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Classifieds 9875 8000

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2009

prestonleader.com.au

News

Ron saddles up

SKYDIVING is where blind 68-year-old Ron Hooper draws the line. Anything else is a challenge he's willing to meet.

The active Preston local swims 50 laps every Tuesday and has become a regular cyclist over the past 18 months in preparation for a two-day charity ride around Port Phillip Bay this weekend. Mr Hooper, who lost his sight at 23, said he took up tandem cycling through the Thornbury Church of Christ after joining their cycling group.

The church teamed Mr Hooper up with a support rider and initially hired a tandem bike to see how he went.

After a few weeks he bought his own tandem bike and with support rider Daniel Atkins has pedalled forward ever since.

"I enjoy riding. I enjoy getting out to Greensborough, Eltham, Frankston and the city."

But you can forget the smooth, easy rides. Mr Hooper said bike paths with no hills, noise, traffic or people were boring.

"There's no bushes hitting the helmet and no cars and people to hear or birds chirping."

This weekend they ride in the 200km Bike for Bibles around the bay raising money for literacy in Tanzania.



Blind cyclist Ron Hooper is ready for the Bay charity ride for literacy in Tanzania.

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