

From: Karen Richards [mailto:bikerchick@karenrichards.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2005 12:47 AM
To: mail@karenrichards.com
Subject: My Next Changing Gears Adventure - Australia!

Dear Friends,

As most of you know, last year I learned to ride a motorcycle in order to participate in an incredible adventure called Changing Gears, where I was among 20 young breast cancer survivors who rode Harleys up the coast of California for over 1000 miles. This inaugural event by Amazon Heart (www.amazon-heart.com) raised \$45,000, which provided funds for Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization, scholarships for young breast cancer survivors to attend a national conference staged by The Young Survival Coalition and the development of peer support programs by Amazon Heart.

Following the success of last year's event, Amazon Heart has put together the Changing Gears Global Run – a motorcycle relay adventure for young breast cancer survivors spanning three continents – the UK, the USA and Australia. I am thrilled and honored to have been accepted to participate in the Australian leg of the event, from October 23rd to the 30th riding from Sydney to Brisbane.

I returned from my experience last year changed in many ways. In particular, I felt a need to give something back to other survivors, and to the organization that made that journey possible. By raising funds for Amazon Heart, I can accomplish both goals, as this year funds raised will support the development of a world first online peer support program for young survivors by Amazon Heart and The Young Survival Coalition.

With Changing Gears, Amazon Heart challenged me to achieve something I never dreamt I could do – but more importantly, they connected me to a new and amazing group of women whose strength and courage are nothing short of inspirational. This year I will continue my journey – on the wrong side of the road – halfway around the world – with a new group of future lifetime friends. The funds raised for Amazon Heart will help them provide similar adventure opportunities to other survivors, and help them expand their programs that connect other young women who share the common bonds - and trials - of living beyond breast cancer.

My minimum fundraising goal is \$5,000, but I hope to raise much more. Please help me support Amazon Heart's efforts by helping me on this incredible journey. Corporate sponsorship packages are also available, so if you have a contact at your company that you think might be interested, please feel free to forward this message to them.

I have created a website - www.karenrichards.com - for my fundraising efforts. There you will find links to all sorts of fun stuff from last year's event, like pictures, letters and news articles – as well as links to information about this event. To find out more about this or other Changing Gears rides, to view the amazing route we'll be riding, or for other general information, please go to www.changinggears.org.

I have also made up some great flyers, and if you can think of any places to post them, you can download them from my website, or I'll be happy to send you some. If you prefer to donate by mail, the donation form is also available for download from my site.

As I did last year, I am collecting names of women to ride in honor or memory of, so please let me know if there is someone that I can add to that list. Last year I rode in honor of 30 survivors, and in memory of 16 brave women who ultimately lost their battles with breast cancer.

As always, feel free to forward this to anyone that you think might want to help with this great cause.

Thanks in advance for your support – it means so much to me!

Warmest regards,

Karen

"It's not the destination, it's the journey"

"Four wheels move the body, two wheels move the soul"

[Click here to find out about my Changing Gears adventure!](#)

