

Going the distance for charity

In September Jack Sinclair will embark on an epic ride, writes **Tristan Swanwick**

PRIDE of Australia nominee Jack Sinclair doesn't see himself as anyone special, just an ordinary kid who wants to help people in need.

The 15-year-old from Elanora on the Gold Coast will set off with his father Brendon in September on a 4500km, 30-day journey from Perth to Surfers Paradise.

The father-and-son team will contend with 45C heat, howling headwinds and driving rain in an effort to raise badly needed funds for charity organisation Big Brothers Big Sisters Australia.

The organisation was established in the late 1970s to provide vulnerable young people in need of additional support and friendship with a caring mentor and positive role model.

The Perth to Paradise trip is another feather in the cap of the generous young Queenslander, nominated in the Young Aussie category of the Pride of Australia medal.

He's a regular volunteer at the Agoonoree Scout camp for disabled children and also developed and manages the website for charity ride Sydney to Surfers, which raises funds to assist homeless youths.

Australian cycling legend Robbie McEwen has been so impressed by the 15-year-old's ambitious plans and dedication to charity that he jumped onboard as the trip's official ambassador.

Jack, who is training six days a week to prepare for the journey, said he was inspired to attempt the ride after watching Scottish actor Ewan McGregor's documentary detailing his *Long Way Round* motorcycle trip from London to New York.



HEART ... Jack Sinclair, 15, and his father will ride across Australia.

Picture: Tim Marsden

"My dad does lots of cycling and I told him it would be great to do what Ewan did, but across Australia," he said.

However, Brendon Sinclair initially had an altogether different idea of his son's proposed trip.

"I thought he meant ride across Australia on motorbikes and that I would have a couple of years before he got his licence," he said. "I'm 41 and just want to sit on the couch and eat pies — but he won't let me."

Jack Sinclair was nonplussed when he learned of his Pride of Australia nomination.

"It's quite surprising to be nominated for something like this but I don't feel like I'm anybody special," he said.

"I just feel like a normal kid."

To learn more about trip:
www.perthtoparadise.com.au
Nominate online:
www.prideofaustralia.com.au
Entries close this Friday.



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