

News

Great Cycle Challenge: Leukaemia survivor Charlie's ride for life

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Seven-year-old cancer survivor Charlie Haggett from Ballarat is aiming to ride 20km in the Great Cycle Challenge for children's medical research. Picture: Eugene Hyland *Source:* News Limited

CHARLIE Haggett had the training wheels taken off his bike just a few months ago.

The leukaemia survivor is still a little wobbly on two wheels — he needs his mum and dad's help to take off and stop — but throughout next month, he will aim to clock up 20km on his beloved bike to “help kids fight cancer”, like him.

The Ballarat boy will join more than 5700 Australians taking part in the Great Cycle Challenge to raise money for the Children's Medical Research Institute.

His team, Charlie Power, has gathered more than 200 members and raised almost \$85,000 to be the largest fundraising team in the country.

The group hopes to hand over \$250,000 to the institute by the end of October.

The seven-year-old was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia three months before his third birthday.

He underwent two years of chemotherapy and went into remission about three months into his treatment. The Black Hill Primary School grade 1 student is expected to be free of cancer by the time he turns 10.

Charlie's mum, Sharon, said reaching 20km will be "quite difficult" for Charlie, as he didn't even have the strength to get on a bike until he finished chemotherapy aged five.

But he hopes to chip away at the distance by doing small rides around Lake Wendouree each night after school with his brother Jacob, 4.

Join Charlie's team or donate at greatcyclechallenge.com.au/Teams/CharliePower

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