

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Adelaide's Integra Assistance Dogs welcome Coast to Coast riders**

Adelaide's Integra assistance dogs and their Veteran and First Responder handlers will welcome 2020 Rostrevor College Principal, Brian Schumacher, and his brother Ian as they arrive in Adelaide, Wednesday 28 April after cycling from Fremantle across the Nullarbor Plain.

They will be joined by Matty Brumby, local para-athlete Ironman World Champion, Half Ironman World Champion, Invictus Games Co-Captain, Gold Medallist, and Integra Ambassador.

Matty knows firsthand the great work of Integra Service Dogs Australia. 'Integra has been an important part of my support network during my rehabilitation from a spinal cord injury sustained during a Royal Australian Navy clearance dive selection course. My Integra dog Willow has transformed and enriched my life.'

Brian and Ian Schumacher, aged in their fifties, have embarked on a monumental 4,400-kilometre Coast-to-Coast bike ride, sponsored by DINGO, from Fremantle to Sydney to raise funds and awareness for Integra Service Dogs Australia, an organisation that trains service dogs for first responders and veterans with PTSD.

"It's been heart-warming to be welcomed by the Adelaide community. They are interested in our story, the important work of Integra Service Dogs Australia and the lifesaving support it provides to Australia's heroes – our Veterans and First Responders. I'm proud that my school, Rostrevor College has strongly supported our ride." said Brian Schumacher.

"This coast-to-coast ride is a great opportunity to support an organisation which is doing wonderful work for veterans and first responders who have served Australia with distinction and are now suffering from PTSD. This is our way of saying thank you for your service. The impact of providing vulnerable people with an assistance dog that gives them renewed purpose, greater confidence and unconditional support is life changing – and it saves lives" said Principal Schumacher.

The two brothers are seeking to raise funds, through Corporate Sponsorship and public donations for the charity – Integra Service Dogs Australia – and raise awareness of the role of quality assistance dogs working alongside those who serve our community and country.

Integra dogs are specially trained canine guardians for veterans and first responders who are suffering Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The dogs are trained to become emotionally tuned to their handler and provide unconditional support through the trauma and stresses of everyday life. It costs approximately \$30,000 to train, match and place an Integra Dog with a veteran or first responder (such as former police officer or emergency services worker) suffering from PTSD.

**Donate to the Integra Coast to Coast Ride or join the virtual ride with Ana Meares at [www.isda.com.au/coast-to-coast-ride/](http://www.isda.com.au/coast-to-coast-ride/)**

**Contact:** Jen Barbour 04 3863 4546 or [jen@isda.com.au](mailto:jen@isda.com.au)