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Long Red Sky Ride helps fight cancer

KINGSLEY neighbours Kim Gilbert and Steve Marchesi know all too well the devastating impact cancer can have.

Therefore, when the going gets tough in the inaugural Red Sky Ride through regional Western Australia next month, they won't be complaining – not too much anyway.

The duo, as well as 17 other riders and support staff, will travel more than 750km from Perth to York, Narrogin, Kojonup, Bridgetown, Bunbury

and Mandurah. The ride should take the riders about eight days.

They aim to raise \$100,000 for cancer support group Solaris in the process.

For Mr Gilbert, Maverick to his mates, the death of his 17-year niece Cary gave him the motivation to take part in the event.

“When cancer hits a close family member you can't change what's happened, but you can change how you deal with it,” the 46-year old said.

Mr Marchesi, who has ridden a few of the high Alpine passes on the Italian/Swiss border, said it would be a tough challenge.

“I've been riding for 10 years and the Red Sky Ride is going to be a highlight.”

Perth Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi will officially start the ride in Forrest Place on Sunday, March 2 at 8.45am.

A riders' blog has been set up at www.redskyride.com.au