



MEDIA RELEASE

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AACo Tops the fundraising for the Ride to Conquer Cancer

The Australian Agricultural Company has dug deep in memory of a former staff member to become the leading fundraiser for the Ride to Conquer Cancer.

AACo, Australia's largest beef company, has raised more than \$160,000 to support vital cancer research and clinical trials at the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute in Brisbane.

AACo has put a team together for the annual two-day, 200km ride from Brisbane to Lake Wivenhoe and back in memory of Pat Dempsey, a former colleague who lost his battle with cancer earlier this year.

Pat was a highly respected industry identity, well-loved in the agricultural sector. With his memory in mind, the industry has rallied to the cause in true country style.

Used to riding long distances on horses, a number of employees on AACo's biggest cattle stations in South East Queensland, the Barkly and the Gulf have swapped their horses for push bikes, and hit the dirt roads of the outback in training for the 200km ride.

The company has held a number of fundraisers to raise money for their team including an office bake sale and a beef-themed trivia night, auctioning off items including Wagyu cowhide rugs, and the company's premium Wagyu beef, which is usually found in some of the nation's best restaurants.

Not to be outdone, the riders out on the stations organised an auction at the Brunette Downs races which raised over \$7,800 with prizes including helicopter property tours of the iconic Brunette Downs Station.

A significant contribution to the fundraising effort came from AACo Board Member and long term friend of Pat's Adil Allana who generously donated his directorship fees for 2014 to the cause.

Sponsorship and support has also poured in from all areas of the extended AACo community; within Australia; Lilyvale Feedlot, Allflex, Frasers Transport, Envoy

Technologies, Ridleys Agriproduct, Nolan's Meats, Teys and JBS to international meat importers in Saudi Arabia Mabsout & Idriss SAL, Angliss – Hong Kong, Santori - Indonesia and the banks including Rabobank, NAB and ANZ.

AACo Managing Director Jason Strong is riding in the team and has been amazed at the way this initiative has brought the AACo community together.

"We are delighted and grateful for the generosity of our corporate sponsors and all those who have donated," he said.

"Pat was a good friend of mine and I am incredibly proud of the way the AACo community has supported this great cause. In some way or another cancer affects all of us and this is a great way for us to do something about that."

With just under two weeks to go until the ride, the AACo team is training hard and proud to be at number one on the fundraising ladder.

Team leader Meredith Stone says "Right now we're even beating Rio Tinto, who are the corporate sponsors of the ride and some of our riders are in the top 10 highest fundraisers in Queensland. "

"We're a big company and our business is beef, but at the end of the day it's all about coming together in memory of our friend Pat and raising money to conquer cancer."

About AACo

AACo is an ASX listed agribusiness and Australia's largest beef and cattle producer, with approximately one per cent of Australia's land under management.

About the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute

The QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute (QIMR Berghofer) is dedicated to translating discoveries into treatments, diagnostics and prevention strategies. One of **QIMR Berghofer's three research programs is cancer which incorporates 21 of its laboratories.** Cancer is a disease which leads to abnormal cell growth and eventually spreads to other parts of the body. Some cancers are common in family lineage and are clearly inherited, while others are caused by factors in the environment interacting with genetic susceptibilities. Many forms of cancer can be treated successfully if detected early. More information can be found at qimr.edu.au

To make a donation to the AACo team, follow [this link](#) to the official fundraising page.

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