



# Gravel Rush

Gibb River Road Mountain Bike Challenge 2010 Campaign Newsletter # 1

Bloody Hell. Here's the first of the 2010 campaign newsletters for the Gibb River Road Mountain Bike Challenge.....you have got to be kiddin' me? Where the devil did the weeks and months go since our last tilt at *The Gibb??* I marked my Daylight Savings referendum vote for a sixty hour day but you thought I was nuts. Bang Daylight Savings or extended trading hours – more hours in the freakin' day is where it's at.



Take a breath guys and girls because the days and weeks are racing ahead towards another stellar instalment of the *Challenge* and our enthralling struggle against this dusty Kimberley superhighway.

Our organising committee are chafing at the bit for the first of our monthly meetings and we're already bouncing ideas off one another when we bump into each other at the beach, down the shops or over a couple of beers. It's the same manic crew plus a couple of super-enthused ring ins and I can assure you, 2010 will set an even higher benchmark for charitable cycling events. It's going to be a blast and I hope you're able to take on *The Challenge*.

The basic format will remain the same next year; form a team of 2-6 intrepid riders, raise at least \$1000 for charity (half to WA Police Legacy) and ride your hearts out along an iconic stock route through God's Country camping each night at some awesome locations; Silent Grove, Mount Elizabeth Station, Ellenbrae, Home Valley Station and El Questro Wilderness Park. That magic inclusion of the Karunjie Track will remain because that was way cool. We're ditching the support vehicles though because they were crap – couldn't keep up with the bikes smashing through the single track, baby head rock gardens and kicking drop offs.

There's going to be a couple of modest improvements because no one can ever claim to have this thing dialled. Registrations are going on-line, the web-site is getting a glitzy make-over, the cool rooms are up for some Kimberley bomb proofing and we're realigning with the Airnorth Kimberley Moon Experience. It's all good.



If you're entertaining even the slightest inkling to join this remarkable community event, you need to put aside **Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> through to Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2010. Lock 'em in Eddy.** Keep an eye on the newsletters for open registrations on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. Chances are we'll hit full subscription within a week!!



WA Police Legacy



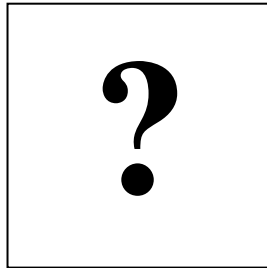
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## Mega Heroes Page

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## Heroic Contributions



Whilst the ownership of the Million Acres Wilderness Park may be set to change, the amazing generosity and uncompromising support for our charitable event is only strengthening under the stewardship of Township General Manager David Henry. There wasn't so much as a moment's hesitation before an another extraordinary commitment to continue their association as our valued Diamond Level Sponsors.

El Questro has always been the quintessential Kimberley camping experience; soothing showers, manicured camp grounds and gourmet barbeque banquets. The difficulty hasn't been getting our dusty peloton there; it's dragging their weary souls out of the therapeutic thermal embrace of Zebedee Springs the next morning!

Well, just like this year there's no rush; soak your aches away until your wrinkly, tired and delicate arse is good and ready to be relocated to a lawn chair, bar stool or a restaurant vantage overlooking the Pentecost River. El Questro is the final night, the finish line, the end of the road baby. We're not going anywhere for a couple of days so soak it up. This place is *gorgeous*, take your time and discover all its charms.

More details to follow in a future feature of; "*Where the Hell are we?*" as well as some stunning accommodation upgrades, available exclusively to participants of the Gibb River Road Mountain Bike Challenge.



It couldn't be a Gibb River Road Mountain Bike Challenge without our manically supportive partners Andrew and Deanne Johnson from Broome Cycles. Their continued friendship, patronage and assistance for our charitable event are treasured.

Dundee and De not only combine immeasurable enthusiasm as our organising committee's *Promotions* mercenaries, they've earned themselves Diamond Level Sponsorship recognition for their insane support. Check it; tireless committee involvement, technical and industry assistance, the *Red Dirt Riders* raising truckloads in donations, unprecedented promotion of cycling and the late night bourbon fuelled mobile workshop and you just start to comprehend their complete immersion in the *Gibb River Road Mountain Bike Challenge*. This is a small business punching well above their weight and sends a powerful message of support for our charitable event. *Thank you* just doesn't seem enough.....Thanks heaps!!



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## Heroic Contributions

The Shire of Broome has taken a few hits in recent weeks but I think I know what the problem is – they’re not any good at blowing wind up their own bums. It’s a rare and refreshing deficiency because it seems just about everyone else is more than happy to tell you how bloody great they are.



The Shire of Broome however are working quietly and diligently against a backdrop of emotive, conflicting community opinions and corporate agendas to make Broome an even better place to live. And let’s face it, Broome’s a pretty special place; *people, place, prosperity.*

No other town is better represented in terms of corporate support, rider participation, volunteer assistance, community enthusiasm or local government assistance. Huge thanks to the Shire of Broome and your generous ratepayers! Maybe that should be; *people, place, prosperity, pedals* The Shire of Broome are only the second local government to achieve Pearl Level Sponsorship status.....entirely appropriate for the Pearl Coast municipality.



Bryce and Donna Jamieson are Tropi-Cool’s way-cool owners. They’re seriously keen advocates for the Gibb River Road Mountain Bike Challenge; Bryce has three podium finishes under his belt (if it was a race of course) and Donna was debutante

with this year’s outrageous *Chicks on the Gibb*. But in genuinely Broome style community spirit, they’re also strong with practical assistance too.....and this is GOLD.

In an on-going and very generous sponsorship arrangement, they’ve teamed up with Estee Mason’s *Inspired Designs*, a web-site design service. With disarming ease, Estee regularly updates our very own piece of nano real estate at; [www.thegibbchallenge.net.au](http://www.thegibbchallenge.net.au)

Add it to your favourites and visit again and again and again. Great too when the missus springs you late at night trawling the ‘net, but it’s just healthy bike porn you’re Googling. There are some great improvements and updates on the way so have another look.



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## Heroes Page



....the usual suspects are the first to offer their incredible support....

## Heroes Page is building.....more heroes needed though

If you or your company would like to help our event, we'd love to hear from you. We're looking for all manner of support from the loan of equipment to the provision of food, merchandise give-aways, water, sunscreen or promotional offers.

Anything could help and everything will be gratefully received.....even a hug and some kind words of encouragement. Our organising committee are not averse to receiving large and grotesquely generous amounts of moola too. If you're a high flying company executive who wants to extol the virtues of your company's civic mindedness, we're your sugar baby. Have your people talk to our people and they can do lunch. De and Dundee (Broome Cycles - 9192 1871) have the Community Prospectus available for your consideration.



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## Rumour Mill



I've been spruiking off for a while now about a host of exciting events for the east Kimberley.....and it's all about to come together. A group of freakishly enthused fresh-water mob in Kununurra are reigniting the incredible *Lake Argyle Challenge* – an insane marathon swim event on Lake Argyle (duh!!). There will be two lengths; a lazy 10 kilometre splash or a seriously deranged 20 kilometre option.

Yeah, I'm hearing you; *we're into cranks, dust and corrugated roads*. The swimming insanity is just part of the story. How about a full weekend of adventure events that is likely to include kayaking, sailing, swimming AND mountain bike racing?! All fairly embryonic at the moment but I'll keep you informed. The dates are solid though – Saturday and Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, 2010 - Lake Argyle Village Resort via Kununurra. *Lock 'em in Eddy*.

## Wait for it.....awesome

I must have had my head up my arse for the last few months because I didn't know anything about this until the *KNX Bandits* started gobbing off about an awesome adventure they'd had in Timor-Leste. The *Tour de Timor* attracted over 300 national and international competitors for their inaugural event and was hosted by non other than heroic President of Timor-Leste and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Dr. José Ramos-Horta. No half arsed reception at the Presidential Palace here – he even had UN Hercules transport planes collecting competitor's bikes in Darwin! That's some serious logistical muscle.

Bandits/Bandettes Susie Williams, Mark Phillips, Tracey Leon and Dan Raymond were awesome Kimberley representatives. The five day 400 kilometre event included a fourth day climb of nearly 2000 vertical metres! – Bloody hell, that's a nasty *jump up*. To provide some perspective; Five Rivers Lookout on the Bastion in Wyndham is 350 metres and is an absolute yodel feast. If you're in Broome reading this, there is no comparable hill, certainly not Kennedy Hill. *Imagine a line connecting you to a Qantas 737 circling Gantheaume Point.....now ride up the imaginary line.*



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## Gibb River Road Mountain Bike Challenge for dummies

*Your mates think you're nuts. Your parents and those closest to you think you're nuts. We KNOW you're nuts: "You're going to ride a mountain bike from Derby to El Questro on the Gibb River Road?"*

**Hell yeah!! And here's how you're going to do it...**

1. Form a team of 2-6 riders and raise a minimum of **\$1000** for charity. Half is to benefit WA Police Legacy, the other half can be donated to a registered charity (Charitable Collections Act) of your team's choice.
2. The registration fee of \$350 per rider and \$350 non-riding support person includes all your meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) throughout the *Challenge*, an event riding jersey for riders or an event t-shirt for support personnel, camping and wilderness park fees. Smiles, cheers & tears are FREE.
3. It's a team relay and your team decides the transition points throughout each day depending on rider strength or your sneaky and superior knowledge of the terrain ahead *and perhaps a thrilling down hill around the next corner.*
4. You only need a moderate level of fitness. Super human freaks may want to try this solo but us mere mortals surround ourselves with a great team and share the daily riding. More mates.....less kilometres.....more beer.
5. Your team needs a support vehicle (**Max 2 vehicles per team**), preferably a high clearance 4WD with a trailer to stow your bikes, spares and camping gear.
6. Better pack a portable fridge or esky to keep your lunches and beer cool (No cooking equipment required - we'll even cook for you).
7. It's not a race.....*seriously, it's not.*
8. We camp each night following the twilight curfew; Silent Grove, Mount Elizabeth Station, Ellenbrae Station, Home Valley Station and El Questro.
9. You will have a bloody amazing time.



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## 'Bell's Recipe Blog



### BREAKFAST BOOST

One cereal block (Weet-Bix / Vita Brits), one banana, half a kiwi fruit, slice of paw paw, one mango cheek (tinned okay), five almonds, five walnuts, one teaspoon linseed, one teaspoon sunflower seeds, one teaspoon wheat germ or flax seed and 300-500 mls of soy milk (or your choice of bovine juice).

Blend ingredients together and smash it down your throat.

Breakfast's done - throw your leg over the stead and roll out for a lazy 20.....or a nasty 136 grab – see below.

## Barn Hill Bike Bash

**136 Kilometre Social Ride  
Broome – Barn Hill  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2009**

Want to join an intimate cycling group for a weekend of riding and fellowship? Hook up with *Team Lounging Lizards* as they host a social ride from Broome to Barn Hill. They're looking at keeping the pace to an achievable 25 kph and will offer transition points every 20 kilometres to replenish the fuel reserves or take on some extra fluids. If you're part of a team, you can tag out and let your team mate throw down some miles.

Meet at Cable Beach car park – behind Zanders, in front of Cable Beach Club Resort at *Oh stupid o'clock* (0500 hours) for a five thirty departure. (Bloody hell!) Bring plenty of water or sports drinks because it's going to be freakin' hot. The extra drinks, food and spare parts can be carried by the peloton support vehicle. Your camping gear, barbeque dinner and drinks will need to be taken to Barn Hill by your own support vehicle. *Let the partner and kids jump ahead for a full day of fun and relaxation at Barn Hill while you're grinding the cranks with domestique fervour.*

If you're a nuded up, skinny wheel, cappuccino sipping roadie – bang your bike in the support trailer for the last unsealed 8 kilometres. Fat tyre aficionado's can ride the whole glorious 136 kilometres from go to whoa.....! Full details available by contacting Aidan Mitchell (9192 5686) or Josh Bell (9193 7439). Barn Hill cabin accommodation (9192 4975). See you there freaks.



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## Muster News

The Gibb River Road Mountain Bike Challenge will again feature in the calendar of events for the Argyle Diamonds Ord Valley Muster. This beneficial relationship will witness our dusty efforts celebrated through their very slick media and advertising campaign; brochures, internet, radio, television. They'll create more *shit'n'giggles* than a Toyota tough Australia ad. For full Muster details see [www.ordvalleymuster.com](http://www.ordvalleymuster.com) and yes, there's a spiel on our event there too.



Great news straight off the bat! The planets and more importantly the Moon, have aligned and our event will again coincide with the Airnorth Kimberley Moon Experience .....We roll into El Questro Thursday .....You swan about The Million Acres on Friday .....Punch into Kununurra on Saturday for the greatest concert event in the World ..... if they're able to sign the Blue Shaddy. (Muster dudes – that was a less than subtle hint)

## Karratha to Broome Bike Marathon

If you're ever wondered how the Gibb River Road Mountain Bike Challenge came into existence, you don't need to look any further than the Karratha to Broome Bike Marathon. It's been an unqualified success and in 16 years has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for WA Police Legacy. This year saw 22 courageous riders and 15 selfless volunteers pit themselves against the 820 kilometre black-top pilgrimage from the Pilbara to the Kimberley.....and it gets done in a little over a day!!! (day....night....morning.....afternoon.....*beer*)

How bloody amazing was Constable Aaron Ravat of the Karratha Police Station? He's a young bloke, new to *The Job*, newer still to the Pilbara and then he goes and steps into the very large shoes left by Bruce Hardwicke as Head Honcho. Brilliant job mate, sign me up for another year.....you Pilbara mob put on a great show.

The response to the ONE CENT/KILOMETRE PLEDGE was humbling. Offers poured in, donations rang out and smashed the \$400 qualifying requirement. SMASHED doesn't do the insane generosity justice.....I was able to raise **\$1100** through some wonderful gestures of generosity. To everyone who offered their encouragement, donated money or provided immeasurable support – THANK YOU. For the record, I put together 460 kilometres.....so that's \$4.60 *Ching Ching*.



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**m....m....mmmmates rates.....**



**Volunteer support personnel have always been an invaluable ingredient in our event. They've kept our times, provided medical support, ensured our safe passage, prepared gourmet meals, super heated shower water, set our camp and even fixed our bikes through the night.....freakin' amazing effort. We've been enormously fortunate to have had some great people join us in the past and our organising committee are super keen to secure their services again; *or maybe yours this year.***

**If you're looking for a life defining week long adventure in the extraordinary beauty of the Kimberley assisting community minded people in their endeavours to raise money for heroic charities, the Gibb River Road Mountain Bike Challenge wants YOU!**

**Your contribution of time and effort will greatly assist the event through a variety of roles that include; catering, time keeping, marshalling, media liaison, communications, medical support, mechanical repairs, transport or camp ground management. See? No riding required. We'll pay for your meals, accommodation and wilderness park fees and may even be able to throw a few dollars towards your fuel.....honestly, it's the least we could do. You guys rock!!**



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