



## City South News

Thursday 6/04/2017

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# Darren's push for funding

## GOING THE EXTRA MILES

**Grant Stockwell**

EARLIER this year, Tarragindi accountant Darren Laarhoven took a phone call from a client and a request that deviated distinctly from his normal line of duty.

A self-confessed weekend cyclist, the married father of two boys was somewhat taken back when the caller asked him to take part in the Chain Reaction bike ride from Sydney to Brisbane.

Chain Reaction is a corporate bike challenge which raises money for children who are in need.

"Alan Smith, the chief executive of AEIOU, rang me and asked me to join their team and take part in the ride," Mr Laarhoven said.

"I usually ride 150km per week tops, but then he said the chairman, James Mor-

ton, was doing the ride and I decided I would join in."

That conversation took place in mid-February and Mr Laarhoven has spent the ensuing seven weeks playing catch-up.

He is a member of the five-person AEIOU team that will ride from Sydney to Brisbane on April 29 to raise funds for his team and Ronald McDonald House.

AEIOU Foundation creates opportunities for children with autism spectrum disorders and their families.

The AEIOU team will be joined by other teams from across Australia which will formulate a 50-person peloton that will complete an event that is made up of seven stages.

The group arrives in Brisbane on May 5 and Mr Laarhoven said his preparation

would stand him in good stead.

"We've had really good coaching and I am confident my technique and endurance levels are where they need to be."

### CYCLE OF LIFE

- The 2017 Queensland ride will cover more than 1000km, with stopovers in the Hunter Valley, Forster, Coffs Harbour, Grafton, Byron Bay and the Gold Coast
- AEIOU operates eight centres across Queensland and one in South Australia. It is currently constructing centres in Adelaide and Logan
- Donate to a team or individual at [chain-reaction.org.au](http://chain-reaction.org.au)



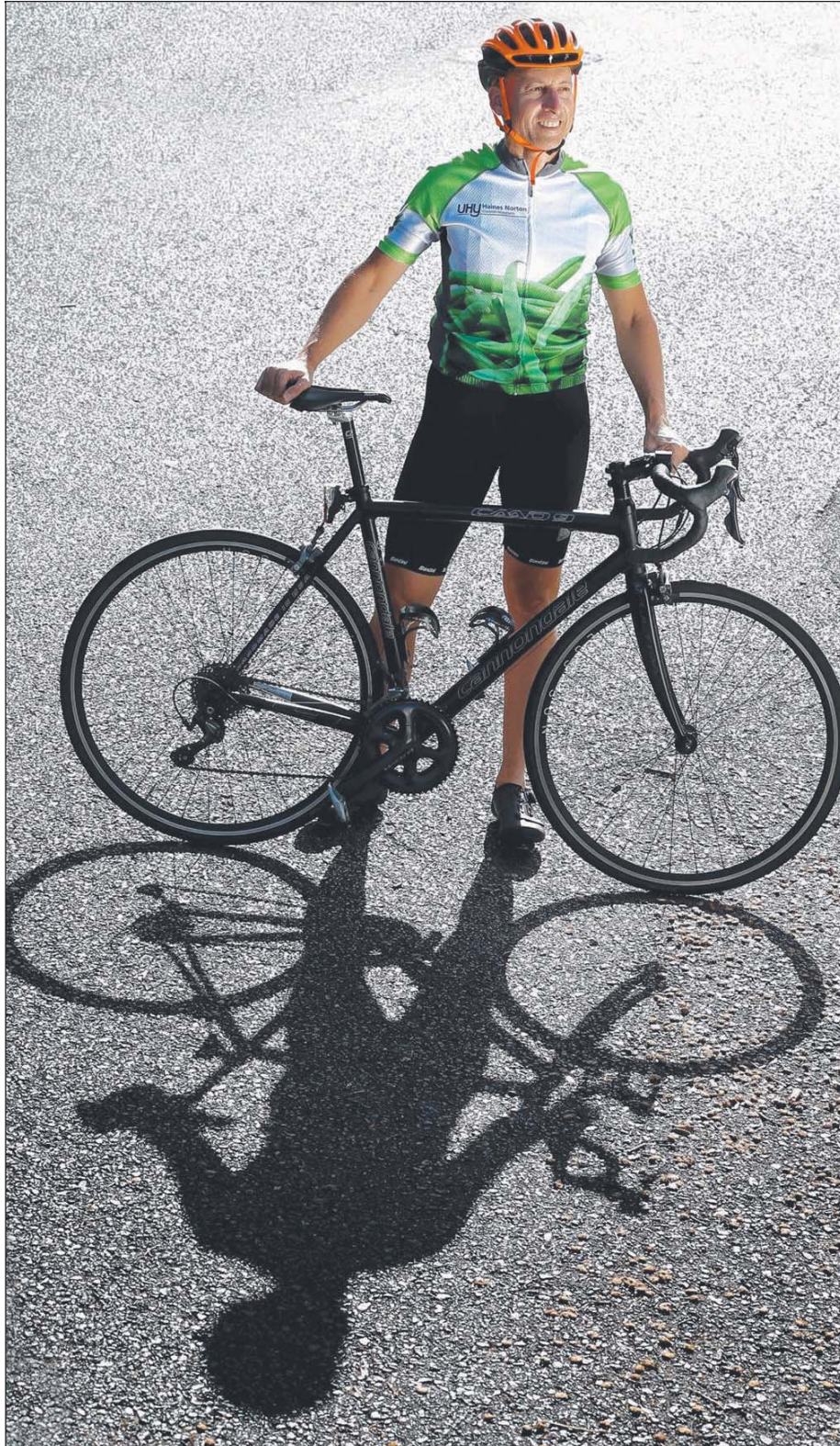
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**Tarragindi resident Darren Laarhoven is cycling from Sydney to Brisbane.** Picture: RENAE DROOP