

# CYCLE ACROSS OZ

November 2012 -2nd Edition



## RIDE AROUND AUSTRALIA IN 6 MONTHS

**THIS IS NOT A RACE BUT A LEISURELY RIDE OF 14,000KMS PLUS SOME.**

### **STAGE ONE (or the 1st leg)**

#### **Melbourne to Cairns**

We leave Melbourne via the local rail line as it is just too difficult getting out of Melbourne otherwise. All riders are going to catch the train from The Southern Cross Station (old Spencer St Station) and travel to Craigieburn Station (this will mean using a few Myki cards). From here we will follow the Hume Hwy until Wangaratta, where we turn off onto some back roads and smaller highways following the Great Inland Way. We will be traveling up through central/outback NSW and Queensland seeing country most people don't get to see because they take the coast road. From Charters Towers we head towards the coast coming out at Townsville. Then from here we head up to Cairns. This gives us a total of 3,116 kms over 33 days with 5 rest days.

### **STAGE TWO (2nd leg)**

#### **Cairns to Darwin.**

After 5 glorious days in tropical Cairns we leave via The Atherton Tablelands, meaning a bit of a climb out of Cairns but we don't have

much choice. From here we virtually go straight across Queensland until we nearly hit the Gulf of Carpentaria, stopping at Normanton (Karumba is the town on the Gulf). From here we head down again to Mt Isa and then across to the Stuart Hwy where we head up to Darwin. This should be a total of 2826 kms over 29 days with 6 rest days.

### **Stage 3 (3rd leg)**

#### **Darwin to Broome.**

Again we have 5 nights in Darwin before heading back South down the Stuart Hwy but then turning off west again at Katherine. Really only one way to go here (that's west) but we do some side trips along the way. We visit places such as Lake Argyle and Fitzroy Crossing. The Bungle Bungles are along here as well.

From here we finish in Broome- the pearl capital of Australia. This leg is 1965 kms over 20 days with 4 rest days. This is our shortest leg.

More news on the other 2 legs in the next edition of the newsletter.



### **HMAS Sydney Memorial**

November 1941, the HMAS Sydney was lost off the coast of Geraldton whilst engaging the German Raider 'Kormoran'. The memorial precinct is located at Mount Scott Geraldton. The Memorial is the first to be recognised as a memorial of national significance outside of Canberra.

# MELANIE STOLPE



## A minute with the Princess Melanie

### **Where do you live?:**

I now live in South Melbourne.

### **How many years have you been riding?**

I've been cycling since I was a child in Germany.

### **How often do you ride?**

I am riding 4- 5 times a week.

### **What are your training plans for the next ride?**

I train 4- 5 times a week with a long ride every 2nd weekend. I participate in as many of the Victorian long rides that I can possibly make it to.

### **What previous tour rides have you done?**

I have just done Broome to Perth in 2011. And prior to that I did Brisbane to Sydney in 2010.

### **Hobbies/Interests?**

Cycling, drumming, motor biking, coffee & food, (sweets).

### **What are you hoping to achieve from riding from Cairns to Broome?**

I would like to have peace for 2 whole months. I want to leave the daily grind behind and do just the basic things of life. Eat, sleep, ride and have fun.

### **How did you get the nickname Princess?**

Cycle Across Oz gave me that nickname and I was never sure why. I'm hoping it's because Kathy & Collis consider I am royalty (German royalty).

60 Seconds with Theo & Melanie

## 60 seconds with Theo Van Der Veen

### **I live at Bonny Hills(20km South of Port Macquarie)**

Most of my riding experience has been post retirement in 2000. Was a marathon runner prior to that and played comp squash.

Currently ride 4 or 5 days each week, depending on other activities or commitments (right now doing a grand parenting stint in Sydney for 10 days and can ride only about 3. riding varies between mountain bike rides with friends and some road rides either with one or two companions or solo.

Currently riding max distance of about 120 km on some flat terrain as well as some hilly rides.

Will do the Snowy Mountain training ride with Collis and Kath in January and might step up single distance ride to about 150km and make sure some rides are on consecutive days

Have done the rides with Collis and Kath from Darwin to Adelaide and from Broome to Perth. Have also done the ride with Bicycles S.A. on the Mawson Trail from Adelaide to Blinman. Also some privately organised with friends, including the Great Ocean Road and the Rail Trails of Vic. plus a couple of other good fun rides with friends for about a week away.

Hobbies - fine woodworking, furniture making and small arts objects in wood. Work as a mediator for Community Justice and in family law for Interrelate and for Legal Aid - these days work only for Legal aid and do a small amount of private work, mainly in property settlement.

Much love and pleasure in opportunities to spend time with grandchildren.

The challenge of riding around OZ - think of the cliché "adventure before dementia" - Can't think of a greater adventure and a personal challenge to do something that, for me at least, would be quite extraordinary, in good company of like minded fellow travellers.



# OUR NEW SHIRT

## Designed by Kathy (mostly).

A little help from Jerry and his mate the manufacturer.



This is the first prototype and we have only made a few changes to the emblem and some of the wording.

I think we should all stand out pretty well in the Australian bush and in the outback. Collis & I are thinking of having polo shirts made for the crew as well. We are becoming very professional!!! Send us your chest measurement if you haven't already.

## Darwin side trip to Kakadu

As we have 5 nights in Darwin and we are so close to Kakadu, we thought it would be very silly not to visit this when the opportunity presented. All the tours are pretty expensive if you are planning on a tour for more than one day but the single day tours are pretty reasonably priced. Collis and I are planning on booking in for a one day tour with AAT Kings for AUD \$244.00. You can check out the tour on the following website <http://www.tourstogo.com.au/tour/2152-d4-kakadu-national-park-excl-ntp-fee/?date=2013-05-01>

We are happy to book anyone else in when we do our booking so just let us know if you want to join us. Apparently cheaper for pensioners.

## Breaking News

1. Registration- Most people have posted or emailed their registration form to us but we have not received a number of medical forms and signed waiver form. Could everyone please check they have sent both forms. We will need to email all those that haven't sent

them before the payment date of January 31st as riders will be excluded without these forms.

2. Bullara WA- We have added a new accommodation change on the road from Giralia to Coral Bay. A farm stay at Bullara Homestead as it looks to be an interesting spot to stay and they run evening tours if anyone is interested. Coral Bay rest days have been taken back to one full day with short day on arrival.

3. Broome WA- Because it will be the start of the high season when we are in Broome, accommodation prices will be escalated and spaces at a premium. It would be a very good idea for all riders who are planning on staying in Broome to book early and within the next month or so.

4. Training ride Vic- Group riding from Bairnsdale, up over Mt Hotham to Bright. Dates are Bairnsdale to Omeo 17th January 2013,

Omeo to Mt Hotham 18th January,

Mt Hotham to Bright 19th January.

## Cycle Across Oz

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## Cycle Around Australia 2013

1. Melbourne to Cairns
2. Cairns to Darwin
3. Darwin to Broome
4. Broome to Perth
5. Perth to Melbourne

## Dates

1. March 23rd 2013 to April 24th 2013
2. April 29th 2013 to May 27th 2013
3. June 1st 2013 to June 20th 2013
4. June 25th 2013 to July 24th 2013
5. July 28th 2013 to September 2nd 2013