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Cessnock's Sharon Apperley tackles Great Cycle Challenge

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ON HER BIKE: Sharon Apperley is taking part in the Great Cycle Challenge – Riding to Fight Kids' Cancer.

Cessnock Leagues Club operations manager Sharon Apperley is taking on the Great Cycle Challenge – Riding to Fight Kids' Cancer in October.

A national fundraising initiative for Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI), the event is positioned around a national community of cyclists riding to achieve a personal cycling

distance goal during October, while raising funds towards world-leading cancer research at CMRI.

Sharon has already exceeded her fundraising expectations – with more than \$1600 in donations already.

She will be riding from her home in Abermain to work and back most days (a 20-kilometre round journey).

It has been physically challenging so far, but she said thinking of the children who are battling cancer inspires her to keep on pedalling.

“I’ve just got to suck it up and put up with the sore legs,” she said.

“You’ve got to think of what the kids go through with their treatment – it’s nothing compared to that.

“I’ve been reading the kids’ stories on the website – there’s one little boy named Charlie, his little face got me up Neath Hill this morning,” she said.

Sharon has been well-supported by family, friends and club industry colleagues in her fundraising efforts to date.

More than 5000 people are taking part in the challenge nation-wide, with the event aiming to raise \$1.5 million.

The Great Cycle Challenge coincides with National Children’s Week (October 18 to 26) and National Ride2Work day (October 15).

“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,” CMRI director, Professor Roger Reddel said.

“The funds raised by the individuals and teams taking part in Great Cycle Challenge will accelerate the search for new treatments for childhood cancer.

“We are working towards a new form of treatment that is designed to target every type of cancer.”

See Sharon’s progress and make a donation [here](#).