



Bowen welcomes bike riders on a mission

Raising funds and awareness in town

By LYDIA KELLNER

BOWEN has been visited by two pedalling sensations in the past two weeks, both with an aim to raise funds and awareness for their favourite charity organisations.

Rick Faulks from Ipswich made his grand entrance at the local police station last Monday with a police escort marking his arrival.

Suffering from Cystic Fibrosis, Rick is hoping to raise money that may assist Cystic Fibrosis Queensland in finding a cure for the disease.

His 34 day trip will see him ride from Cairns to Ipswich, with only 60 per cent of his lung capacity due to his illness.

"This is our second stop on the trip," Rick said.

"It has been quite a welcome having been escorted into the town by a police car.

"The weather conditions along the highway were pretty tough as it was extremely windy and at times it felt like I wasn't moving at all.

"When I left Townsville I was going 26km/h but went down to 13km/h due to the wind.

"It's been quite a challenge so far but it's for a good cause."

Rick and his family stayed at the local PCYC before continuing south.

Geared for change also saw 21-year-old Stephen Collins pedal into Bowen last Friday as part of his trip around Australia.

Pulling almost 50 kilograms behind a push bike, Stephen stopped by Bowen State School to talk about Oxfam Australia's Indigenous programs and its Close the Gap campaign.

"One of my cousins went out to work in an indigenous community and told me about her experience and the things they go through," he said.

"Until then I never realised Australia was affected by poverty the way you hear about it overseas.

"Truth is that a lot of indigenous communities are equally affected by poverty as communities in third world countries.

"As it is something many people don't seem to be aware of I really wanted to get stuck behind the cause and through riding a bike, with the help of Oxfam, could raise some awareness and funds for the cause."

To support Rick and help close the Gap visit, www.everydayhero.com.au/gearedforchange.

To help Rick raise money for Cystic Fibrosis Queensland visit, www.rick-faulkscharitycycle.com.



Rick Faulks surrounded by family and local police. Senior Constable Michelle Vico, Ruth Roberts, Megan and Griffin Faulks, Susan and Laurie Faulks, Bella and Rick Faulks, Sergeant Dave Blundell, Kim Bennion, Desley Gange, Sergeant Darryl Ramsay, Wendy Sinclair, Dave Roberts and Constable Tim Heller. INSET: Rick rides into Bowen with a police escort.



Stephen Collins is Closing the Gap.