

Bridge to Bridge for Bridget

A cycling event for the Somerville House community
Sunday, 14 October 2007

A Somerville Family in need of a helping hand...

Bridget's story

In September 2005, Somerville student Bridget Harrington, along with her parents, headed to the Netherlands for several months for a wonderful family adventure. Bridget attended an international school and, during the school holidays, the family travelled throughout France and Germany.

Two days before they were due to head home to Australia, the robust and vivacious teenager was felled by a mystery bug. A brain scan revealed a life-threatening infection in Bridget's brain. Her health continued to deteriorate and in January 2006, still in the Netherlands, Bridget had a second operation on her brain which left her paralysed from the neck down, on life support and unable to speak.

She was in intensive care for seven weeks until she was eventually well enough to fly home to Australia where she spent another nine months in the Mater Children's Hospital. After another series of operations, Bridget finally went home in December 2006, five days short of a year in hospital. Whilst her recovery so far has been remarkable, Bridget is still paralysed on her right side and in her left leg.

Although back at Somerville, Bridget is now restricted to a motorised wheelchair. Getting to and from school, medical treatments and her other commitments by way of maxi taxi is proving to be extremely cumbersome.

This event is to help raise the \$28,000 required to equip a vehicle to take Bridget's wheel chair, providing Bridget and her family with the mobility that most of us take for granted.

How you can help

Students, parents and friends of Somerville House can help Bridget and her family in a number of ways:

- ➊ **Come along for the ride** – a pleasant, gentle ride along the Brisbane River. (Most, if not all participants will complete the ride comfortably within one hour).
- ➋ **Be a volunteer** – volunteers to help with registration at the start, the barbeque at the end, together with course marshals and a stand-by medical team would be very welcome.
- ➌ **Make a donation** – sponsor a cyclist, donate a prize to be raffled or make a donation.

Your help is a great way of showing support for a member of the Somerville House community. All assistance provided will help get Bridget and her family mobile.



The route

Commencing on the oval at Somerville House, Graham Street, South Brisbane and finishing at the Somerville Water Sports Centre on the Brisbane Corso, Yeronga.

All meet at Somerville House Oval at 7.30am for registration, followed by a short service at 8.30am to bless the riders. Riders will then move to the Goodwill Bridge (south side) in their year groups for the start of the ride.

Over the Bridge to QUT to join the bikeway, then under the Captain Cook Bridge for a scenic ride along the riverside.

Pass by the Regatta Hotel, then take the cycle route (not shared with pedestrians) past the old ABC studio up to the main intersection near the Toowong Train Station. Just before reaching here, riders will need to cross the road – but there is a cycle-specific stop sign to aid the process.

Riders now have to travel for several hundred metres along Glen Road (this is a very quiet back street) before rejoining the cycle-exclusive section of the footpath on Brisbane Street. And it's here that you will encounter a cycle-specific traffic light.

A little further on, riders will travel along Sandford Street for several kilometres to UQ. There are a couple of hills in this section of the ride – a bit of a challenge – but the reward is a pleasant ride through a park en route.

After leaving Macquarie Street, riders proceed along Sir William Macgregor Drive until the turn-off to the Schonell Bridge.

After crossing the bridge, there is another road to cross, before joining the bike path from the cemetery towards the final destination. A small section of roadway along Brisbane Corso will be encountered before rejoining the bikeway for the run home to the Water Sports Centre.

Most, if not all, participants will comfortably complete the course in under an hour. Water and toilet facilities are available at Somerville House (start) and the Somerville Water Sports Centre (end). Please note that there are no shops, toilets or water facilities along the way.



SOMERVILLE HOUSE
HONOUR BEFORE HONOURS

Bridge to Bridge for Bridget

Safety

Safety and well being of all participants and other volunteers is paramount.

Please carefully read the safety features of the event on the back of the registration form, covering:

- what you must do
- safety features
- what to bring
- what to wear
- rules and guidelines for participants

Participants are also encouraged to take advantage of the free "5 Point Safety Check" available for Somerville students and families before the Event from River City Cycles at 483 Fairfield Road Yeronga. (You will need to provide your Somerville student ID.)

Grand prize

Complete with accessories, a brand new bicycle valued at \$529 has been donated for the purposes of this event.

Designed to encourage fundraising, this fantastic bike will be awarded to the Somerville House student raising the most amount of money towards the event's objective.

To be eligible for the Grand Prize, donations should be lodged at the Somerville House office by Friday, 12 October 2007.

There will also be a great raffle at the conclusion of the event, featuring bicycle equipment and other fantastic prizes.



Timing of events

7.30-8.30am	Registration, Somerville Oval
8.30 am	Service, Somerville Oval
8.40 am	Event commences
10.00 am	BBQ and raffle, Somerville House Water Sports Centre Brisbane Corso, Yeronga
11.00 am	Event concludes

How to enter

Registration forms are now available for download from the Somerville website. They will also be appearing in the Somerville newsletter.

Registration is \$10 for individuals and \$25 for family and friends. Registration forms and entry monies should be lodged at the Somerville House office by Friday, 5 October 2007.

Sponsorship

Your registration fee only covers the cost of staging the event. So, to really make a difference for Bridget, find some sponsors for your ride.

Sponsorship forms are now available for download from the Somerville website. They will also be appearing in the Somerville Newsletter.

Sponsorship forms and monies should be lodged at the Somerville House office by Friday, 12 October 2007.

Wet weather

The event will continue even if it is raining. Only in extreme weather conditions will the event be cancelled.

If in doubt, check the Somerville House website www.somerville.edu.au for further information.

What you'll get from participating

- ✓ The sausage sizzle that awaits your arrival at the Water Sports Centre
- ✓ A fun morning with a group of happy people
- ✓ Your exercise workout for the week
- ✓ Maybe win a great prize in the raffle
- ✓ Possibly win a fantastic new bicycle
- ✓ The satisfaction that will come from being much needed help for Bridget and her family

Get on your bike

Participants are encouraged to source their own bicycles for the event.

Notwithstanding the above, arrangements are being made to have a small number of bicycles available for hire on the day.

If you are interested in hiring a bike, please indicate your interest on the registration form.

Preference will be given to Somerville House boarders.

Getting to and from the event

On street parking is available around Somerville House, along with public car parks at the Mater Hospital and at Southbank.

Participants can arrange to be collected from the Water Sports Centre. Alternatively, parents participating in the ride could make the short ride back to their car via the Brisbane Corso, Eleanor Schonell Bikeway and Annerley Road. Somerville students are not permitted on Annerley Road.

Offers of assistance & further information

All offers of assistance for the event will be gladly received. Donations and raffle prizes will help to make the event a success. Offers of assistance to help on the day, particularly race marshals, would be very welcome.

Please contact the event organiser, Scott Charlton on 0409 870 330 or via email scottch1@bigpond.net.au

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