



# NEWSLETTER NO. 6

APRIL 2009

Here it is, almost at the end of April and the Ride has been on the road for over a month. Stages 1, 2 and 3 have whizzed past and the intrepid riders are now on Stage 4 between Sydney and Brisbane led by Stage Manager Denis Green ably assisted by Health Safari veteran and expert Winnebago driver Barry Preskett. The Ride has been an unqualified success with riders and support teams having a most enjoyable journey. There has been lots of fellowship from Rotarians, great catering by various community groups or clubs, home hosting in smaller towns and of course some great roads for the riders. While the Ride is making its stately progress north, work continues at Ride Central in Parramatta. Alis, Jenny, Terry, Ted and Gerardine are still working away looking after the media, the sponsors and the administration of the event, all under the guidance of Ride Committee Chairman Dick White.

## NSW PREMIER SUPPORTS THE RIDE

At the start from Parramatta Park, New South Wales Premier Nathan Rees joined the farewell. Mr Rees was exercising in the Park on Sunday morning as the Riders were preparing to depart and came over to ask about the Ride. He said he had once cycled from Parramatta to Byron Bay, so he knew the immensity of the undertaking and he supported the aims of the event.

## STAGE FIVE - FINAL PAYMENT

Stage Five from Brisbane to Townsville will be led by Health Safari bus captain Des Lawson who has promised that his stage will be full of fun, mirth and merriment. Everyone who is joining Stages 5 in Brisbane should have finalised their sponsorship and made sure their sponsors have sent the money to the ARH office. For those keeping a check on their sponsorship money or being sponsored on a per kilometre basis there is a form on the website in the FUNDRAISING page. You can send money using the website or send it to Jenny Towe at the office address.

## WEBSITE HAS NEW PAGES

The Ride website [www.greataustralianbikeride.org.au](http://www.greataustralianbikeride.org.au) now has two extra pages listed on the home page – MEDIA and PHOTOS. On these pages you will find photos from the stages of the Riders and the support teams, copies of some of the media coverage and copies of some of the media releases that have been sent out.

## SPONSORSHIP

When the Ride was in Sydney for a couple of days the riders and support team visited two sponsors - Anaconda at Auburn and the RV Centre at North Narrabeen. Everyone had a chance to meet the people who have generously offered sponsorship to the Ride and see their product. Pictures taken at the two locations are on the PHOTOS page of the website in the Stage 4 gallery

## **MEDIA COVERAGE**

Gerardine Grace, the Media and Communications Officer for Australian Rotary Health, has issued a stream of media releases alerting local media to the arrival of the Ride and if you look at the MEDIA page of the website you can see some of the stories already published in local papers about the Ride. Gerardine has a schedule for the issuing of media releases so that the media have plenty of notice about when the Ride will be approaching.

## **RIDE CLOTHING**

To ensure that those yet to join the Ride receive the right size ride jerseys and polo shirts please download the Medical/Clothing/Bike form that you will find on the JOIN page of the website. All riders and volunteers must also submit a medical form. These will be taken on the event in case there is an emergency or medicines are needed. The Shimano workshop team also needs to know the types of bikes being used. For those that are travelling to Brisbane to join Stage 5 remember to bring a sleeping bag and also:

**DO NOT PACK TOOL KITS, SPANNERS, TYRE LEVERS ETC IN YOUR CARRY-ON BAGGAGE AS THEY MAY BE CONFISCATED AT THE BAGGAGE SECURITY CHECK**

## **RIDE JERSEYS AND POLOS**

There are some Ride jerseys and casual polo shirts now available to purchase. The bright yellow, logo covered, Ride jerseys are in limited supply but there are a few more of the blue casual polos. The Ride jerseys will make a great auction or raffle item (there is a reserve price on them) for any Rotary club that might be hosting the Ride as it travels around Australia. To order a jersey or polo ring Alis at the ARH office on 02 8833 1900.

## **THE LAST WORD**

The Ride is now well and truly on the road and my work here is done! I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the team that has put the Ride together and while there are always those who receive plaudits for the work they do "out front" there are those who work just as hard behind the scenes without any recognition. So I would like to thank the ARH office staff who are as much a part of the Ride team as anyone else. Alis Alexander looks after all the administration and Ride forms plus answers the phone and sends out faxes and e-mails. Jenny Towe handles all the financials and looks after the sponsorship money for the riders and keeps them up to date with what's in their accounts. Margaret Laycock does a lot of the contact work with Rotary clubs and for the past few weeks has been sending out to clubs several hundred posters about the Ride. Gerardine Grace writes and sends out all the media releases and does her best to enthuse journalists about the Ride when it comes to their area. Cheryl Deguara looks after all forms of publishing documents on the computer and KellyAnne Martinez looks after all the research work which the funds from the Bike Ride will go towards. Ted Atkinson and Terry Davies find, and look after, the sponsors without whom the event would not be possible and between them they have rounded up some excellent supporters for the Ride. Joy Gillett as CEO of the Fund is a great leader of the whole team and, for the Ride, works with the indefatigable Ride Committee Chairman Dick White. Dick has worked tirelessly for nearly two years to ensure the Ride happened and to keep it on the road while it is travelling. He is now in charge and it's on his broad shoulders, supported by the team, that the future of the Ride rests!

So it's goodnight from me and I'll leave you with some pictures of what the ride is all about.

**JOHN FLOWER**  
Event Manager



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