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Cyclists on Tour de Cure

Bianca Clare | 3rd June 2009

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WHAT better way to celebrate a 1555km marathon journey from Brisbane to Cairns than with a massive feast fit for a king - or even a queen.

Having already raised more than \$1 million to date, the third annual Tour de Cure, a bike ride that raises much-needed funds for Australian cancer charities, arrived in Mackay yesterday.

A group of more than 50 Australian men and women comprise the Tour de Cure team, who are in the midst of a 1555km marathon journey from Brisbane to Cairns, all in the name of raising money for the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Camp Quality, The Leukaemia Foundation, and Cancer Council Australia.

Mackay will be the fifth official pit stop on the 2009 Tour de Cure, which aims to raise \$750,000 this year alone.

A number of community activities are held to celebrate the arrival of the Tour de Cure team in each region on the journey from Brisbane to Cairns, with Mackay hosting the Cure Cancer Category Jersey Presentation Dinner at the Clarion Hotel, Mackay Marina, last night.

Tour de Cure Category Jerseys - a different colour represents each charity - are awarded at the end of the day to the team member who best displays qualities during the day such as focus, support, guts, being a 'doer' and a having a great attitude.

Charity co-founder Geoff Coombes said after riding a whopping 777km to date, his team looked forward to a social catch-up with the locals and the chance to raise some extra funds for a cure.

This morning the team will depart for the next leg of their journey up the east coast of Queensland, stopping in Bowen, Townsville, Ingham and Mission Beach before ending in Cairns on Sunday, June 7.

Cycling fanatic Gary Bertwistle, whose own father has recently been diagnosed with prostate cancer, said the Tour de Cure was a personal journey.

To donate, or to find out about Tour de Cure activities, visit www.tourdecure.com.au.

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