



COMMUNITY RALLIES BEHIND LOCAL'S FUNDRAISING FOR CANCER RESEARCH

STORY **ALYSSA MACKAY** PHOTO **BRUCE REDMAN**

Local resident Karen Broadhurst is reaching out to her community to help fundraise for a cause that is near and dear to her heart.

Karen and her partner Rich Hodgson have signed up for the Box Rallies, the largest community-based fundraiser for the Cancer Council in Australia, after learning that their close friend has terminal cancer.

Karen said her friend, Amy Roberts, had been diagnosed with stage 4 inflammatory breast cancer last year at the age of 54.

"I was in Thailand when she phoned to tell me," she said. "I was shocked.

"We met about 14 years ago. She was looking to buy our house and we just clicked."

Karen and Rich will be participating with the team name Restless Gypsies in the Sh*tbox Rally, a 3200 journey from Bendigo to Townsville in a car worth just \$1500. The dynamic duo, both in their sixties, will travel from 19 to 25 October on some of the

most formidable roads in Australia to raise awareness and funds for cancer research in honour of Amy and others affected by the disease.

The Box Rallies, founded in 2009, have raised more than \$38 million for cancer research. All teams must raise a minimum of \$5000 to participate, with most teams hoping to surpass that target.

At the time of going to print, the Restless Gypsies had raised \$3500 and were actively seeking support from the community to reach their goal.

Karen said they were planning fundraising events, including a Bunnings sausage sizzle, and were also hoping people would donate online at their fundraising page.

"Unless we raise \$5000 we cannot go," Karen said. "We can't do this without your help. Every little bit helps."

Karen also reached out to local businesses like the Full Moon Hotel, JK Electrical and Bridgestone Sandgate for sponsorship and they have stepped up to support the cause.

"It's fabulous they are supporting us," she said. "They are both very involved with the community. We can't do it without them." Amy and her husband Greg, residents of Canberra, are also participating in the rally and have raised an impressive \$14,000 for cancer research so far.

Donate to Restless Gypsies online at spring2024.shitboxrally.com.au/restless-gypsies or scan the QR code.