



## Survival of the fittest

**A MAN** whose parents were told he would be lucky to survive past seven years of age, after being diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis (CF) at birth, will ride into Ayr on Sunday as part of a 34-day cycle journey from Cairns to Ipswich.

Now 33 years of age, Rick Faulks began his fundraising charity cycle in Cairns on July 27 to raise funds and awareness for Cystic Fibrosis Queensland (CFQ).

People diagnosed with CF live through daily physiotherapy and medications, among other treatments, just to survive.

Described by his wife, Megan as "a stubborn and determined person", Rick Faulks will cycle the 1900km trip alone, with the encouragement and support of a road crew which consists of his

parents, his wife's parents, Megan and their twin children.

CF is the most common life-threatening genetic condition in Australia, for which there is no cure.

With only six per cent of funding coming from the government and most financial support from sponsors, donations and members of CFQ, Rick has always wanted to do something to raise awareness of CF.

Rick Faulks and his team are expected to complete day seven of their journey from Townsville to Ayr at about 2pm on Sunday at the Ayr Police Station (depending on weather conditions). He will depart on the 104km journey to Bowen at 7am on Monday morning.