

From CA to CX for charity

ROWENA HENDRICKS

A group of 34 cyclists from as far as Gauneng recently completed a 647 km mountain bike challenge from Meerendal (Cape Town) to Knysna in aid of the Herberg Children's Home in Robertson.

Arriving in Knysna last week Thursday, after six days of cycling 100 to 120 km each day, the group took part in the 30 km MTB Race at the Knysna Oyster Festival on Saturday.

According to Petro Urvu, Marketor of Herberg Children's Home, this was the 9th year the Spur CASCX MTB Tour took place - including five years as a road tour and the last four years as a mountain bike tour - but only the second year in aid of the Herberg.

She says the group of cyclists this year consisted of various businessmen and -women from the Western Cape to Gauneng, "who took off a week from their busy schedules to take part in the tour to raise funds for the children's home."

"The route included starting at Meerendal, with stop overs in Worcester, Montagu, Barrydale, Callitdorp, George and ending off the tour in Knysna," says Petro.

She says apart from a little mishap with a trailer wheel bursting near Oudsthoorn, there were no major issues and the cyclists all made it safely to Knysna.

"Although the route was tough for many, their motivation was the fact

that for each kilometre they cycled, R1 would be donated to the Herberg Children's Home. So they had to finish, because it is for a worthy cause," says Petro, who organised the tour.

She says the money raised will be used to fund the studies of some of the four school leavers at the Home, "giving them (the children) the opportunity to study at college or university - something they probably would never have had."

On the second last night of the six-day tour, a gala evening was held in George where the cyclists could all put their bikes down and enjoy the company of their fellow cyclists.

Each cyclist - who had to pay R7 000 to cover their own expenses on the tour - was awarded a mountain biking medal. Prizes were also given to some of the top cyclists, including Nan Kirtley (women riding her 4th mountain bike tour), Stanley Viviers and Hanie Lourens

(best riders nominated in their respective groups - fast and slower cyclists groups) and Ernst Jordaan (the cyclist who collected the most money for the Herberg).

Various wines were also auctioned off during the evening, adding to the record amount of almost R90 000 that was raised with the Spur CASCX MTB Tour.

"The best thing of the tour is witnessing how friendships and business relationships are formed

among the cyclists," says Petro. "After spending so much time together, we are one big family."

• The Herberg Children's Home is situated in Robertson and accommodates 122 children (boys and girls, from ages 0-18 years) from Cape Town and surrounds, to as far as Plettenberg Bay.

For more information, phone Petro on 021-626 3340 or send an email to reia@herberg.co.za.



The group of cyclists completed a gruelling route starting from Meerendal, via Worcester, Montagu, Barrydale, Callitdorp, George and ending off the tour in Knysna. They completed the last leg of the tour from George (pictured at the King George Hotel) to Knysna last week Thursday.

Photo: Eugene Gwiring