



Breast Cancer ride taking shape again

February 16th, 2005



Last year 20 young breast cancer survivors rode up the coast of California, raising over \$60,000 for breast cancer. In 2005 they plan to do it again but this time on a global scale with the first ride in the UK, then moving on to California before finishing off in Australia.

Any young breast cancer survivors who would like the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to ride the open road with fellow survivors to raise money for breast cancer can apply now. Online applications are via the changing gears website www.changinggears.org and entries close on March 15th. The selection criteria gives priority to young survivors who are ideally also experienced riders.

To make this possible Harley-Davidson is generously loaning twenty brand new motorcycles and riding gear for the United States and Australian legs of the event. Harley-Davidson dealers along the route will hold welcoming parties for the women along the way. The Australian leg of the adventure will be held during October breast cancer month, kicking off at the Pink Ribbon Ride in Sydney and finishing at the Pink Ribbon Ride in Brisbane the following week.

Amazon Heart, the group responsible for organising the rides, was brought together through their love of motorcycles and their passion to create a support community for young women suffering with breast cancer. Their global adventure will aim to raise awareness of the unique needs of young women living with breast cancer, challenge media stereotypes, raise funds for breast cancer causes and continue along their own personal path of growth and healing with their fellow survivors.

In Australia last year over 11,300 women were diagnosed with breast cancer. Of those around 25% were under the age of 50. Meredith Campbell, one of the organisers of Changing Gears, was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 32. She began organising the ride after meeting Megan Dwyer, a Californian woman who had also recently been diagnosed with breast cancer. With their love of motorcycles they decided a ride was the best way to achieve their objectives.

"Last years ride managed to raise an enormous amount of awareness and funds to help young women coping with breast cancer. We are thrilled to be able to do this ride again and this time on a global scale" Meredith commented.

"Again we are overwhelmed by the support of Harley-Davidson who will provide us with bikes and riding gear for the ride!"

The ride will take place on the following dates:

Changing Gears UK Ride 20-27 August 2005

Changing Gears US Ride 24 Sep-1 Oct 2005

Changing Gears Australia Ride 23-30 October 2005

All donations will go to Breast Cancer Network Australia. To donate or to apply to take part in the ride, please go to www.changinggears.org. The applications are assessed on the strength of the information provided. Women who do not have a motorcycle licence, but intend to get one for the ride are welcome to apply.



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