



Charity Horse Ride Darwin to Adelaide



MEDIA RELEASE 'RIDE FOR YOUTH' CHARITY RIDE

In the Year of the Outback and the International Year of the Mountains, a special Charity project will be undertaken by two local riders to raise money and awareness for isolated children in the outback.

Gitta Seidel of Cooma and **Virginia Dale** of Captain's Flat will participate in the long and arduous relay horse ride covering almost 3,400 km. A white brumby named ***Snowy*** from the Snowy Mountains will carry the riders on this long relay ride from Darwin to Adelaide between 7th July and 10th August. They will follow early explorer routes where possible, traveling along stock routes including the famous Oodnadatta Track.

Our two local riders, representing the Snowy Mountains and Canberra region, will join 14 other riders from around Australia. During this trip they will take part in numerous activities for the Year of the Outback. Local communities have been encouraged to participate in local fundraising activities at each stopover. During the transport phase from Cooma to Darwin the trio will visit Dubbo, Bourke, Cunnamulla, Longreach, Mt. Isa, Tennant Creek, Katherine and many other places.

Our two representatives have already contributed to the Charity with their \$500 entry fee and they will be raising more money by carrying letters (pony-dispatch style) that will be specially stamped by the ICPA in recognition of the ride. Any member of the public can dispatch a letter in this way by donating \$5 for the ICPA. Contact Gitta on 0411 436 632.

Many sponsors have generously donated funds in order to support the riders with their expenses. The fuel consumption alone for this 10,000-kilometre journey is estimated to be more than 4,000 litres! Sponsors include Australia Post, Alcan Gove, Trendwest, Clark Rubber, Hiscock's Saddlery, Blundstone, Bellchambers Produce, AWF Sheet Metal, Snowy Net and Snowy Hydro.

The departure ceremony will take place at Parliament House in Canberra at 10am on Thursday 20 June. The riders and their brumby will be seen off by Patron of the Year Of The Outback, Simon Crean, MP. The ACT flag will be handed over to Virginia to be signed along the way and then returned to the ACT. Money collected for these signatures will go to the ICPA.

The Snowy Mountains flag will be carried by Gitta and paraded at various occasions. At the return to Cooma in August the flag will be handed over to Cooma Tourism and will remain part of the wider Cooma Community.

You can follow the riders' progress by logging on to: www.rideforyouth.netfirms.com

(web site has kindly been produced by Geoff Schaper geoffschaper@bigpond.com)

