

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Ride with Anna Meares on National Therapy Animal Day

Anna Meares – Olympic, World, Commonwealth and National Champion is proud to be Integra Service Dogs Australia Ambassador and number one supporter of Brian and Ian’s Integra Coast to Coast Ride sponsored by Dingo.

“I’m proud to support Brian and Ian on their quest to ride and raise awareness and funds for such a worthy cause. After being involved with the Invictus Games in 2018 as an ambassador, meeting the service men and women and their families, and the dogs who support them through PTSD in their everyday lives was incredibly powerful and humbling. I would love to see support offered to Integra Service Dogs Australia help those who have served by sponsoring Brian and Ian on Integra’s Coast to Coast Ride. You can support by donating at [www.isda.com.au/coast-to-coast-ride/](http://www.isda.com.au/coast-to-coast-ride/) or sign up to ride a virtual hour on the Zwift platform with me in support of the brothers on National Therapy Animal Day Friday 30 April” said Ms Meares.

Two brothers – Brian and Ian Schumacher – whose families have several current ADF members and first responders – have embarked on a monumental bike ride from Fremantle, Western Australia to Sydney, NSW during April, and May 2021.

The two brothers have ridden more than 2,300 kms of their 4,400kms ride as they arrive into Wudinna, a small wheatbelt town, 10 km off Highway One (the Eyre Highway) South Australia. They are seeking to raise funds, through Corporate Sponsorship and public donations for the charity – Integra Service Dogs Australia – and raise awareness of the role of quality assistance dogs working alongside those who serve our community and country.

The Integra Virtual Charity Ride with Anna Meares compliments Brian and Ian’s ride. It’s a virtual reality one hour ride with dual Olympic gold medallist and eleven time world champion Anna Meares on National Therapy Animal Day – Friday 30 April at 7.00am AEST. It is a bike event where riders participate through the Zwift platform and can chat with Anna. Simply make a donation and join Anna’s ride - go to [www.isda.com.au/coast-to-coast-ride/](http://www.isda.com.au/coast-to-coast-ride/) for further details.

Or set up your own ride and seek sponsorship in support of Integra. Another way for every cyclist to raise money for and awareness of Integra Service Dogs Australia.

“While I wish I could ride with Brian and Ian on their amazing journey, I cannot, so instead I will be their biggest cheerleader throughout their journey and gather support on a virtual ride as well. I would love for you to get behind this great cause and cycle with me, Ian, and Brian and help Integra help those who have served.

Integra dogs are specially trained canine guardians for veterans and first responders who are suffering Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The dogs are trained to become emotionally tuned to their handler and provide unconditional support through the trauma and stresses of everyday life. It costs approximately \$30,000 to train, match and place an Integra Dog with a veteran or first responder (such as former police officer or emergency services worker) suffering from PTSD.

**Our Heroes need your help – donate to the Integra Coast to Coast Ride or join the ride today at [www.isda.com.au/coast-to-coast-ride/](http://www.isda.com.au/coast-to-coast-ride/)**

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