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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Zoo2Zoo Bike Ride**

Seventy-five bike riders are raising awareness and funds for the Black Dog Institute in a 420km ride over three days from Taronga Zoo in Sydney to Dubbo's Western Plains Zoo.

The riders will tackle the Blue Mountains and Great Dividing Range on their way to Dubbo from the 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

It will be the fourth Zoo2Zoo, with the inaugural one in 2006 raising money for the Children's Cancer Institute Australia (CCIA) and earning Dubbo a place on the NSW Charity Edition of Monopoly.

The riders come from a diverse background and the ride is open to anyone who is prepared for the challenge of a demanding ride. "Climbing 4,184 metres over three days is tough, but suffering depression would be a lot tougher" said three time veteran Phil Godbee. "We just hope that anyone suffering bipolar disorder or depression can be helped with the funds and awareness we will raise over the course of the ride".

This year sees the nation's capital get on board with 15 riders starting from the Canberra Zoo and meeting the Sydney riders at Molong at the end of day two. "I have travelled between Canberra and Dubbo over 100 times, but never by bike – I am looking forward to the experience" said first-time rider Joe Kellaway.

"The safety of the riders and support crew is paramount," said Zoo2Zoo Treasurer, Grant Hittmann.

"Everyone is looking forward to a challenging ride, but mostly a safe one".

To find out more about the ride, visit [www.zoo2zoo.com](http://www.zoo2zoo.com)

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