



## Changing gears

As part of a global adventure, 20 young breast cancer survivors have ridden 1443km up the East Coast on Harley-Davidsons in an event organised by Amazon Heart to raise money for, and awareness of the unique needs of young women living with breast cancer.

The Australian leg of the adventure, supported by Roche, was held during October breast cancer month, kicking off in Sydney on Sunday October 23 and finishing at the Pink Ribbon Ride in Brisbane the following Sunday. Harley-Davidson lent 20 brand-new motorcycles and donated riding gear for all riders. Harley-Davidson dealers on the route held welcoming parties for the women at each stage.

Every day, more than 30 women across Australia will embark on a new journey when they are told they have breast cancer, with seven of those women being younger than 50, an age considered young for diagnosis. Breast Cancer Network Australia, the beneficiary of the ride, is an organisation of women who have had breast cancer and they work to inform, empower, represent and link together Australians personally affected by breast cancer.

The concept of the ride was born last year when 20 survivors rode Harley-Davidson motorcycles up the coast of California raising more than US\$60,000 for breast cancer. This year they have 53 young breast cancer survivors involved and the ride is on a global scale with a ride now completed in the UK, a ride happening in the US and finishing off here in Australia.

Meredith Campbell, one of the organisers of Changing Gears, was diagnosed with breast cancer at 33.

"Last year's 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 to raise awareness in Australia and for such a worthy charity as BCNA" she said.

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*All donations made in Australia will go to Breast Cancer Network Australia. For donations please go to <[www.changinggears.org](http://www.changinggears.org)> or for more information on BCNA, go to <[www.bcna.org.au](http://www.bcna.org.au)>.*