



**On the road:** Former Inverell woman Chris Beecham will ride her bike from Sydney to Brisbane in aid of breast cancer awareness and funds.

## Chris gives back by biking for breast cancer

WHEN Chris Beecham scooted around her friend's paddocks in Ashford on her trail bike as a teen, she never imagined she'd be riding a 1580cc Harley-Davidson motorbike from Sydney to Brisbane more than 30 years later, as a way of raising awareness and funds for breast cancer support programs.

The 50-year-old breast cancer survivor is not an experienced biker – she got her first motorbike licence in July.

Through a kind loan from Harley-Davidson, Chris and 20 other women from Australia and America have been given a rare chance to go on Amazon Heart Thunder – an eight day journey across two states to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer support programs.

"When I learned about this ride – an opportunity for women with cancer to give back to the support groups that help them

**Kerri-Ann O'Sullivan**

during the illness – I thought it would be great," Chris said.

The ride starts in Sydney on October 13 and finishes in Brisbane on October 20.

"I got my licence so I could go on this ride," Chris said, explaining that her husband gave her a 250 Cruiser motorbike after she got her licence, and the first time she sat on the Harley was literally a huge experience.

The ride will also be the perfect opportunity for Chris to experience a unique peer support project.

Having only recovered last December from the deadly disease, Chris went through surgery and treatment for over six months.

Chris, who now works in a Brisbane hospital, remembers

all the support she received when she was battling with cancer and afterwards.

"I got a lot out of the support and information offered by the group," she said. "I want to make people aware that there are support groups out there and services that are available for women and men in the country."

To help Chris raise funds for breast cancer support programs, go to [www.amazonheartthunder.org](http://www.amazonheartthunder.org) then follow the link through *Meet the Riders* to Chris Beecham.

Chris would appreciate donations before October 10.

She has already raised \$3000 but aims to raise \$2000 more before she leaves.

Chris said: "It's amazing how many people are willing to donate to a good cause and it is really appreciated."