

# Word of mouth publicises feat

THE interview was finished and the photographer was snapping her final photographs of John Coutis and Leanne and Clayton Crofts when a girl ran up to the trio.

"My mum read about you in the paper and..." she trailed off as she handed Leanne a \$50 note.

The fame of this remarkable family has spread far and wide as they prepare to take on a tall task.

They plan to walk from Ipswich to the Gold Coast to raise funds for "HAF", the three medical conditions their family lives with: hydrocephalus, amputation and fibromyalgia.

The walk sets off today from Ipswich mall.

A raft of celebrities will join the family along their trek.

The famous names include former cricket captains Steve Waugh and Alan Border and ex-Wallaby Ben Darwin.

Coffee Club founder John Lazaro will also be pounding the pavement with the group, along with members of the three city councils the walk will span: Ipswich, Logan and the Gold Coast.

John and Leanne said both businesses and individuals had been very generous in supporting the HAF walk, whether through sponsorship, donations or providing resources such as cars and accommodation.

"It's such a big thing to ask people to do because there are so many charities out there who want a piece of people," Leanne said.

Criticism and obstacles have been further incentive for this family to prove they are able to achieve.

John said the family thrived when people told them they were crazy to take on such a huge task.

"(But) we said 'you're crazy if you don't'," Leanne countered the critics.

John said while the HAF walk was for specific conditions, everyone had their own form of disability, whether it was visible or not.

"Everyone has a disability," John said.

"You can see mine, you know what Clayton's is (and) Leanne has blonde hair."

— Tegan Booth



Leanne Crofts, John Coutis and Clayton Crofts get some last minute practice before their fundraising walk begins today.

Photo: Toni Caldwell  
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