



Jules Cooper and Jess Macaulay in Ayr during the last leg of their world-wide cycling tour.

Cyclists travel the world to support youth foundation

TWO charity cyclists took a break in Ayr on the last leg of their world-wide cycling tour on Friday night.

Jess Macaulay, 25 and Jules Cooper, 33, stopped in at the Silverlink Caravan Park for a night on their 33,000km bike ride.

The couple have cycled through South America, Europe and Asia and are now on their last stretch from Darwin to Melbourne.

In the last 18 months, the two cyclists have covered four continents, 27 countries and 29,000km, but say they are doing the Australian leg for charity, raising funds and awareness for the Ardoch Youth Foundation.

Mr Cooper said they decided to support the charity, because they realised how lucky they were to have had the chance at a proper education.

The Ardoch Youth Foundation helps Australian kids, who are at risk and from disadvantaged backgrounds, access resources which helps their education.

The couple, who were heading on to Bowen for the Anzac service, said the experience had been amazing.

"We were not cyclists," said Mr Cooper.

"So this was a jump in the deep end.

"It has been a great experience."

However, now their journey is near its end, Miss Macaulay said returning to Australian life will be bizarre.

"I think to go back to a normal life will be hard," she said.

"Hopefully we will be able to look at life with a different perspective."

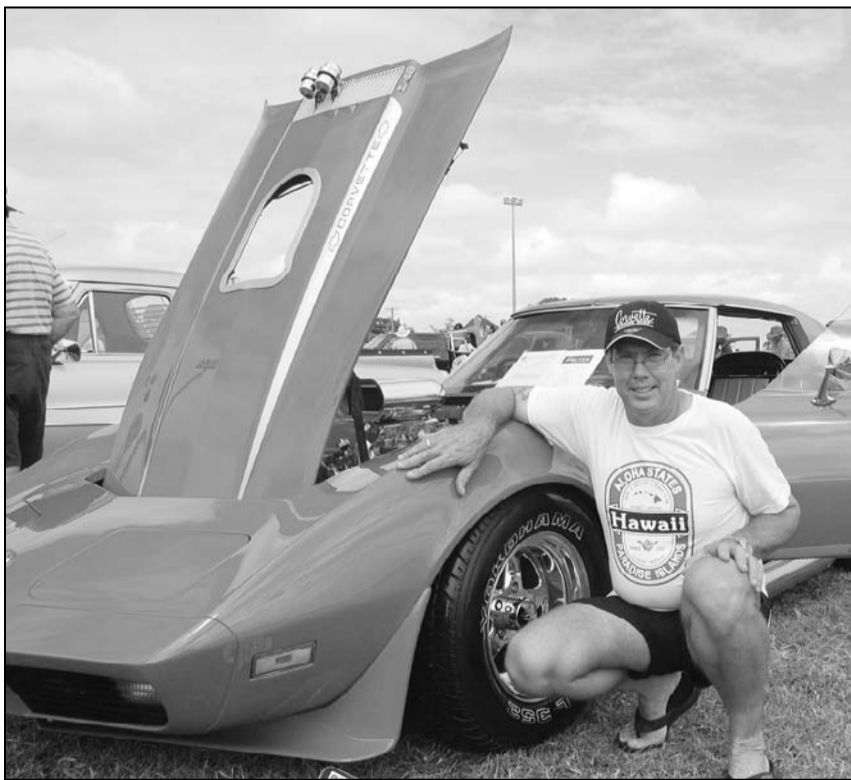
Their journey is completely self-funded and they are asking for donations, which go straight to Ardoch Foundation through their website www.julesandjess.com.

Graduation



FORMER Ayr student, Simone Marie Farmer recently graduated from James Cook University with a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Accounting. Simone attended the East Ayr Primary and the Ayr State High Schools.

Auto Fest roars to success



Keith Buffa showed off his diablo red 1973 Corvette.



Neville and Lynne Percival of Cairns entered their maroon Corona in the Show 'n' Shine at the Ayr Showgrounds.



Andrew Mott took both his dogs through the mud pit and made it to the finals.



Kevin Smith from Townsville showed off his canary yellow Ford 1965 F100 at Auto Fest.



Murray Rowe from Townsville entered his swamp freak in the mud pit at the Ayr Auto Fest.

Thrilling action for spectators through program

By ALEX WHITE

THE annual Burdekin Auto Fest was a roaring success with over 1000 people turning up to the event on Saturday.

Rain threatened a slow start to the day, but once it cleared, locals streamed through the gate to check out the array of cars entered in the Show and Shine.

The Mudpit Massacre was a hit with hundreds of spectators watching all types of vehicles, including a snow mobile, charge through the slosh hole.

Organiser Will Lucas, who also won car of the show, said he was happy with the turnout.

"It was a very good day," he said.

"The numbers were down a bit because it rained all day in Townsville.

"But it was an unbelievable day and everyone said it was great."

People came from as far away as Mackay and Cairns to show their vehicles and some locals spent thousands of dollars preparing their cars for the mudpit.

Local auxiliary firefighters also put on a display to show people how they use the jaws of life, which Mr Lucas said drew a good crowd.

"People were really interested in it because they have never seen it happen before.

"It gave them an idea of what happens in an accident," he said.

Local Trevor Phillips was the winner of the Go 'to' Whoa, recording a time of 5.09 seconds, which also helped him win the Extreme Entrant award.

Karen Doyle came second in the event in her 1969 Torana, scoring 5.20 seconds.

Last year's mudpit winner, Adam Mott was knocked off the perch by local, Deon Darr, who made it through the muddy course in 24.76 seconds.

Organisers are already debating changing the course next year possibly into a figure of eight.

However, for safety reasons, the canine friends will be required to sit on the sidelines and watch next year.

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