

Hawaiian Ride for Youth

Rider Profile



Wayne and Jack Bradshaw

When he dons the Number 1 rider's jersey on the 20th Anniversary of the Hawaiian Ride for Youth, Wayne Bradshaw will reflect on how far the life-changing event has come since its inception.

Wayne was amongst a group of dads who, in 2002, decided to transform their past time of cycling for fitness into a charity event to help young people.

"When we started the Ride, we had no idea of the impact it would make," Wayne says.

"We were a bunch of Floreat Primary School dads and washed-up ex-footballers who took up riding as a bit of fun and exercise. Then one day I said to the group; 'let's ride for a purpose and challenge and raise some funds for charity' – as far as we knew it, there were no charity rides in WA at the time and we thought it would be a good idea."

Through another founding member (and cycling dad) Peter Trench, the group came across a then little-known mental health group – Youth Focus - supporting young West Australians in mental health crisis and decided this was the charity they would cycle for.

"Our kids were around 6 to 8 years old at the time and we all thought that in their lives, they may need a group like Youth Focus to help them through some tough times and we agreed it would be great to help this group helping young people and their families," Wayne says.

"In the first year, we set a target of raising \$70,000 for Youth Focus. Instead, we raised \$150,000. Each year the amount it raises just gets bigger and bigger – it is just amazing."

In 20 years, the Hawaiian Ride for Youth has raised \$26 million for Youth Focus.

"I'm really satisfied and excited about where the Ride has come – and where it is still going. We're attracting younger people and more women riders, and this is just fantastic," Wayne says.

The 2022 Hawaiian Ride for Youth will be particularly special for Wayne Bradshaw. On March 22 when the record number of more than 200 cyclists begin the grueling 700km ride from Albany to Perth, Wayne's son, Jack will be at his side – cycling in his first Hawaiian Ride for Youth and supporting his dad in this year's special Heritage Riders' peloton, a nod to the founders of the Ride.

Traditionally, the cyclists visit young people in regional schools discussing mental health and offering the support of Youth Focus professionals who are on hand to offer services to assist young people with issues like suicidal thoughts, self-harm, depression and anxiety. Due to COVID restrictions, the school visits are this year cancelled.

"I've always been amazed by dad's achievements on the bike and I'm very proud of the work that he has done to get the Hawaiian Ride for Youth to where it is today, I remember vividly travelling to Mandurah 20 years ago to meet the group before the last day of the ride and it had this great sense of community," Jack says.

The Ride's supreme success, Jack says, is how it has broken down taboos surrounding discussing mental health, started open and positive conversations, and encouraged young people to ask for help.

“Lots of people are affected by mental health struggles in some way, most people have gone through stuff and the Ride and the work that Youth Focus does encourages young people to speak up, ask for help – there’s support there,” Jack says.

Wayne’s advice to a young person struggling with their mental health is: “Ask for help, do not be afraid. If you have a cough or a cold, you see your doctor, you ask for help and do something about it. Having a mental health struggle is the same – it’s an illness and nothing to be ashamed about.”

The father and son duo are looking forward to completing the 20th anniversary Hawaiian Ride for Youth together. Asked why they are taking part in the 2022 Hawaiian Ride for Youth they replied:

Wayne: “To celebrate the Heritage Riders, share good times with my riding community and support Youth Focus.”

Jack: “To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the ride for an important cause and celebrate my Dad’s involvement since inception.”



Wayne and Jack Bradshaw

Hawaiian Ride for Youth Heritage Riders