



## **Australian explorers embark on record-breaking epic expedition**

(Australia, May 4, 2017) Having already conquered Antarctica, world record holding adventurer, Geoff Wilson is about to set off on another epic polar mission, but this time he's heading north to Greenland and taking his son-in-law – and up and coming explorer – Simon Goodburn, along for the ride.

The Gold Coast based pair depart Australia on Sunday to be the first Australian team to tackle a crossing of the infamous ice-covered island of Greenland. The duo will negotiate treacherous crevasse-riddled glaciers, predatory polar bears and bitter cold when traversing Greenland to complete the epic 2700km odyssey from its southern tip to the Inuit town of Qaanaaq in the north.

They have named the journey Nansen's Crossing in honour of one of the greatest explorers of all time, Fridtjof Nansen, who was the first person to cross Greenland, completing the journey from the east coast to the west coast back in 1888. Nansen's feats have been a source of much inspiration to Geoff and Simon as they embark upon their own journey.

But that won't be the end of it, far from it, as Geoff is already targeting another tilt at Antarctica after the Greenland crossing. He hopes this latest adventure will help him to secure official approval to have a crack at his ultimate goal – a trip he has dubbed The Longest Journey – of crossing Antarctica on the longest route possible, which would be the longest solo polar journey to be completed in human history.

As for this latest mission in Greenland, Geoff and Simon will be upping the ante further by attempting the voyage unsupported, meaning they will have to tow all of their supplies and belongings behind them in two sleds weighing a very hefty 150 kilograms each. Furthermore, to maintain unsupported status, they can't accept any external help, not even a warm drink!

The attempt is similar to Geoff's last journey, the record breaking Antarctic crossing in 2013/14, where Geoff dragged his pink 'boob sled' 3428km in what was the fastest solo and unsupported crossing of the continent, achieving the feat in just 53 days and raising \$250,000 for The McGrath Foundation in the process. The charity will once again benefit from their herculean efforts on this occasion.

In a true spirit of adventure Geoff and Simon will be pursuing a number of records during their time in Greenland. They intend to:

- Be the first Australian team to make a successful south to north crossing of Greenland
- Secure the fastest crossing of Greenland, south to north. (The record currently stands at 42 days. Held by E.McNair-Landry and S.Copeland, 2010)

- Break the record for the furthest distance travelled in a 24hour period, by kite power. (The record currently stands at 595 kilometers. Held by E.McNair-Landry and S.Copeland, 2010)

Geoff says one of the keys to success in such arduous missions is to remain grounded and humble.

“As well as having to be extremely resilient in such hostile environments, you must also be extremely well prepared so that you can cope mentally and physically with whatever is thrown at you during the trip, such as extreme cold and polar bears that want to eat you! You need to have some humility in an environment such as this or it will beat you down,” he said.

The expedition will be filmed for a one-hour documentary to screen on National Geographic Channel.

You can track the real-time progress with the team’s live GPS map and receive updates by visiting <http://5thelementexpeditions.com/nansenscross/>

About the adventurers:

**Geoff Wilson**

Dr Geoff Wilson: Founder of 5th Element Expeditions and World Record Holding Adventurer. Geoff is most at home in desert environments, both hot and cold, as well as being well-versed in endurance and using kite-based technology. Most notably, Geoff holds the Fastest crossing of Antarctica in history. He completed the journey in 53 days – solo and unsupported (2013/14). Geoff also initiated and participated in the first kite-assisted crossing of the Sahara Desert 2009. First person to Kite Australia to Papua New Guinea. Geoff is passionate about delivering purpose-driven adventure and seldom sets out to complete anything without it being attached to a worthy cause – in this case, the McGrath Foundation.

**Simon Goodburn**

With a heart after the wild places, Geoff’s expedition protégé, (and son-in-law) Simon Goodburn is also an experienced expeditioner in his own right. In recent years, Simon has developed an affinity with human endurance in a number of hostile environments, as well as an ever-growing obsession with kite-flying. His first major expedition was accompanying Geoff as they kite-boarded across the Torres Strait in 2012. Since then, he has become a kiteboarding instructor as well as leading polar survival training courses in the back-country of New Zealand. Simon has a knack for keeping a level head under extreme duress. He provides invaluable base support and moral guidance for Geoff in the field.

The Nansen’s Crossing Expedition is made possible with the support of sponsors : Letz Travel, Wildearth, Picture Wealth, Ecolodges Indonesia, Woods Hatcher Solicitors, Rhythm Snowsports, Pure Snow and TR Telecom.

Media contact  
eckfactor for 5<sup>th</sup> Element Expeditions  
[Karen@eckfactor.com](mailto:Karen@eckfactor.com)  
(02) 8570 5555/0438 532569

For media images visit the eckfactor Media Centre  
<http://www.eckfactor.com/eck/media-centre/>