



ABN 50 157 824 014

www.tourderocks.com.au

Riding, engaging and inspiring communities to cure cancer

Bill Wheeler - Chairman Tour de Rocks 2012 - 2018

A Little Bit of History

Along with my family we have been involved with Tour de Rocks since its inception late 2010 when the first ride was undertaken as the forerunner to the establishment of Tour de Rocks as a registered charitable organisation and planning began for the first major ride in 2012.

The founding board was Justine Biddle (working for Buildplan), Hugh Piper, Brett Constable and myself as chair. It was my relationship with Tour de Cure that fostered the desire to make a difference in the battle against cancer. Our company National Buildplan Group provided the resources to enable the establishment of the organisation and the management of the initial ride. The community, friends and family joined the team to ensure a successful inaugural event. We raised over \$100,000 from that event. After six successful events, together we have raised more than \$1,500,000 net for cancer awareness, prevention and research to find better treatments and eventually a cure.

The entire organisation is voluntary. Whilst many people have contributed significantly to the ongoing success of the organisation I would like to look inwards for a moment and reflect on the contribution of Tonia, Jono, Nikita and Samantha.

Jonathon organised the original ride for his Gold Duke of Ed (with a little help from his mum) and has been on all but one ride since as part of the logistics and catering crew. Tonia has been responsible for the raffle tickets and sponsors, the Grant McCarroll Tour de Rocks Ute for 4 years running. Nikita has developed the web site for Tour de Rocks and the Cancer Awareness Centre , mailchimp and produced numerous flyers for anyone that need a hand. Nikita wrote and performed the Tour de Rocks song "What Can I do, How Can I Help" Samantha was involved in the original ride, rode one ride and has assisted Nikita with the technical side of the six finale's held in May following the event.

Not too many days would go by when Tour de Rocks wasn't discussed at the dinner table, what was done, what needed to be done and who would do it. Without the generous support of Tonia and the kids, the path would have been much more difficult and perhaps would have taken a different route.

What Can I Do – How Can I help?



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Management of the company, compliance with third party audits, statutory reporting, ACNC compliance and administrative tasks are all carried out on a voluntary basis to ensure the costs to maintain our DGR status are minimal. In fact with a flow through rate of about 98%, I would suggest we have one of the lowest cost bases for any charity of a similar size.

The Board was expanded in 2013 to ensure correct governance through the election of community members with various areas of expertise. Committees were established for Appropriations, Logistics, Marketing, Catering, Education and Awareness and Finance. The contribution from the many people that have served as board members and on these committees is significant.

Tour de Rocks has become a major contributor to many regional cancer programs providing hundreds of thousands of dollars to organisations such as Can Assist and Camp Quality, not to mention the regional hospitals, ACAF funds and even the smaller organisations such as the wig library. The jewel in the crown being the annual Petrea King Weekend Retreat at Yarrandoo.

We have contributed over \$600K to research programs that has been matched by Tour de Cure so that we can proudly say we have been associated with \$1.2m of research funding that has resulted in better diagnosis, prognosis and significant breakthroughs in cancer treatments.

I could not be more proud of what we as a team have been able to achieve since the inception of Tour de Rocks. It is truly extraordinary.

The Decision

Nothing is forever. The focus must be on the sustainability of the organisation so that we can continue to contribute to the health and well being of members of our regional communities.

Tonia and I are now in a period of our lives that require a little more attention to matters close to home. Tonia is lucky enough to have her mum and dad in their mid eighties, albeit requiring a significant amount of care and attention. My mother is doing well at 86, however would benefit from a little more attention. (My father Laurie passed way from cancer.) We have two beautiful granddaughters (and their parents) living with us for at least the next 6 months. Our ageing parents and our grandchildren are currently our first priority, we wouldn't change a thing and our focus is unashamedly here.

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The Tour de Rocks Board has some extraordinary members, people that are passionate about the organisation. They understand deeply what it means to be able to make a difference in the lives of people that have a diagnosis of cancer. They have an agenda that will ensure the organisation is able to continue the unique contribution to the fabric of our regional communities. Be in no doubt that Tour de Rocks will remain a significant contributor in all facets of the battle against cancer.

I have had my stamp on the board for 7 years which is enough oppression for anyone – it is amazing that there hasn't been a overthrow, lynching or revolution in that time. Time for the Young Ones to have a go.

For the board to continue to be effective it is important that opportunities are provided for people to step up and to step down, new ideas promoted, enthusiasm maintained and fresh blood be attracted. The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing. This is an opportunity to consolidate the work that has been done to date and develop and execute a strategy for the next 7 years.

I am committed to continue my involvement on several of the subcommittees and will work closely with the incoming chair to ensure a seamless transition and to ensure the 2018 ride is our best one yet.

Thankyou

I do wish to thank the past and current board members for their contribution to the success of Tour de Rocks. To the members of the various committees that have worked tirelessly to ensure the organisation is managed professionally and we are able to run a safe ride year after year, you are amazing. To all of our regional companies and organisations that contribute their significant resources, to the individual riders and teams that participate this is your Tour de Rocks, be proud of what you have achieved. To our partners at Tour de Cure, thank you for your generous support, never ending encouragement, your sharing of resources that have made a difference in our regional communities.

What Can I Do – How Can I help?