

# LEADERSHIP MATTERS

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## Limitations

So many of us impose limitations on what we do everyday. It might be about how hard we push in training, the hours we spend at work or limiting our alcohol intake.

Some of the limitations are clearly there as a benefit to us, but others are just excuses for what we can do or more importantly what we believe we can do.

In committing to do the Hands Across the Water bike ride again in 2010, which is now only a week away, we again considered the amount of

money that we would ask each rider to raise.

We decided that if each of the riders were required to raise \$10,000 that would take a significant effort on their behalf, after all \$10,000 is a significant amount of money.

Raising the money would force each of the riders to learn and then tell the story of Hands and in doing so, spread the word.

The response from those thinking about the ride was predictable. A number said

that they would do the ride, but could never raise the money. That was easy - they wouldn't do the ride.

Others wanted to do the ride but were genuinely concerned as to their ability to raise the money. And yet others just accepted that was what they needed to do and followed the process we put in place to support them and went about raising the money.

What I loved was seeing the journey that these guys went on. For those who had never undertaken any type of

fundraising, they didn't have the type of contacts that would donate thousands at a time, they committed and embarked upon raising the money.

I watched over months as the money started to roll in and the stories came from the riders. The stories of how they received support from people they never imagined and at the same time felt let down by those they thought they could count on.

Each of the riders has their own story about what they were able to achieve in fundraising. Each decided that the limit of \$10,000 was not a limit that would prohibit them from joining the ride.

One of my favourite stories comes from Perth, Western Australia. One of our Perth crew, Erin Pawson contacted me and discussed at great length her concern about raising the money, right up front. She didn't want to join and then let people down. But she was concerned.

Erin decided not to let other people's limitations restrict what she could achieve.

Having never engaged in fundraising before it was going to be hard, but she committed and now with only days to go, Erin is a few dollars short of having raised \$20,000!

An amazing effort for anyone no doubt. But for someone's first up attempt at fundraising it showed that Erin decided she wouldn't overlay her efforts with either her or anyone else's limitations.

It's interesting what can be achieved when we remove the excuses which are just masquerading as limitations.

"The meaning of life is to give life meaning."

Ken Hudgins

## HANDS UPDATE

It's not just about the big projects, we remain committed to meeting the needs of the kids, each and everyone of them. As a result of the recent dinner held at Movie World we were able to fund a life changing operation for Ohn one of our kids.

At the age of 12 she had never been to school, partly because of a birth defect to her hands that resulted in her fingers being fused together. I was delighted to see the photos of Ohn following her corrective surgery and to know that she is now enrolled in school for the first time.