

## MEDA CLIPPING

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Page: 33

# Cyclists inspired by cancer mum

THE husband of a Subiaco mother who lost her battle with cancer says her courageous fight has inspired others to act selflessly.

Simone Timms died in January last year from a rare form of leukemia known as T-cell acute lymphoblastic, which develops in white blood cells.

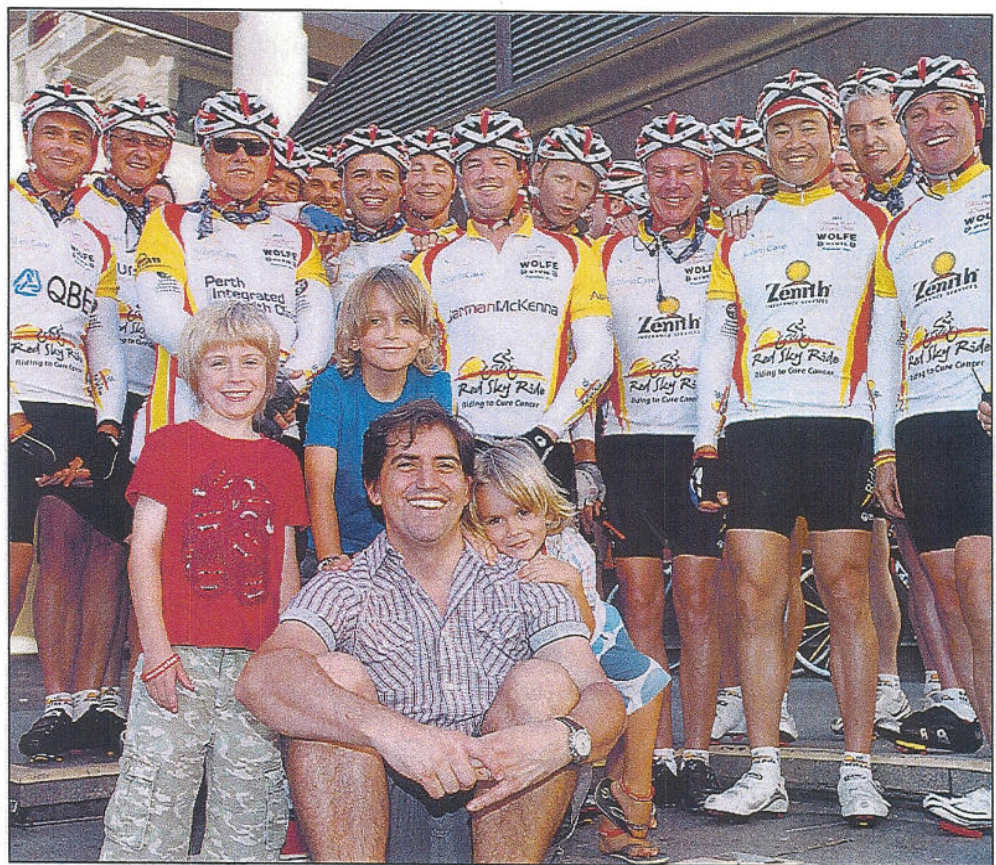
And her struggle has helped to motivate 25 cyclists in this year's Red Sky Ride, covering 10 gruelling days through the state's South-West to raise more than \$300,000 for cancer research.

Mrs Timms' husband, Ian, said her story highlighted the impact the disease had on everyday Australians.

She was diagnosed after visiting her local GP with a sore shoulder in early 2009. "There is no history of cancer in her family," Mr Timms said. "It literally came from nowhere."

After six months of intensive chemotherapy, doctors thought she was in remission. But she suffered a relapse on holiday with her husband and their three sons in Singapore in October.

Mr Timms said his wife was a "tower of strength".



**HARD PUSH:** Ian Timms and sons Oliver, 9, Jack, 7 and Louis, 4, in Forrest Place with the Red Sky Ride cyclists. Picture: BOHDAN WARCHOMIJ

"She not once asked 'why me?' but rather 'why not me?'," he said. "She was a great mum with a radiant smile and we all miss her, a lot."

The cyclists on the fourth annual Red Sky Ride will arrive back in Perth today after riding about 1000km through Harvey, Dunsborough, Augusta, Bridgetown, Wagin and York.

The ride is dedicated to the more than 3600 West Australian lives lost to cancer each year, and all funds raised are donated to SolarisCare Cancer Support centres.

Ride co-founder Kim Gilbert said Mrs Timms' fight gave inspiration to the cyclists and volunteers involved in the event.

Jessica Willoughby