

LJ HOOKER IN THE SADDLE FOR ORPHANED CHILDREN

Another LJ Hooker representative joins the 50-plus contingent of cyclists from Australia, New Zealand and Asia committed to riding from Bangkok to Khao Lak in Thailand in January raising money and awareness for the charity, *Hands Across the Water*, (www.handsacrosstthewater.org.au)

This will be no Sunday-morning pedal! It is an eight-day, 800 kilometre journey through salt fields, shrimp farms, towering cliff faces and stunning coastline before arriving at the final destination, the orphanages built by the charity.



Mitch Watt, Principal of LJ Hooker Mandurah in Western Australia, joins the other LJ Hooker riders Rebecca Freeman, also from Western Australia, Stewart Kirkby from New South Wales, Queenslanders Paul Moore and Jason Gegg, and Steve Hood from New Zealand.

All are currently fundraising in their local communities the \$10,000 each cyclist commits to *Hands Across the Water* in order to join the ride.

'Hands' was founded in 2004 and supports Thai children who lost their families in the Boxing Day Tsunami.

The money raised from the bike ride is 100 per cent used to fund the continuing running costs of the orphanages and other projects supported by 'Hands', such as medical centres, development programs and education scholarships.

No money raised goes to the cyclists' personal outlay or the charity's administrative costs.

After two LJ Hooker Corporate staff Dave Hopkins and Sharyn Hopkins connected with 'Hands' founder and Chairman Peter Baines following the Bali Bombings in October 2005 - the Hopkins lost friends and Peter Baines led an international crisis team as Detective Inspector of Operations within the Forensic Services Group of the NSW Police – he was invited to speak at LJ Hooker's international conference in Thailand in August 2010.

What occurred was an amazing 'non-scripted' response to Peter's introduction of 'Hands' to delegates and over \$100,000 in personal donations by the LJ Hooker network.

What Peter Baines has accomplished and what he continues to do through *Hands Across the Water* resonates with the LJ Hooker Family.

Support the LJ Hooker riders in their local community fundraisers or visit the *Hands Across the Water* website where you can sponsor them and other cyclists on their amazing journey to better the lives of orphaned children.

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Media contact:

LYN COX

LJ Hooker Network Public Relations

M: 0418 793 096

E: lcox@ljh.com.au