



# Rumble to the Rock spreads the word

FRIENDSHIPS were formed and new experiences had but most importantly awareness of prostate cancer was raised during the inaugural Rumble to the Rock ride.

The 10-day ride to Uluru was organised by Jimboomba couple Sandie and Tony Janssen and drew 93 motorcyclists keen to raise awareness of prostate cancer.

After a detour via the Great Ocean Road on their way home, Mr and Mrs Janssen rumbled back into Jimboomba last week still on a high from the success of the event.

"It was fantastic. It was so successful," Mrs Janssen said.

While the main purpose of the ride was to raise awareness by encouraging men to have a check-up, Mrs Janssen said about \$47,000 was raised along the way and would be donated to the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

Riders set out from Rockhampton with the aim of spreading the word as they made their way to Uluru and encountered several unique situations during the trip.

Among the highlights, Mrs Janssen said the group being allowed to ride their motorbikes through the Overlander Hotel at Mt Isa rated highly.

The fundraising party was joined by local motorcyclist group the Mt Isa Hogs and took part in a thunder run before rumbling through the hotel.

Mrs Janssen said another highlight was a fundraising auction held at the Three Ways at the junction of the Stuart and Barkly Highways, 25km north of Tenant Creek which raised \$6500.

Mrs Janssen, who owns The Coffee Club stores at Browns Plains, said the support for participants prior to and throughout the trip was fantastic.

"The support of our customers has been just unbelievable. We raised a couple of thousand dollars just in tips," she said.

Despite the many new experiences enjoyed along the way, Mrs Janssen said by far the biggest highlight was raising awareness.

"The awareness was the highlight. To make an impression, especially on a male's life, it lasts forever and is just incredible," she said.

Mrs Janssen said many men spoken to during the ride at various towns were surprised to learn they could be checked for prostate cancer via a non-invasive blood test, known as a PSA test, which measures the level of Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) in the blood.

Prostate Cancer Foundation manager Graeme Higgs said Rumble to the Rock was "pretty amazing" and he hoped it would become a signature event for the foundation.

He said prostate cancer was as big an issue for men as breast cancer is for women but in comparison governments allocate next to no financial support towards fighting the killer. One in seven men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, with that figure rising to one in three for people with a family history of the disease.

Mr Higgs said early detection was crucial as there is currently no cure for prostate cancer, but treatment is available.

Following the success of this year's ride, the Janssens have vowed to make the trek an annual event and are already planning next year's rumble.

Fundraising for the Prostate Cancer Foundation will continue throughout the year and donations can be made to The Coffee Club stores at Grand Plaza, Browns Plains.

**- Brenton Waters**



**Rumble to the Rock participants rode their bikes through the Overlander Hotel at Mt Isa during the ride.**



**Ross Gommersall, Daryl Hyland, Alison Bannon and Graeme Higgs joined the ride in a support van provided by Hyundai.**



***Rumble to the Rock participants celebrate arriving at Uluru.***



***A motorcyclist's view of the road and Uluru during the ride.***



***Ride organisers Tony and Sandle Janssen with a customer, Greg, who travelled to Burpengary to see the Brisbane riders off before they headed to Rockhampton.***