

Climbing for Legacy



Imagine climbing Australia's tallest mountain ... then multiply it by seven! That is exactly what Shane Pophfer and Darren Wise, two former 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment soldiers are doing—all in the name of charity.

Shane and Darren have climbed four of the infamous Seven Summits in the past few years—four of the highest mountains in the world and the highest in each of their continents.

In March last year Shane and Darren tackled the 6962 m of Mount Aconcagua in Argentina and the 5642 m of Mount Elbrus, raising \$13 000 for the Westmead Children's Hospital in Sydney. This year they have set their sights on greater things and will embark on the arduous and difficult terrain of Denali, Mount McKinley, in Alaska.

Recently, they have added Legacy as a beneficiary of their fundraising efforts.

Over the years, both Darren and Shane have stayed linked into the military community. They have great admiration and respect not only for active servicemen and women but also the families that support them here and overseas.

'We carry the spirit of the Anzacs—endurance, courage, ingenuity, mateship and good humour—on every climb,' they said. 'On every summit we raise the Returned Services League flag in memory of our fallen soldiers, and in honour of serving members of the Australian Defence Force.

'We are members of the Doyalson-Wyee RSL sub-branch and have received great support from them. We would like nothing more than to raise funds to ensure Legacy continues to provide a valuable service to the families of our fallen servicemen and women,' Darren and Shane said.



ABOVE – the Australian Returned Services League Flag on the summit of Mount Elbrus in Russia

Darren and Shane have direct experience of the impact of Legacy's good work—a widow of a Commando told them of the real and tangible difference Legacy had made in the lives of her and her two children.

'It is an honour and privilege to know that our climb can help a family caught up in such a tragedy,' said Shane.

The Denali climb is scheduled for early June and the adventurers hope to raise \$15 000 for Legacy.

If you would like to add to the fundraising total, the website for donations is now open.

www.everydayhero.com.au/legacy ✨

More information

For more information please email Darren or visit the team's website.

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What are the Seven Summits?

The Seven Summits are composed of each of the tallest mountain peaks of each of the seven major continents.

Aconcagua (6962 m, South America)

Carstensz Pyramid (Puncak Jaya) (4884 m, Oceania)*

Denali (Mount McKinley) (6194 m, North America)

Elbrus (Minghi-Tau) (5642 m, Europe)

Everest (Sagarmatha or Chomolungma) (8848 m, Asia)

Kilimanjaro (Volcano Kibo: Uhuru Peak) (5892 m, Africa)

Kosciuszko (2228 m, Australia)*

Vinson Massif (4892 m, Antarctica)

*There is some debate about whether Australia or Oceania represents the seventh peak so we have included both.