

# The Scone Advocate

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## Family cycle for medics

By Caitlin Andrews

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(Back) Rhys, Andy, Samuel, Donna, (front) Tommi and Charlie Noonan ready to take on the Great Cycle Challenge this month.

Getting fit – check, helping others in need – check, ensuring the health of her family – check.

These are just some of the goals Scone mother Donna Palmer-Noonan is kicking this October.

The keen woman started the Great Cycle Challenge last Wednesday and with the support of her family is keen to achieve a lot more this month.

The Great Cycle Challenge – Riding to Fight Kids' Cancer is an initiative that supports the Children's Medical Research Institute to fight kids' cancer.

The national fundraising event launched in 2013 and has already raised more than \$1.5 million for the cause with this year's event aiming to raise another \$1.5 million for research into children's cancer.

When she heard about it, Donna was quick to join the month long personal challenge where she will cycle and raise funds throughout October.

With the support of her partner Andy, and four sons – Samuel, 14, Rhys, 10, Tommi, four, and Charlie, two, they have set a goal to cycle at least 10 kilometres throughout 20 days.

Personally, Donna would like to cycle 200 kilometres and as a family collectively cycle 1000 kilometres in the month.

Donna said that may mean Andy and her will have to do a few extra kilometres to make up for the little ones, but it's all for a good cause.

After getting into fitness and cycling in the past few months, when the challenge came up Donna said she thought it was a good incentive.

“The kids love riding their bikes so I thought we might as well do it for a reason,” she said.

To date Donna has raised just over \$100, however she would like to get to \$500 and welcomes any support.

Donna said her grandfather died of cancer and she knows many others affected by it, so it's always important to support such causes.

“I've got four kids and you just never know when you might need the help yourself,” Donna said.

“I think it's a really good cause.

“So, if you see us riding around Scone, give us a wave and a beep, or if you would like to join us, just join our team – ‘Team Noonan’,” she said.

“I encourage others to join up, it's a great cause and the more people that do it, the more money we can raise for it.”

Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI) director Professor Roger Reddel said individuals participating in initiatives like Great Cycle Challenge have already enabled CMRI's researchers to make a number of vital discoveries, including a test that will help identify some of the most aggressive types of cancers.

To support Donna and the Great Cycle Challenge, visit [www.greatcyclechallenge.com.au](http://www.greatcyclechallenge.com.au) or make a donation via the Scone Community Noticeboard on Facebook.