

1000km Ride for Love in Action Children's Homes



On August 27th 2010 Peter Higginbottom set off on a 1000km ride from Mooloolaba around the coast, down to Bribie and eventually up to River Heads and back again. The trip ended on 7th September with Pete cycling the last 60 kms around the back of Corbould Park race course and back to his home in Mooloolaba. Pete raised over 2000 dollars for LIA. When he presented LIA with the cheque there were tears of joy as the money raised means so much to Ruthie and myself, and our children. Sheer determination, passion and vision drove Pete to cycle the 1000kms for Love in Action. He kept a diary of his extraordinary journey and he had many opportunities to share the purpose of his trip with people he met along the way. We know that this trip has changed his life, just like it has changed the lives of our children at LIA. There was wind, rain, trucks and even a few cycling rivals along the way. Mud, lost water bottles and having to ride on the shoulder of the road couldn't dampen his enthusiasm as he peddled along the highway, and I'm sure at times wondering what he was doing out there.

God's timing is always so perfect and when Pete stopped at Bribie Caravan Park he recognised some people that are computer customers of his. When they found out he was doing the ride for Love in Action, they said they would send off a donation when they got home after the weekend. Talk about the right place at the right time!!!

Pete's a man in his 60s, fit and healthy and can match it with the best of them. He met up with some young riders in their 20's from Brisbane heading to Kawana. They were setting a cracking pace at around 45kpm and he was keeping up with them but after a while he decided to slow down because he knew that he needed to conserve his energy for the ride ahead. Being three times their age made him feel good too. A 1000km ride is not for the faint hearted.

While passing through Gympie, Pete's bike seemed to have a mind of its own and took him into the car park of a famous fast food outlet, the one with golden arches and forced him to order a big McValue meal to fill up the tank. Here Pete had another opportunity to share with a man from overseas the reason for his ride.

On the way back through Coolum, whilst climbing a hill, a rider came out from the left on an old bicycle which Pete passed and then a little further up the hill while he (Pete) was struggling, he overtook Pete much to his dismay. There was a little motor running that was mounted down low on the bike which was why he was able to pass Pete. That was it....what an insult, there was no way that an old dinosaur of a bike was going to beat a modern carbon fibre racing bike, so as soon as Pete was able, he cranked up the speed and he wasn't seen for dust.

Pete's wife Christine was with him all the way—even if she was in the car!! Seriously, without her love and support, his ride would not have been possible and LIA is so thankful to Christine for sharing her husband with us.

LIA is a non government organization and receives no funding. It's the time and generosity of people like Pete and Christine Higginbottom who have a passion and vision for the work LIA does in Cambodia that makes it all worthwhile. Peter and Chris have known us for over 30 years. All our heart can think is what one man can do with a passion and compassion for the others. Never think you cannot do anything whether it be taking a meal to a neighbour or speaking from a podium. All of us are needed.

These words are from Pete himself, "A very worthy cause - to help make a difference in young people's lives that just happened to be born in a different country and need help and encouragement to change their world".