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Email us: contact4cwc@gmail.com

CWC NEWS

CWC 2017: What a journey it was!

700 km through the beautiful, but mountainous landscape of the Thailand's Golden Triangle cycled by 22 high-spirited cyclists from all corners of the world. Although the ride finished five months ago, the memories are still so vivid. The ride may have reached its destination, but the momentum of the journey continues on to bring hope for a better life to those less privileged we aim to reach. The cyclists came from diverse backgrounds and religions, spanned an age range of 40 years, included Ironman finishers and some that didn't ride a bicycle for years, some were veterans of long distance cycling tours and some never rode more than 50 km before. Yet, for this one week in February, they were One; they cycled together, ate together, many shared the rooms together. They were bonded by the same spirit, by the same desire to achieve something extraordinary, to make a difference. AND THEY DID!

I am keenly aware of the sacrifices all of the riders made; precious vacation days taken, the price for the tour, the airline tickets (some came from as far as Germany, Australia, India, Japan), the training hours put in, time away from family and loved ones and long, long hours in the saddle of a bike. Their achievement is heroic and all of them have my deepest respect. I am humbled by the privilege to have been allowed to share this ride, company and this experience with them.

And it is not only their cycling that is exemplary. Their hearts, compassion and commitment to our cause are equally outstanding, having raised the amazing amount of over **AUD 50,000**. Rest assured that this funds will go a long way in helping our chosen beneficiary [Effective Aid International](#) to continue their wonderful work in bringing better lives to those beautiful children under their care in North Thailand and Myanmar.

The highlight of CWC 2017 was again the visit and the closing ceremony at the Baan Fah Sighy Children's Home, one of the facilities supported by EAI. It was heart warming to see this Oasis of Love created by Phil and Wanida. Thank you, Phil and Wanida for making us feel so welcome. Baan Fah Sighy has become a part of CWC and are happy to be associated with EAI and Baan Fah Sighy.

For the first time this year we introduced a family ride and the option for family, friends and sponsors of the cyclists to join part of the ride and the closing ceremony on the last day. Eleven day trippers took up this option. Three adults and five kids even took up the challenge and rode a portion of the last day stage and all 11 cycled into the children's home with the rest of the riders.

The vision, we have for CWC is to provide positive impact beyond the annual one week ride and that the awareness we create with our ride brings ongoing support and help unrelated to the actual ride. And it is working as the following example testifies: when returning home from last year's CWC, Grace – like all of us – was impressed by the wonderful work Phil and Wanida are doing at Baan Fah Sighy and she conceived the idea to visit BFS with some fellow parents and children from the Singapore American School. In August 2016 they did visit BFS and immediately a strong bond was formed by the parents and the children from Singapore and BFS. What better proof that our world is not completely lost, when children from diverse cultural backgrounds simply tear down any barriers and form friendships that will perhaps

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The participants of CWC 2017

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last a lifetime. Our world leaders could learn a lot from our children. It was only logical that some of the parents and children would join the family ride. Thank you so very much, Roy and Kenneth, Dinh, Helen, Ryan, Alicia, Rebecca and Alex for joining the family ride. And it didn't stop at just riding. Together with other parents, Pauline and John as well as Doris and Andreas they donated 10 new bicycles to BFS, with most of the money coming from the children.

A big thank you also to our corporate sponsors. Not only make your logos our jerseys look pretty, your financial contribution forms the foundation of our donation effort. Without your support, CWC would not be possible. While we often have had representatives of some of our sponsors cycling with us, for the first time this year a non cycling representative joined our closing ceremony and even cycled into the children's home. Thank you, Paul Baragwanath, Managing Director of Underwater Shipcare Pte Ltd and Salinah Baragwanath for joining us and for the support you have given Selina and me for the various cycling charities we were involved in for the past 10 years.

The 22 cyclists of CWC 2017 collectively cycled nearly 16,000 km in this one week – without a single incident. Certainly a divine power – whatever name we may call it by – had sent guardian angels to watch over us. And they were supported by the amazing support team provided by our tour organiser Spiceroads Cycling. Our guides Khun Woody, Khun Noom and Khun Prasert and the drivers Khun Pong, Khun Wat, Khun Fam and Khun Chiang..., you were nothing short of amazing. Big thanks to you and everybody at Spiceroads that made our tour possible, especially to the outstanding Khun Kie. Thanks, Daniel Moylan, GM of Spiceroads for all the support and for joining us on the last day of the ride.

CWC 2017 is finished for now, but CWC 2018 is already in the planning. The dates are fixed for January 27 to February 3. This time our ride will cover app. 750 km, starting just outside Bangkok and finish again at the Baan Fah Sighy Children Home near Chiang Mai. CWC 2018 again will be by invitation only and limited to 25 participants.

For now, God Bless and safe cycling, always...

Reiner

CWC launches website!

Nowadays people don't believe that you actually exist, unless you have a website! CWC last month launched its website www.cyclistswithcompassion.com. It is and probable always will be a work in progress as we will continue to improve the site. We are grateful for any feedback!

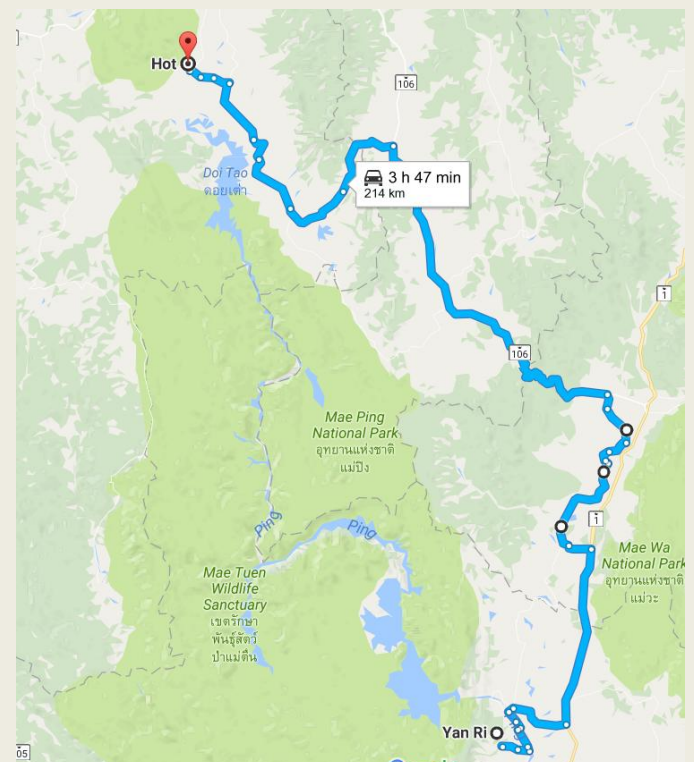
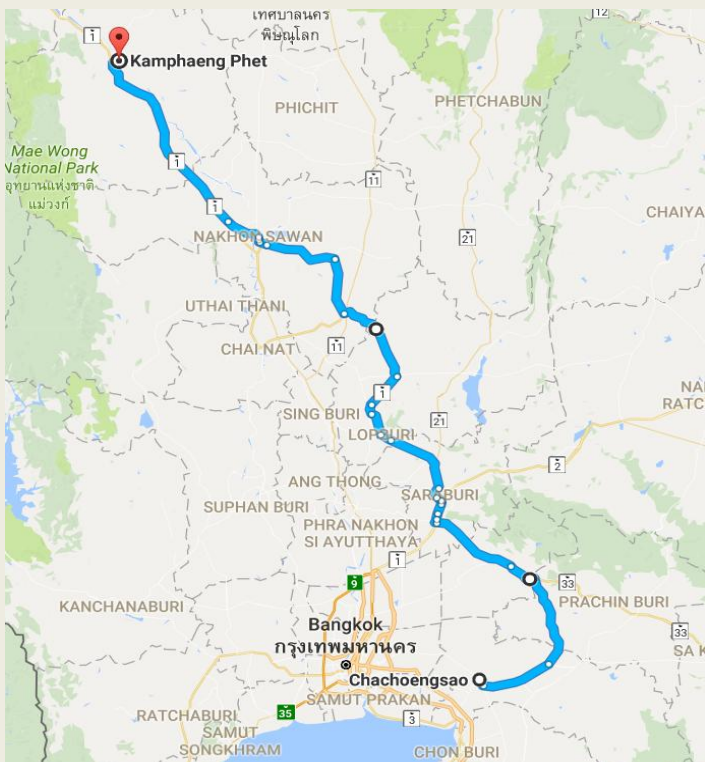


CWC 2018 !

CWC 2018 again promises to be a wonderful experience. The third CWC tour will take place from January 27th to February 3rd, 2018, starting with a short bus transfer out of Bangkok to Chachongsao at the Khao Yai National Park. From there we will start a 730 km epic and scenic ride to the Baan Fah Sighy Children (BFS) home, where we will end our ride with a closing ceremony.

The total ride will be broken into two parts. The first part will be from Chachongsao to Kamphaeng Phet, app. 560 km in five days. On day 6 we will have a rest day and the riders have the option to relax, explore Kamphaeng Phet or to visit the EAI refugee camps near Mae Sot. Later in the afternoon there will be a transfer to Yan Ri, from where we will start the second portion of our ride. The second portion of CWC 2018 will cover app. 170 km in two days from Yan Ri to Hot, where we will have our closing ceremony at the Baan Fah Sighy Children Home. After the ceremony, we will transfer by bus to Chiang Mai.

Like in the years before, CWC 2018 will be by invitation only and is limited to 25 riders. The booking opens officially on July 15th, 2017. If you are interested to receive an invitation and booking link, please register at <https://www.cyclistswithcompassion.com/cwc2018>. Here you can also find more detailed tour information as well as pricing info.



Part 1 and 2 of CWC 2018. Please note that this may not be the actual roads we will be taking, since we will minimise the riding on major roads. Most of the rides will be on scenic, quiet country roads.

A collage of photos from a cycling trip in Laos. The photos show a group of people, including children and adults, in various settings: some are standing together, some are on bicycles, and some are in a classroom-like setting. The word "Memories" is overlaid in large white text at the bottom of the collage.



Friendships

CWC 2017!