

# MEDIA RELEASE

16 November 2022

## #Hunt1000 Bike Ride for Integra Assistance Dogs

### Ian Schumacher rides the #Hunt1000 for Integra

Ian Schumacher is challenging himself to ride the #Hunt1000. Ian will be riding for our dedicated first responders, build awareness in the vital work of Integra Service Dogs Australia and raise much needed funds

Ian will journey 1,000kms through the rooftop of Australia along backcountry trails, across exposed high plains, through snow gum woodlands and among tall native forests. Ian along with the other riders will be pedalling from **Melbourne on 19 November to Canberra** and aiming for a grand finish, rather than a grand depart, on **Saturday the 3rd of December 2022 in Canberra**.

An unsupported ride where the trail conditions and the elevation profile are about as varied as the alpine weather can be. The current wet and windy weather will be a challenge for this year's 48 riders.

Ian's works in the health industry in the Hunter Valley and has family members who are first responders. He knows firsthand the toll on our First Responders and sees this to give back and say thank you.

Ian is seeking to raise funds, through Corporate Sponsorship and public donations for Integra Service Dogs Australia. Ian hopes to raise \$35,000. \$35,000 will allow Integra to provide a highly trained Labrador assistance dog to a First Responder suffering from PTSD.

***"Integra's work is important and a logical long-term investment in mental health and support. I am quietly confident that over time the evidence will accumulate that these wonderful animals do save lives"***  
– Ian Schumacher.

If you would like to support Ian and Integra Service Dogs Australia by donating, you can at <https://isda.com.au/ian-schumacher-hunt1000/>

In 2021, Ian and his brother Brian crossed Australia from Fremantle to Sydney over 6 weeks totalling over 4,600 kms. Between them they raised over \$130,000 for Integra.

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## About Integra Service Dogs Australia

Integra Service Dogs Australia (Integra) works with Veterans and First Responders and their families suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other physical and mental injuries by enriching lives through highly trained Labrador assistance dogs.

Integra specialises in the sourcing, matching, placement, ongoing training and development of high-quality Labrador trainee assistance dogs with Veterans and First Responders suffering PTSD. Integra has been successfully operating since 2016 and have efficiently matched and placed over 130 high quality Labrador dogs across Australia. Our Program teaches our dogs to become emotionally tuned to their Veteran or First Responder and their unique triggers. Our dogs are able to ground their handler from a hyper-aroused state and provide unconditional support through the trauma and stresses of everyday life. Integra was founded by Mr Ken Lloyd, (Retired) OAM, MSs, JP and Mr Ben Johnson.

## Our Patrons

Their Excellencies The Governor General of Australia General the Honourable David John Hurley AC DSC (retired) and Mrs Linda Hurley

## The Hunt 1000

<https://hunt1000.huntbikes.com/>

Distance 1000km

Days 7-14+ days

Unpaved 70%

Finished since 2016 < 50%

Total Ascent >20,000m

Highest Point >1,800