

October 12, 2009

Celebrities in the dark

International White Cane Day – October 15, 10am, Victoria Square

Some of Adelaide's local celebrities will literally be kept in the dark as part of Guide Dogs SA.NT's International White Cane Day celebrations on October 15.

The 10 am event at Victoria Square involves a group of Adelaide celebrities, including Adelaide United Football Club's Daniel Mullen, artist Marie Jonsson-Harrison, netballer Bianca Reddy and media personality Michael Keelan and Michael Angelakis participating in a 15-minute white cane walk together under blindfold, including two major road crossings.

Event organiser Christina Angus, of Guide Dogs SA.NT, who is herself legally blind, says that while the celebrity walk was all in the name of fun, there was a very serious message behind the activity.

"We've had a bit of fun with this – even making personalised canes for each celebrity. I expect there might even be a competitive element on the day. But it's really about highlighting the freedom and independence a person who is blind or vision can achieve through white cane training.

"Guide Dogs is all about helping people live independent and fulfilling lives. It's so rewarding to see our clients working to achieve their dreams and goals, such as further education, careers, raising a family, playing sport or simply enjoying their retirement years.

"Whilst everyone associates us with guide dogs, we provide many other services to people with vision and hearing loss. And while we receive some government funding, the majority of our services are funded through donations and we are so grateful for this."

Ends

Media inquiries
Amanda Nes
Media and Communications Officer
P: 8203 8343. M: 0420 939 649

TEMPORARY ADDRESS

33 Exeter Terrace
Devon Park SA 5008
Tel (08) 8203 8333
Fax (08) 8203 8332
TTY (08) 8203 8391

NORTHERN TERRITORY OFFICES

Darwin	Alice Springs
PO Box 154	PO Box 2954
Parap NT 0804	Alice Springs NT 0871
Tel (08) 8981 5488	Tel (08) 8955 5874
Fax (08) 8981 0820	Fax (08) 8955 5831

Toll Free 1800 738 855
info@guidedogs.org.au
www.guidedogs.org.au
ABN 91 183 168 093
ARBN 117 125 069

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