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Media Release

Charity Ride: *Entoure* Cycle Classic Hunter Valley

Motivated and ambitious amateur cyclist, Marek Rackay, will ride his bicycle for charity from Hornsby to the Hunter Valley and back, to raise money for the *Day of Difference Foundation*, a children's charity that raises funds to purchase hospital equipment and facilities to save children's lives, from 29 May to 30 May.

The charity ride will span over three days. The first day will involve approximately 157 Kilometres of riding; day two will involve a further 91 kilometres of riding, and day three, the remaining 137 kilometres.

"Riders will cover in excess of 380 kilometres in three days, cycling from the Hornsby to the Hunter Valley, finishing the ride at the Manly Dam," said Marek Rackay.

Marek, a Willoughby Leisure Centre staff member, has been vigorously training with *Entoure*, an organisation established to stage fun and challenging sporting events in support of the *Day of Difference Foundation*, as well as participating in *Spinathon* on Saturday May 9, a two and a half hour stationary bike ride, organised by the Willoughby Leisure Centre in preparation for the charity ride.

"I am very honoured to be part of the charity ride together with *Entoure*. I am hoping to raise over \$5000 to donate to the *Day of Difference Foundation* to help purchase life saving medical and audiovisual equipment for the Children's Hospital Westmead and Children's Hospital Melbourne," he said.

In 2004, Ron Delezio and Carolyn Martin launched the *Day of Difference Foundation* to contribute to the efforts of children's hospitals, so that kids like Sophie Delezio can be given the best possible chance to survive and flourish.

"The charity ride is a fantastic recreational event that aims to raise money to purchase life saving medical equipment for young children in hospital," said Willoughby Mayor, Pat Reilly.

"I urge locals and the wider community to get involved in the charity ride by donating money and help support *Entoure* and the *Day of Difference Foundation*," he said.

More than 55 cyclists will ride for charity, all aiming to raise more than \$140 000 for the *Day of Difference Foundation*. The tour will follow Old Pacific Highway, Peats Ridge Road, George Downs Road, Great North Road and then onto to Wollombi Road through to the quant township of Wollombi where we will stop for lunch at Cafe Wollombi.

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Riders will then head a further 50 kilometres along Wollombi Road to Allandale Road, Wine Country Road before stopping at the magnificent Crown Plaza Hotel; which will become home for both Friday and Saturday nights. Day two will see riders do a 90 kilometre loop of the Hunter Valley and share some wine over lunch before heading back to Sydney and finishing at Manly Dam.

For more information on the *Entoure* charity ride visit www.entoure.com.au

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