

The Ride SA Tour

Changing perceptions of disability one town at a time

In October this year people from regional and metropolitan South Australian got together to watch a documentary film called The Ride. The Ride is about four Aussie blokes living with disability who travelled 5000km through the Australian outback on quad bikes back to the crash sites where they were injured and acquired their disability.

During the film Jim, Anton, Craig and Terry give an honest, warts and all account of what it's really like to live with disability and use a wheelchair.

“Live your life and don’t let disability define who you are.”



Left to Right: Jim (pictured with Director Sandra Cook) is 50 years old and lives with paraplegia. He is the executive producer of The Ride and wanted to make a documentary film to raise awareness about what people living with disability can do.

Anton is 41 years old and lives with paraplegia. He married his fiancé during filming of The Ride and he and his wife are expecting twins.

Craig is 45 years old and is the only rider on the trip who lives with quadriplegia. He is a former motocross rider.

Terry is 44 years old and lives with paraplegia. He met fellow rider, and best mate, Craig in hospital 29 years ago.



Julia Farr
MS McLeod
Benevolent Fund

“Life doesn’t finish because of a disability. You can still have a very meaningful and fulfilled life.”

The Ride screening tour was sponsored by the Julia Farr MS McLeod Benevolent Fund - a trust that provides grant funding for projects that help improve the life chances of adults living with acquired brain injury or a degenerative neurological condition. We sponsored The Ride because we think it's a powerful story that can change the way people think and act about disability.

Approximately 1 in 5 Australians live with an acquired brain injury and 55% of these people acquired their injury in a traffic accident *

We know many people acquire disability in a traffic accident, just like Jim, Anton, Craig and Terry. By screening The Ride in 22 locations around South Australia, people have the opportunity to get together, see the film for free and chat about disability issues.

People living with disability connected with The Ride because they shared similar experiences with the characters, especially those who were involved in a crash and have been through rehabilitation and recovery. For able-bodied people it was clear the film opened their eyes to what it's really like to live with disability, and helped change any pre-conceived ideas they had about living with disability and what's possible.

“Having a disability doesn’t stop you from having adventures.”



*According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2007).

“This film will stay with me forever.”

More than 730 people attended the screenings, many of whom live with disability or have a family member who lives with disability.

I live with, or have a family member who lives with, acquired brain injury	13.8%
I live with, or have a family member who lives with, a degenerative neurological condition	9.83%
I live with, or have a family member who lives with, disability	39.85%
I am able-bodied and interested in this topic	56.28%

Everyone was given a short survey to tell the Julia Farr MS McLeod Benevolent Fund what they learnt from watching the film, including things they might do differently in the future and what they think could happen in the community to better support people living with disability to live a good life.

The survey results told us that *The Ride* changed people's perceptions of what it's like to live with disability. Many said they learnt that living with disability doesn't define who you are, and doesn't mean your life is over - you can still take risks and achieve your goals.

People also said the film helped them realise everyone is equal and that as a society we need to make sure everything in the community is accessible, and inclusive of people living with disability.

For more information about *The Ride* visit www.theridemovie.org

For more information about the Julia Farr MS McLeod Benevolent Fund visit www.jfm.org.au, email admin@juliafarr.org.au or call us on (08) 8373 8333.

