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The ride of Rick's life

ON the subject of Ipswich homecomings, Rick Faulks is due to arrive in Queens Park at lunchtime on Saturday.

Brave Rick is cycling 1900kms from Cairns to Ipswich to raise funds for cystic fibrosis. Keep going Rick – you're nearly there now!



Fundraiser nears finish of 1900km

ANDREW KORNER

andrew.korner@qt.com.au

SO near yet so far would be the best way to describe cystic fibrosis sufferer Rick Faulks' position at the moment, as his heroic 1900km bike journey from Cairns to Ipswich enters its final week.

Since peddling out of the far north Queensland centre on July 27, Mr Faulks, 33, has covered about 1640 gruelling kilometres – all in the name of raising money and awareness of his illness.

With about 360km still to go, Mr Faulks said he was running on empty but knew he would have enough ticker to make it home.

"I've just been trying to eat as much as I can along the way," he said from his rest stop at Gympie yesterday. "The body is starting to get a bit tired now – it's all starting to catch up with me."

Cystic fibrosis (CF) affects several of the body's internal organs, especially the lungs and pancreas, which can clog up with thick mucus.

Before embarking on the journey, Mr Faulks said part of his motivation was to show other sufferers they didn't have to let the disease define their lives.

His efforts have gained plenty of support along the road, with local townspeople coming out in droves to offer encouragement.

"There have been a lot of highlights," Mr Faulks said.

"I stopped at Marlborough on the way into Rockhampton and caught up with a few guys on the Variety Bash – they were quite



WHEELS IN MOTION: Rick Faulks will finish his Cairns to Ipswich fundraising cycle trek on Saturday at Queens Park.

Photo: Sarah Harvey MY1809HN

good fun.

"Then a few of my relatives came out to see me as I passed between Clairview and Childers

Television presenter Fifi Box was among many to put their money where their mouth was when it came to supporting the trek.

So far Mr Faulks has raised \$20,000 for Cystic Fibrosis Queensland.

He should arrive at Queens Park, Ipswich between 1pm and 2pm on Saturday where celebrations have been planned. Visitors are asked to make a gold coin donation.