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MEDIA RELEASE

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Top WA mining CEO's set to Walk the Plank to raise funds for childhood brain cancer research

Chief executives of several leading mining companies ready to don pirate garb and jump off the 5m high diving board at HBF Stadium this Friday

***** Note to editors: photo and interview opportunity at HBF Stadium, Mt Claremont, 3.00-5.00pm, Friday 7 June 2019***

In what could be shaping up as the WA mining industry's mini-version of the Big Freeze at the 'G, this Friday will see a host of prominent local mining executives don pirate suits and take the plunge off the 5 metre high diving board at HBF Stadium – all in the name of childhood brain cancer research.

The chief executives of several of WA's leading mid-tier mining companies have been nominated by their staff to take the plunge to help raise funds for childhood brain cancer research and increase awareness around the killer disease.

Childhood brain cancer kills more Australian children than any other disease, with over 200 children diagnosed each year. Survival rates have significantly lagged other cancers, especially adult cancers, where research funding has been prioritised.

Treatment options remain extremely harsh and damaging to kids' still-developing brains and bodies, with the result that even survivors are left with severe and life-long impacts from surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

Stepping up to the plate to take the plunge on Friday will be:



Advancing discovery in childhood brain cancer research

ACN: 617 078 485

- **Karl Simich**, Managing Director and CEO of the leading mid-tier copper-gold miner Sandfire Resources (ASX: SFR);
- **Ken Brinsden**, Managing Director and CEO of the leading WA lithium miner, Pilbara Minerals (ASX: PLS);
- **Dan Lougher**, Managing Director of the top WA nickel producer, Western Areas (ASX: WA);
- **Ajanth “AJ” Saverimutto**, Managing Director of the emerging WA copper miner, Venturex Resources (ASX: VXR); and
- **Michael Blakiston**, Senior Partner with top corporate law firm Gilbert + Tobin and prominent legal adviser and company director.

The intrepid throng will be following in the footsteps of mining contractor Byrnecut Australia chief **Pat Boniwell** and Brunel boss **Mike Duncan**, who took the leap earlier this year.

Pilbara Minerals Managing Director Ken Brinsden said he was pleased team up with a group of emerging and mid-tier mining leaders and their supporters to help raise funds for The Pirate Ship Foundation.

“I had no idea that so many kids are impacted, and so harshly, by brain cancer,” Mr Brinsden said. “Researchers clearly have a big challenge in front of them to improve survival and impacts, but with the largest research program in the country right here in Perth and seeing what they are doing in terms of research and international collaboration I didn’t hesitate to jump in and be part of it!”

The group have already raised over \$84,000 for Perth-based charity The Pirate Ship Foundation, and are targeting \$100,000 by the time they don their pirate suits at 4pm this Friday.

The Pirate Ship Foundation is dedicated to raising funds to support medical research to discover improved, less damaging, treatment options for children with brain cancer. The Foundation is chaired by Sandfire Resources CFO **Matt Fitzgerald**, whose daughter Abigail survived gruelling treatment for a brain tumour at the age of 4.

“We have such an incredible opportunity to be part of a global push in childhood brain cancer research,” Mr Fitzgerald said.

“Cutting-edge research in complementary drugs to increase effectiveness and reduce damage from existing therapies, immunotherapy and using the body to fight disease, better targeted radiotherapy, patient specific disease testing and tailoring treatment – these opportunities are being researched right now and taken through to



clinical trials to help more of these kids to not just survive treatment, but to then be able to live happy and healthy lives" he added.

Fitzgerald and his wife Vicki have been relentless in their support of the cause, with The Pirate Ship Foundation running numerous fundraising activities and events. He recently led a team of 12 in a Bear Grylls-style 115km survivor-style hike across Dirk Hartog Island, raising over \$45,000 in support of the Brain Tumour Research Program at Telethon Kids Institute, and another team is planning to tackle Tasmania's Overland Track in October.

Donations to The Pirate Ship Foundation on behalf of the intrepid CEO's can be made at: <https://walktheplank.gofundraise.com.au>

About The Pirate Ship Foundation

The Pirate Ship Foundation last year granted \$400,000 to the childhood brain cancer research programs at Telethon Kids Institute for 2019.

The outstanding result – which was based on a range of innovative community based fund-raising events and activities throughout 2018 – is supporting the 2019 Brain Tumour Research Program at Telethon Kids Institute, helping to fund world-leading research teams led by Professor Terry Johns, Associate Professor Nick Gottardo and Dr Raelene Endersby.

The Brain Tumour Research Laboratory, which is co-headed by Clinical Associate Professor Gottardo and Dr Endersby, is a collaborative research team focused on improving treatments and outcomes for children with childhood brain cancer. The team is the largest of its kind in Australia, and includes dedicated research scientists, clinical oncologists and neurosurgeons.

The Pirate Ship Foundation brings together an extensive range of bold and innovative fund-raising efforts, supporters and community under one banner.

The Pirate Ship Foundation is aiming to build on the outstanding work and achievements of its past activities by launching a series of new events to run alongside its existing fundraising initiatives such as The Adventurers programs, primary school-based Pirate Day in May and The BrainChild Ball.

Some of the upcoming events include:

- A new *Walk the Plank!* event to be held at HBF Stadium which will see high-profile CEO's and business leaders nominated by their staff (crews) to take the plunge off diving boards of increasing heights (planks) in front of a live audience;
- New 2019 Adventure team challenges; and



- The annual BrainChild Ball, to be held at Crown Perth on 27 July 2019.

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

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FACTS ABOUT BRAIN CANCER and THE PIRATE SHIP FOUNDATION.

- Brain cancer **kills more children than any other disease in Australia**
- Brain tumours are the most common paediatric solid cancer, affecting 200 children in Australia each year.
- The Brain Tumour Research Program is a collaborative group of researchers at Telethon Kids Institute in Perth dedicated to improving our understanding of paediatric brain tumour biology and finding more effective treatments to improve survival rates and quality of life for patients.
- The Pirate Ship Foundation Limited operates various for-cause activities and events, including the BrainChild Ball, Walk the Plank!, The Adventurers and Pirate Day in May.
- The Foundation has contributed over \$7 million to research and collaboration into childhood brain cancer in WA.

