



Unfazed by life's tough challenges

MARIE SANSON

SHE has cycled more than 1000km to Queensland, she's reconstructed a man's face after a bull's hoof went through it, in the Philippines.

Ann Collins from Newington clearly doesn't get easily fazed.

An oral and maxillofacial surgeon who cycles in her spare time, 59-year-old Ms Collins has just completed a week-long Hornsby to Southport bike ride in aid of Father Chris Riley's Youth off the Streets.

It's her seventh time on the route with the cycling group she belongs to, The Muggacinos, who pedalled between 120km and 155km a day with about 100 other cyclists.

Ms Collins said the last day was particularly testing as she cycled 5km up a steep hill.

"A few walked up it but I didn't, I just managed to keep going," she said.

A Muggacinos' member for eight years, she said cycling was a good break from an often stressful job.

"It's an opportunity to escape from the

operating theatre and get some fresh air – riding around Sydney gives you the chance to appreciate the bush and see the views," Ms Collins said.

At work she deals with complicated facial reconstruction and tumour surgery as well as more common broken jaws when the cricket season starts.

"There was a young man who'd come off a bucking bronco at a rodeo and the bull's hoof went through his face," she said.

"It was a real mess to start with but we put him back together, controlled the bleeding and did reconstruction."

Every year Ms Collins travels to Cebu in the Philippines with a surgical team to operate on hundreds of people with facial deformities who can't afford specialist help.

They work in difficult conditions with local medical staff, without an X-ray unit, intensive care or pathology and sometimes without running water.

"The pump went after a few weeks so they had to bring water in garbage bins. You have to adapt. But the people we meet in the Philippines and local staff are very appreciative of what we do, so it's very touching."



Anzac Day Services

Tuesday, 25 April 2005

ANZAC Day Dawn Services will be held at Concord and Drummoyne on Tuesday, 25 April.

The Concord march will start at 5am halfway along Norman Street with the service scheduled to start at 5.15am at the Concord RSL and Community Club.

The Drummoyne service will commence at 5.45am at the Canada Bay Civic Centre, 1a Marlborough Street, Drummoyne.

For further information contact Council's Customer Service Centre on 9911 6555.



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