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COLUMN 8

“The 81-year-old mentioned in Column 8 in the 90-kilometre Sydney-to-the-Gong Ride is a wonderful man named Geoffrey Hawkins from Blayney,” we learn from Gerardine Grace, of Australian Rotary Health. “Geoffrey ended up with four steel bolts in his hip as a consequence of a fall in the Great Australian Bike Ride – 17,800 kilometres around Australia – for Australian Rotary Health earlier this year. Fit and tough, Geoffrey planned to rejoin the seven-month charity ride once his hip had healed. Then, in a strange twist, routine blood tests following his fall revealed he had lymphoma. That put an end to his dream to be the oldest man to ride around this continent. He rides most days as he undergoes chemotherapy, and awaits word on when he will have surgery. He is a remarkable Australian!”