

Craig Oliver's Inspiring Journey

At just 29, young Wembley man Craig Oliver has already made it through a life-changing journey to offer hope to all West Australians affected by melanoma.

On February 20, Craig took to the water for a second time competing in the WAtoday Rotttnest Channel Swim –with the SKMRC flag flying above him.

Craig's courage and dedication are an inspiration to anyone touched by this devastating disease and we're so grateful to have him as a supporter of our Centre.

In 2007, Craig was diagnosed with a melanoma on his face and told it had moved into

his lymphatic system which would require urgent surgery – across his neck to remove 40 lymph nodes, a muscle and a facial nerve – as well as radiation therapy.

"I was 25 years old when I was told melanoma had spread into my body, which meant I had to have a few operations, radiation as well as interferon treatment to get rid of it – which made me as crook as a dog and was a really tough time for my girlfriend and family," he said.

"During my treatment I went from 93 kilograms down to 78, and it took its toll, but it was just something I had to do – my family and girlfriend were really the ones who suffered the most, because while I was asleep or in surgery, they were the ones who had to pace the halls, feeling helpless to change what was happening.

"I was lucky, the treatment was successful and so far I have had no signs of reoccurrence, but still visit the doctor for check-ups every four months."

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Another Gruelling Adventure

Following on from his success leading a team on a foot race through the Gobi Desert in 2008, Swanbourne GP Jamie Prendiville is back tackling another adventure to help raise funds for the SKMRC.

Across seven days in April, Jamie and eight friends and family will take on 'RacingThePlanet' a gruelling 250-kilometre race through the Kimberley.

Jamie's 20-year-old son Christian will be the youngest competitor among the two-hundred taking part in the event. The other group members are Garry, John, Mark, Michael, Patrick and Christian Prendiville, as well as Bill Biffin and Kate Pataki.

Dr Prendiville said the memories of the punishing Gobi race were still fresh in his mind, but so was the feeling of accomplishment in crossing the finishing line.

"When we did the Gobi desert last time I promised I'd never do that sort of thing again and I said to the guys if I ever mention this again, I want you to kill me!" he joked.

"But as time passed, everyone's enthusiasm started sparking up again.

"And when we were in the Gobi last time, we requested they have one in Australia as soon as possible and we promised we'd do it, so here we are.

"Scott was a friend and patient of mine, so we'll be entering this challenge with added determination knowing we are raising funds and awareness for the work done in his name."

In RacingThePlanet, competitors carry all their own equipment and food, are only provided with water and a place in a tent each day, and access support from professional medical and operations teams.

RacingThePlanet is a fifth event, which extends from the '4 Deserts' challenge – consisting of foot races across the Gobi

Desert in China, the Atacama Desert in Chile, the Sahara Desert in Egypt and Antarctica – RacingThePlanet roves to a new location each year.

Time Magazine ranked 4 Deserts as the second top endurance competition in the world.

In 2008, the team raised \$28,750 for the SKMRC doing the Gobi March and in 2005 the Prendiville family entered the record books as the largest group of siblings to swim the English Channel, while raising funds for the SKMRC.

To make a donation, please visit www.skmrc.org.au or call (08) 9224 0333.



Carrying Yvonne Kirkbride, Garry Prendiville, Patrick Prendiville, Bill Biffin, Christian Prendiville, Jamie Prendiville and Kate Pataki prepare for the race

Upcoming Events

Thanks to our loyal and passionate supporters, the 2010 calendar is quickly filling up with amazing fundraising events.

Keep up-to-date on these events and find out when tickets are released by visiting our website at www.skmrc.org.au(.)

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| April 26-28 | Racing the Planet |
| July 23 | SKMRC Annual Luncheon |
| October 29 | SKMRC Garden Party |
| November 9 | Melanoma Symposium |

