



Royal Flying Doctor Service
SOUTH EASTERN SECTION

Media Release

15 July 2014

Silver City Treadlers Reach \$500,000 Fundraising Landmark

The Silver City Treadlers, a cycle team founded by Broken Hill local June Files OAM, will saddle up for the 18th straight year to raise funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service South Eastern Section (RFDS).

During the past two decades the Treadlers have cycled to White Cliffs, Wilcannia, Menindee, Milparinka, Birdsville and as far afield as Alice Springs and Darwin. Last year they rode around the Riverina raising over \$58,000 in the process.

“Every one of the past 17 years has been memorable, but this year will be special as we will crack the \$500,000 fundraising mark. We’re over \$460,000 now, so this will definitely be the year,” said the Treadlers’ founder and tour leader June Files.

“It all goes to support the wonderful emergency and clinical work that the RFDS does, which is such an important lifeline for those of us who live in rural and remote Australia.”

Greg Sam, Chief Executive Officer of the RFDS South Eastern Section was the first to express his admiration and thanks to June and her fellow Treadlers. “On joining the RFDS I was very impressed, not only by the huge fundraising effort that helps keep the Flying Doctor flying, but the tireless dedication of certain groups and individuals who keep supporting us year after year.”

“The Silver City Treadlers now join an elite group of fundraisers who have exceeded the half a million dollar mark.”

“We congratulate them on reaching what is a remarkable fundraising landmark, by any measure, and thank them for the 18 years and the many thousands of kilometres they have dedicated to the RFDS.”

The Treadlers were born out of a ‘dare’ made when June was training for a ride from Adelaide to Perth in 1996.

“While planning my training route a friend dared me to cycle beyond the range of an enormous eagle we viewed soaring across the Outback,” recalls June.

“I rode from Broken Hill to White Cliffs with three others and raised just over \$1,400 for the RFDS. The following year there were 47 riders and we formed the Silver City Bush Treadlers Inc. It’s just grown from there.”

The Treadlers' dares have now become an annual tradition among distance cyclists. Riders of all ages travel from as far afield as Tasmania and Queensland to do the ride, the oldest being 78 years old.

This year's 'Opal Dare' is so-called because the Treadlers are completing an 827km loop through NSW Opal Country. They start in Warren, North West of Dubbo, on 20 July and over the next two weeks head northwards up through Quambone, Walgett and Lightning Ridge to Hebel, just over the Queensland border. The return leg sees them heading back south through remote Opal mining country, finishing back in Warren on Friday, 1 August.

"This year's 'dare' will involve riding an average of 77kms a day, a step up from the 50kms we did last year, but I'm sure we're up to it," said June

"It varies from year to year, but for this trip we have a team of almost 50 riders, which is the ideal number,"

"Cycling is the best way to see what I like to call "Our Big Back Yard," but making new cycling friends and meeting the locals, who make us so welcome along the way, is the best part for me."

"Not only are we welcomed as RFDS fundraisers, but rain-makers too. Every time the Treadlers take to the road it seems to rain, so I guess we'll be popular in those places needing a good drink."

Anyone wishing to support the Treadlers can log on to Everyday Hero at:
http://www.everydayhero.com.au/silver_city_bush_treadlers_inc

The Silver City Treadlers start the "Opal Dare" outside the Warren Shire Council offices at 8am on Sunday, 20 July 2014 and will be flagged off by the Mayor of Warren Shire, Councillor Rex Wilson OAM.

The "Opal Dare" Route 2014

| Day/ Date | Location | Kms |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| Day 1 - Sunday, 20 July | Warren - Marthaguy Hall | 44 |
| Day 2 - Monday, 21 July | Marthaguy Hall - Quambone | 44 |
| Day 3 - Tuesday 22, July | Quambone - Carinda | 67 |
| Day 4 - Wednesday 23 July | Carinda - Walgett (Barwin Inn) | 94 |
| Day 5 - Thursday 24 July | Walgett - Lightning Ridge | 87 |
| Friday 25 July | Rest Day | |
| Day 6 - Saturday 26 July | Lightning Ridge - Hebel | 77 |
| Day 7 - Sunday 27 July | Hebel - Wirriwa Station | 74 |
| Day 8 - Monday 28 July | Wirriwa Station - Grawin | 62 |
| Day 9 - Tuesday 29 July | Grawin - Boorooma Station | 52 |
| Day 10 - Wednesday 30 July | Boorooma Stn. - Willie's Retreat | 121 |
| Thursday 31 July | Rest Day | |
| Day 11- Friday 1 August | Willie's Retreat - Warren | 105 |
| | | 827 |

- ENDS -

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ABOUT THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

The not-for-profit Royal Flying Doctor Service has been taking the finest care to the furthest corners of Australia since 1928. The service provides 24 hour emergency cover to 90% of the Australian continent, via a modern fleet of specially equipped aircraft. In the past year, the South Eastern Section flew the equivalent of 6.5 round trips to the moon as it facilitated over 4,700 clinics, took over 5,000 telehealth calls, had over 54,000 patient contacts and transported almost 8,600 patients.