



# Stories inspire

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

EVERYDAY there are tales of triumph and determination, stories of survival despite the odds, articles in the media that remind us that the human race is rich in passion, fortitude and compassion.

Today's *Cairns Sun* touches on two such stories: Cystic Fibrosis sufferer Rick Faulks left Cairns on Monday morning on a trek to Ipswich to raise money and awareness about his disease; Shy-Ann Marshall who was three years ago diagnosed with chediak-higashi syndrome, which means she has no immune system to fight off the common cold and viral diseases.

Rick, 34, was diagnosed with CF at birth.

A degenerative condition that affects many of the body systems, including the lungs and digestion system, Rick's parents were told on several occa-

sions he would never reach adulthood.

He has proved the experts wrong, and in 2005 he and his wife Megan celebrated the birth of twins, conceived through the assistance of IVF.

Rick's life is one of achievement that reaches far beyond the expected and he has found a means to raise awareness about CF through his love of cycling - a truly inspirational story.

And then there is 10-year-old Shy-Ann, living with a life-threatening condition, who has an endearing spirit and smile to match that is simply infectious.

Both these stories serve as a reminder that while there may be doom and gloom, the actions of individuals can restore a sense of faith in humanity and our underlying abilities.



LONG ROAD AHEAD: Cystic Fibrosis sufferer Rick Faulks left Cairns on Monday morning on a trek to Ipswich to raise money and awareness about his disease.

Picture: PASCO ROGATO