



LIVERPOOL

A-list hair hits finale

Locks set to go after rip-off fun for charity drive

Stacy Thomas

IT takes hours of planning to get the outfit and hair just right but Mark Udovitch is happy with his "rip-off" celebrity images.

Despite being done in jest, the reason behind it has a more serious tone.

"I had a patient who had breast cancer," the Liverpool Hospital radiation therapist said.

"She lost her hair after chemotherapy. She was distressed about the loss of hair ... more than surgery.

"It was harder for her than the mastectomy. It was such a profound thing to say."

Mr Udovitch, 28, decided to grow his hair and donate it to a wig library.

Two-and-a-half years later, his luscious locks, which he normally wears in a man bun, are about to go – but not before he has a bit of fun with the help of his girlfriend Lisa McLean.

"It all started with the first photo I did – Creed singer Scott Stapp," he said. "It got more than 150 likes (on social media)..

"My favourite is Khal Drogo from *Game of Thrones*. We've still got more to come over the coming weeks too. And I've made it obvious that if anyone donates, I'm asking them to

recommend a celebrity for me to take off – there's still time.

"There have been a lot of celebrities I really thought would be impossible to mock up but they turned out."

In just a short period of time, he's raised more than \$6000, all of it going to the Dry July campaign, which encourages people to give up alcohol to raise funds for cancer patients, their families and carers.

Mr Udovitch said it was all just a bit of fun but he loved the fact it had gained so much exposure.

He will be shaving his head at the end of the month in front of a huge crowd in the hospital grounds.

More than \$17,500 has been raised this year for the Liverpool Cancer Therapy Centre, including Mr Udovitch's contribution.

The money will be spent on cancer wellness programs, additional transport services, furniture and a chemotherapy patient gazebo. The centre supports the Liverpool, Fairfield and Bankstown local government areas.

It provides a full range of cancer services, including radiation oncology, medical oncology haematology, gynaecological oncology, cancer genetics, head and neck surgery, breast surgery, neurological surgery, palliative care and allied health.

More than 3100 adult cancer patients access services each year.

Mr Udovitch is now on the hunt for sponsorship from

local businesses.

He has an ambitious target of \$100,000.

Details: visit dryjuly.com/users/mark-udovitch.

She was distressed about the loss of hair ... more than surgery

Mark Udovitch



Liverpool Leader, Sydney

06 Jul 2016, by Stacy Thomas

General News, page 3 - Size: 772.00 cm²

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BRIEF STHWESTSYD

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Mark Udovitch is chopping his hair after growing it for two-and-a-half years for Dry July and (right) some of his celebrity image rip-offs.