

February 24, 2009

English woman riding blind

English woman Catherine Birchall aims to be the first blind person to circumnavigate the world on a motor cycle.

She is currently on the Australian leg of her journey and is taking a well-earned break in Adelaide after an arduous trip across the Nullarbor from Perth.

Catherine rides pillion passenger with her fiancé Bernard Smith on his BMW R100RT motor cycle, and has so far visited Ireland, France, Switzerland, Italy, Croatia, Bosnia, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Greece, Turkey, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia and Australia.

The journey is in aid of raising awareness around sight loss and also to generate funds for services in the UK. Catherine has appeared in various publications, radio interviews, TV programmes and internet sites around the world. Recently she had appeared on Pakistan TV and print publication along with Indian TV and Newspapers.

Catherine and Bernard took time out recently to visit Christina Angus at Guide Dogs SA.NT, who as a legally blind person, tackled the notorious Kokoda Trail in 2006.

Catherine, who has been completely blind since birth, usually has a guide dog named Biscuit, but the Labrador Retriever Cross was left behind in England with the family who raised her as a puppy for the duration of the journey.

They expect their journey to continue on to Chili, Argentina, the United States and Canada and will resume their normal working lives back in England in August this year.

Catherine, accompanied by Guide Dogs SA.NT Events, Sponsorship and Promotions Manager Christina Angus are available for interviews until March 4. For more information on Catherine's amazing journey go to www.worldtour.org.uk

Please contact Media and Communications Officer Amanda Nes at Guide Dogs SA.NT on 08 8203 8343 to arrange an interview.

Guide Dogs Association of SA and NT Inc | Full member of the International Guide Dog Federation

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