

DRIVING THE MESSAGE FOR KIDNEY DISEASE

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Kidney Kar Rally participants Charles (left) and Dion Manning from Tumut near Gundagai at the mobile Kidney Healthclinic. Picture: Brian Cassey

ISAAC MCCARTHY

THE Kidney Kar Rally is back in Cairns this week to remind Far Northerners of the severity and prevalence of kidney disease, which claims 63 Australian lives every day.

The gathering precedes a 5000km

journey from Cairns to Dubbo to raise \$400,000 for Kidney Health Australia's Kids and Youth Program, which helps young people through the arduous journey of kidney disease.

Australian rally champion Harry Bates will join the rally, which sets off from Cannon Park on Thursday.

"To be involved in this event is such an honour," he said. "Kidney disease ... places a tremendous physical and emotional burden on kids."

Kidney Health Australia promoted the event on Sunday at Cairns Esplanade where they also provided free health checks, illuminating the

fact that 1.5m Australians could unknowingly be living with the early stages of kidney disease.

"The aim was for community to come down and enjoy a day of music, food and see some rally cars while learning about kidney health."

Visit www.kidney.org.au to donate.