

Ride for cancer

INSPIRATION from illness is how one breast cancer survivor has found adventure in what may be the ride of her life.

Originally from Emmaville, Chris Beecham (*pictured below*) will be riding her Harley motorbike from Sydney to Brisbane in October to raise funds for breast cancer support programs.

Ms Beecham was born at Vegetable Creek in 1955 and trained as a registered nurse in Glen Innes. Following the completion of her training in 1976 she became an operating theatre nurse. In 1999 she completed a Degree in Health Science and now works as a clinical Products Coordinator for Uniting HealthCare.

Ms Beecham was diagnosed with breast cancer in June 2005 after finding a suspicious area in her breast that was causing pain.

"After surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy I now find myself 12 months on from the nightmare and now feel ready to make the most of the rest of my life," Ms Beecham said.

Family and friends all helped her through this difficult time along with support from the volunteers and professional health care workers during her diagnosis and treatment for breast cancer.

"[This] inspired me to want to give something back. However I wanted to do something that was challenging to me

personally, assist with fund raising and set an example for our daughters and grandchildren," she said.

That is when she found out about the Amazon Heart group that conducts adventures for women who have suffered from breast cancer. Ms Beecham will be in riding the 2006 Amazon Heart Thunder, a motorcycle ride that raises money and awareness of breast cancer issues.

The ride starts in Sydney on October 13 and finishes in Brisbane on October 20. Harley-Davidson is generously loaning brand new motorcycles to all the women taking part to ride in this amazing adventure.

GRANT BANKS

