walk**.

They anticipate completing the walk in eight to nine weeks, as they want to “**enjoy the journey**” & “**smell the roses**” along the way. They will walk about 20km (about five hours) per day, with a much earned rest day every five days, exploring the villages, (still walking!).

Jenny says it's a very liberating thing to walk with just a 10kg back pack for 1000km, although she has confessed to sending a small bag with some dress up clothes to the end destination at Santiago De Compostella, “to feel feminine again” after wearing the same gear for nine weeks. **Ian** however is looking forward to the prospect of not shaving for nine weeks!

They will be updating their website www.ianjenny.com about every 5 days, enabling family, friends, and donors to follow their “journey”. They will have friends walking with them, for a week or so, whom they met on their previous **Pilgrims Camino** walk four years ago, called “**The way of Saint Jacques**” from the South of France, across the northern part of Spain, to **Santiago De Compostella**, a total of 750 km's.

Along the way they will stay in 'refugios', which are similar to backpacker hostels, sharing a room with as many as 40 people. Staying in the refugios, according to Jenny, creates wonderful camaraderie and is a great opportunity to meet wonderful people from all walks of life. They carry a **Pilgrim's Camino Passport** which gets stamped at each refugio, in each village along their “journey”.

If you would like to sponsor Jenny and Ian on their walk- even a few dollars will help, kindly send a cheque to **DARTS, Dougherty Centre, 7 Victor Street, Chatswood NSW 2067**, or call **DARTS** on 02 9777 7841 to make a donation online; they will give you their bank details. **All donations are tax deductible, a Tax Receipt will be issued by DARTS.**

The DARTS website is www.darts.org.au.

Thank you sssooo much everyone. **Lots of love Jenny and Ian**

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