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**Diamantina Shire Council**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Australian music legend to perform on top of Big Red**

Much loved Australian music icon John Williamson will kick start the first ever Big Red Run charity race with a special sunset concert atop of the Diamantina Shire's 40-metre high Big Red sand dune on Monday, July 8.

The songwriter who has penned Australian classics such as "True Blue", "Cootamundra Wattle", "Rip Rip Woodchip" and "Big Red", will fire up an estimated crowd of more than 700 people to help celebrate the start of the six day, 250km stage race.

Diamantina Shire Council Mayor, Cr Geoff Morton, said it was a real coup to secure such a well-known and respected singer to open the event. He said: "John Williamson has a real connection to the Australian bush and Australian's through songs like Mallee Boy about eradicating rabbits and Diamantina Drover about the droughts and the hardship of the early drovers. I encourage everyone far and wide to take advantage of this once in a lifetime chance to enjoy John Williamson in the environment he so passionately tell stories about in song."

Based out of Birdsville from Monday, July 8 to Saturday, July 13, 2013 the Big Red Run has attracted participants from as far away as Singapore, Germany, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Officially kicking off outside the Birdsville Hotel at 7am on Monday morning, the race will give runners and walkers the chance to tackle the famous red sands of the Simpson Desert, participating in either the Big Red Run, a 250km six day stage race, the Born to Run 100km or the Big Red Dash 42km.

Those who aren't competing are still invited to come for the concert, share in an unforgettable outback experience and support the 130,000 Australians living with Type 1 Diabetes.

Concert tickets, which include a souvenir concert photo signed by John Williamson, are \$100 for adults, \$50 for 12 to 18 year olds and free for children under 12.

All money raised from the concert and the Big Red Run will go towards to Type 1 Diabetes research.

For more information see [www.bigredrun.com.au](http://www.bigredrun.com.au)

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YOUR REFERENCE:

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