



**CYCLISTS WITH COMPASSION!**



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# CWC NEWS

## A Life Lesson Learned...

A few weeks ago, while talking to a friend, I was reminded of a very important lesson I learned over 20 years ago during my first visit to Vietnam - from an 8 year old girl!

I was in Vietnam on a business trip and since the Vietnamese tailors enjoy a very good reputation, I wanted to get a suit done. Combining all the business meetings with the required fittings for the suit put me under some time pressure. As I was rushing to the tailor for the last fitting before closing, I was approached by a young girl of maybe 8 years, who wanted to sell me chewing gum. Even after a few refusals to buy the gum, she was still very persistent and assuming she just wanted money, I put a 1 USD note in her hands and moved on. She followed me, constantly shouting at me. When I arrived at the tailor she stood outside the shop window - obviously very distressed and upset. I asked the tailor to talk to her and find out why. He spoke to her in Vietnamese and then explained. He said : You really hurt her by just giving her the money and not taking the chewing gum. You treated her like a beggar, but she is not a beggar, she works for the money! You hurt her feelings and her dignity!". I never felt so ashamed in my life. I went outside, took the chewing gum and bought some more packs. But I got a lot more than the chewing gum: I was given a lesson that I never have and never will forget! The lesson that **everybody has the right to her/his dignity and respect - regardless of old or young, rich or poor, man or woman, regardless of skin colour, race or religion !**

Certainly the monetary aspect of our charity is crucial, but so is the fact that the children see that even strangers care about them, respect them and dignify them with the personal, mental and physical commitments we are making by cycling nearly 900 km for THEM! Thank you for this!

Usually the special spirit of the festive season brings some calm into our often otherwise so busy lives and we have pause to reflect on us, the blessings we are given and the true values in life! To all participants of the CWC ride 2016, their families and loved ones, all supporters and friends:

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND ALL THE BEST WISHES FOR A BLESSED, HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016!**

Safe cycling, always! God Bless!

*Reiner*

# Our Corporate Sponsors...!



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## What to do with the bikes boxes?

The facts that many of the riders will bring their own bikes in bike transport boxes and given that we start and end the ride from different locations can make for logistic nightmares. Fortunately our tour organiser Spiceroad has made some arrangements:

### A) For those that will depart Thailand from Bangkok:

You can leave your boxes in Bangkok - either at the Centara Grand (if you are staying there) or with Spiceroad. Your bike will be trucked overnight from Chiang Mai to Bangkok and will be back in Bangkok on February 1, 2016. Spiceroad will send the bike to your Bangkok hotel.

### B) For those departing Thailand from Chiang Mai:

Your bike boxes will be sent to the hotel in Chiang Mai!

Please indicate clearly, if your bike box should stay in Bangkok or go to Chiang Mai. Also, you will need to inform Spiceroad **before** we depart Bangkok to which hotel in Bangkok you want the bike box to be sent and when. In case you do not inform Spiceroad by January 23rd, Spiceroad will not send the box to your hotel and you will need to collect it from their office yourself!



**Cyclists with Compassions** wishes all participants, friends, supporters and their loved ones:

**A Merry Christmas**

**And All The Very Best Wishes**

**For a Happy and Blessed 2016!**

*Help us and ...*



## Donate to EAI!

Our beneficiary for the CWC 2016 ride is [Effective Aid International](#), an Australian-based charity, which over the past 14 years has been changing the future for many displaced, orphaned and abandoned children both in Northern Thailand and on both sides of the Thailand-Myanmar border. They have done marvellous work, but they need our, your help to ensure that their beautiful mission to give hope for a better life for so many children will continue into the future!

You can donate via PayPal or credit card by clicking [here!](#) Any donation - no matter, how big or small - will be appreciated and will go fully to EAI and their mission!

Please note that EAI is an Australian-based charity and the donation currency will be in AUD. Hence you may want to do a currency conversion before you input the donation amount. For donors based in Australia, EAI will issue a tax receipt to be used in your income tax declaration.

EAI has no office in Thailand or elsewhere outside Australia and hence there will be no tax benefits for donations from outside Australia. However, unless the donation amount is in the thousands of dollars, the benefit from that is rather marginal anyhow and neither this nor the donation currency should prevent you from donating!

## Introducing: More Heroes of CWC 2016!

It is so easy to say: "Not my problem!" or "What can I do?" and to ignore the plights and challenges of others. But then there are some that take up the challenge to make a positive difference to people's life. Such as the riders in CWC 2016! Over the next newsletters we will introduce some of those heroes to you and their motivation to embark on such a physically and mentally challenging tour as the CWC ride 2016 from Bangkok to Chiang Mai.



Darrin & Paula (Australia, Singapore):

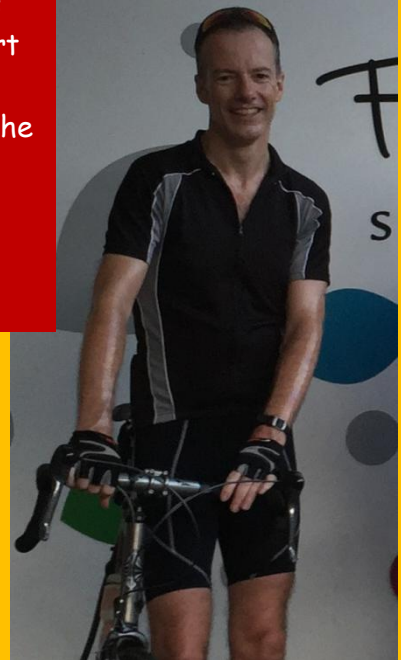
We are excited to join CWC on the 800km journey from Bangkok to Chiang Mai in January 2016. We hope we can make a small difference to some of the less fortunate kids throughout SE Asia combined with the friendships we will develop along the way.



Grace (Singapore): This is what keeps me on the saddle. Smiles!!!

Stephen (UK, Singapore):

I have been helping improve children's futures through education for over ten years now. I'm delighted to support EAI for the first time. I hope people will appreciate the effort required of us all to cycle 900 km and CWC - Contribute Wads of Cash - for this good cause!



Ernest (Malaysia): "My reason....to do what I can to redeem a social condition by raising money thru cycling and seeing a different part of Thailand!"

Seong (Malaysia): "I'm riding with Cyclists With Compassion to renew some old friendships, to have a great week of riding and of course, to do something useful for people who are needy. What more can anybody ask for?"



Alain (Singapore): " Supporting a good cause through sportive action in company of fun people in beautiful Thailand...who would not want to be part of that?"

