



## MELBOURNE RIDE OF SILENCE PRESS INFORMATION

In May 2003, Chris Phelan organised the first Ride Of Silence in Dallas USA, after endurance cyclist Larry Schwartz was hit by the mirror of a passing bus and was killed. The ride was a solemn event, to remember Larry and all cyclists killed while riding their bikes. It was only supposed to be a onetime event, but as word got out about the ride, many cyclists contacted Chris with the desire to participate in this event. Although cyclists have a legal right to share the road with motorists, the motoring public often isn't aware of these rights, and sometimes not aware of the cyclists themselves.

In 2006 the worldwide Ride of Silence will take place in the USA, Australia, Canada, China, New Zealand, Scotland and the United Kingdom. The ride has several goals:

***To HONOR those who have been injured or killed  
To RAISE AWARENESS that we are here  
To ask that we all SHARE THE ROAD***

"The Melbourne ride started in 2005", said Rob Eke, spokesperson for the Melbourne Ride of Silence.

"Every Ride of Silence we do is a positive step to raise awareness and remember the sad fact that too many cyclists have died and continue to die and suffer injury on our roads."

**Melbourne cyclists will assemble at 10am, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May at Federation Square.** They will ride via the Melbourne CBD to Parliament House for a dignified gathering, with celebrity speeches, media and interviews. **Simon Gillett will be present at the Melbourne Ride of Silence.** In July 2005, a horrific road accident in Germany killed his wife Amy Gillett-Safe and left five of her Australian cycling teammates badly injured. All of Australia grieved with Simon and also with her family and friends.

Amy Gillett Foundation: <http://www.amygillett.org.au/>

"All cyclists are most welcome, as are families, clubs and groups. The Melbourne Ride of Silence is a peaceful, apolitical memorial ride to honor all cyclists. Please ride two abreast and obey all road laws. We are riding in memory of Russell Mockridge, Deborah Gray, Anthony Marsh, Amy Gillett-Safe, Luke Harrop, Darren Smith, Matthew Cole, Penny Croft, Allan Scott, Ian Humphrey, Aaron Butler and Saul Pasque, as well as all others who have been killed," said Mr. Eke.

"In Australia, an estimated 35 cyclists are killed each year while cycling. A further 2500 cyclists are injured, and far more incidents go unreported. Most of these incidents occur in our cities and suburbs. With this ride, we hope to educate motorists that cyclists have the legal right to the road and to watch out for us."

The Ride of Silence is similar to a funeral procession. The ride will be slow (19km per hour). Cyclists will ride a maximum of two abreast and obey all traffic laws. There will be no talking, only silence, to remember our fallen brothers and sisters. Black armbands are worn in memory of those who have been killed; red armbands are worn for those injured while riding.

In 2006 the Ride of Silence will also take place in Sydney and Brisbane, further details on the Ride of Silence website: <http://www.rideofsilence.org/locations.php#international>

### Melbourne Ride of Silence contacts

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