

Mildura Weekly

Simone's month-long cycling effort nets \$5000 for charity

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MILDURA'S Simone Tierney admits to being "a little worn out" after a massive October, with the mother of three and Endota Spa owner spending the past few weeks raising vital funds as part of the Great Cycling Challenge.

A national fund-raising event that sees participants cycle 500km throughout October, Simone - joined by team members Amy Mulcahy, Danielle Murrell, Trilby O'Brien and husband Peter Doody - managed to raise close to \$5000 for the cause.

Joining around 5700 Australians taking part in the challenge, all funds raised are donated to the Children's Medical Research Institute - a world-leading organisation dedicated to finding cures for diseases, including children's cancers, epilepsy and a range of genetic disorders.

Simone, 43, who reached the 500km mark on October 31 - the final day of the challenge - said she had been inspired by several young Mildura locals currently doing it tough.

"Being a mother of three young children I couldn't imagine going through what some of these parents are going through right now," she said.

"This is the second year I've taken part in the challenge, and the support received by the community has been first-class.

"My children (Tara, 8, Niamn, 6, and Aine, 4) have also been getting involved by riding their bikes to kindergarten and school, with my husband also a member of the team.

"It's been a tough challenge trying to clock up the kilometres, and also very satisfying to reach the final goal and raise vital funds for a worthwhile group."

Simone achieved the feat by completing a daily 60km ride from her home to Zilzie Wines and back.

“On the weekend I would put in a few more kilometres,” she said. “It was tough getting up in the morning and riding.

“Some days were better than others, but for the most part I’ve managed to get through unscathed.

“To be honest I’m just looking forward to a couple of quiet weekends!”

Simone said that while the plights of several local children was her main motivation for this year’s cycling challenge, she was also inspired to help the more than 600 Australian children diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses each year.

“One in three of those children die each week, and trying to help those affected was certainly a big motivator,” she said.

“The great thing about the Children’s Medical Research Institute is that they are actively trying to find cures for these diseases – a cause I think a lot of people would support.”

Simone now plans to take part in the Ronald McDonald House ‘Ride For Sick Kids SA’ event on November 22, with the seven-day fund-raiser to see participants ride from Mildura to Adelaide.

In its third year, funds raised will go to the Ronald McDonald House program in South Australia, with riders to cover more than 1000km as part of the initiative.

“So many Mildura parents rely on the Ronald McDonald House program, and again it’s another wonderful cause,” Simone said.

Simone also plans to put a team together to take part in next year’s Great Cycling Challenge, encouraging more local residents to participate.

Donations are still being taken for this year’s challenge, with more information available by visiting greatcyclingchallenge.com.au/teams/endotaspa.

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