

Getting in some practice for this week's Labor Party conference are Surf Coast Mayor Rose Hodge and Parliamentary Secretary for Water and Environment and South Barwon MP Michael Crutchfield

Photo by Cormac Hanrahan



early practice on the lush greens. I think they chose to have it here because we made sure they knew we had the best sea view and the best greens in the Geelong district."

About 70 people are expected at the conference and all the visiting MP's will be staying overnight on Thursday in the area at various accommodation venues, all at their own expense. "This is not a state government conference, it's a Labor Party one, therefore there is no expense to the

precinct, a secondary school and new primary school for Torquay/Jan Juc and funding for a Surf Coast connection to the new Geelong ring road.

"This is not just an opportunity for the shire to put forward its needs. Various community groups have been invited including the Torquay RSL, local school principals, the Lions, the Rotary Club, various state services and the local community houses," said Hodge.

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Thundering through Torquay

By Donna van Staden

A group of 17 breast cancer survivors from Australia and the United States thundered through Torquay on their Harley Davidsons on Friday after leaving Melbourne on a 1000km journey to Adelaide.

The ride is part of the hugely successful international Amazon Heart Thunder campaign to raise awareness and funding for breast cancer support.

The team of breast cancer survivors embarked on the journey on Friday, passing through Torquay at lunchtime on their way down the Great Ocean Road. The ride will end at the national HOG Rally in the Barossa Valley this Saturday, 27 October.

As part of its ongoing commitment to Amazon Heart Thunder, Harley-Davidson has donated the use of motorcycles for the ride as well as given new Harley-Davidson leather jackets to all new riders.

Adrian O'Donoughue, marketing manager of Harley-Davidson in Australia and New Zealand,

said the iconic motorcycle brand was proud to help deliver the ride of a lifetime and to continue the support such a worthy cause. "Our brand encourages people to live their dreams, promotes the idea of freedom and provides an escape from their day-to-day lives - and that's exactly what this trip is about for the Amazon Heart Thunder riders.

"In addition to being a great experience for the women taking part, this ride will raise awareness of breast cancer and inspire others," he said.

Amazon Heart began in 2004 when two young breast cancer survivors - Megan Dwyer and Meredith Campbell - met for the first time. Meredith is a 33-year-old champion sailor and

mother of one and was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2000. During the next ten months she battled mental and physical effects of two rounds of chemotherapy, surgery and radiation treatment.

"Amazon Heart was set up to change negative perceptions about breast cancer and to offer inspiring support for survivors, particularly young sufferers," Meredith said. "Many breast cancer sufferers endure severe depression and find it difficult to adjust to normal life when they finish treatment."

The Amazon Heart team are not traditional motorbike riders. They are ordinary mothers, grandmothers and working women, whose bond is their battle with breast cancer.



A group of breast cancer survivors thundered through Torquay on their Harleys on Friday. Director of Amazon Heart Meredith Campbell (front right) is pictured with the group outside the Surf City Photo by Cormac Hanrahan

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