

MOTHER'S DAY CLASSIC

Volunteer roles just right for Whites



By Kimberley Granger

For the 10th year running, Mandi White will forgo a sleep-in and breakfast in bed to volunteer for the Mother's Day Classic.

The annual event, held on the shore of Lake Burley Griffin on May 10, encourages participants to fundraise for breast cancer research and walk or run five or 10 kilometres to raise awareness for the cause.

Despite the early start each year, Mandi said she enjoyed the feeling of helping out for an event which means so much to so many.

"My mother had breast cancer back in 1999 and she survived that," she said.

"This is just something that was important to our family to support it."

Along with children Riley, 14, Brianna and Siobhan, and husband Justin, Mandi volunteers in a variety of roles.

From manning the barbecue to checking in coats, volunteers are roped in for everything and anything.

Mandi said each year was just like a big party. Her usual get-up is a volunteer tee, mixed and matched with all kinds of pink, right down to stripy pink gumboots.

"The same people come through every year, and the same volunteers do too," she said.

"I love volunteering, it's something we do as a family." Mandi encouraged other Canberrans to get involved with the event, either as a volunteer, a fundraiser, or both.



Mandi White, and her son Riley, 14, are all set to volunteer at the Mother's Day Classic. Photo: Matt Bedford

"It's a really good atmosphere there in the morning," she said.

"It's good to see lots of people getting out there to support the cause."

More than 130 volunteers participate in the day each year, although organisers are always looking for more helping hands.

To volunteer for the Mother's Day Classic, which gets under way from Rond Terrace at 7am on May 10, phone 1300 762 241.

MUSIC FESTIVAL

Einstein serves as inspiration

The 2015 Canberra International Music Festival launches on Friday with a program of 30 concerts and events inspired by Albert Einstein.

Artistic director Roland Peelman said the deep connection between music and Einstein's theories of space and time was the focus for the 10-day event.

"Music is art in time and in space," he said. "Sound ... is perhaps the most seductive matter of all."

The festival will be the Australian premiere of Maltese pianist Gabi Sultana with the *Tempest Sonata*.

Israeli husband and wife team Sivan Silver and Gil Garburg return to perform to fans again this year.

Along with a line-up of international festival stars, the program will showcase Australian virtuosos including Anna Goldsworthy, Clemens Leske, Nicolas Young, Daniel de Borah and more.

Ticket information and full program at cimf.org.au/festival-overview

NEW HOME FOUND FOR RESTORED 1908 ORGAN

The Westminster Presbyterian Church in Belconnen has become the new home of the restored 1908 Wadsworth organ. The church is hosting an inaugural organ recital, featuring strings and trombone, to celebrate on Saturday at 2pm. Proceeds from the event will go to Blessings and Grace House orphanages in Bangladesh. Tickets at the door: adults \$15, concession \$5, family \$40. Details: 6226 3450