



Join our cycle warriors fighting against human trafficking

Jack Gilchrist outside the Beehive in Wellington.

PICTURE Supplied

It's time to don your lycra and get training for the Tour of NZ cycle race to help Tearfund combat human trafficking and exploitation overseas.

Join us for an adventure beyond your expectations that will bring freedom to those trapped in modern slavery. Long-time Tearfund supporter and cycling enthusiast, Peter Yarrell, started the event in 2012 to help charities raise funds for their causes using his passion for cycling. He invited Tearfund to be part of the tour because he believed in Tearfund's work, especially in the area of Modern Slavery. The event is held every two years, and well over 2 million dollars have been raised for charities. Your funds will help support Tearfund's work in Nepal, Asia and the Pacific. Every year an estimated 4.8 million people become victims of forced commercial sexual exploitation, 98% of them are women and children.

Over five days, covering 517km, The Tour of NZ 2023 event will take cyclists through some of the South Island's most spectacular scenery, but more importantly, you will be riding for a great cause. The event will wrap up with a gala dinner and prize-giving at the Gondola in Queenstown.

You can enter as an individual or form a team of up to five riders and get fundraising.

Jack Gilchrist reflects on his tour in 2021

Cyclist Jack Gilchrist from Roxburgh joined the last tour in 2021 and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of riding for Tearfund. He shares his story.

I first saw the Tour of New Zealand advertised at our local cycling club and thought it would be a great opportunity to explore some of New Zealand, whilst raising money for charity. It sounded like a win-win to me! I contacted my friend in Dunedin and managed to coerce him into blowing the dust off his bike and doing it with me. We both had an absolute blast through both sun and rain.

There was no hesitation about choosing Tearfund as a charity to raise money for. Here in New Zealand, we are so privileged to be able to live in a land of plenty and freedom to do whatever we choose.

As a Christian, I wanted to be able to support those overseas who have been trafficked and forced into the sex industry, to help give them the freedom they deserve.

My grandparents have been loyal supporters and regular givers to Tearfund for several years, so it was a privilege to raise funds for Tearfund.

I loved the camaraderie throughout the tour and it was an excellent way to meet like-minded people who love cycling, but also raising funds for their selected charity. It also turned out that Peter and Jill Yarrell who organise the tour are long-lost friends of my grandparents, and it has been special for me to connect with them.

I am looking forward to the 2023 Tour of New Zealand, and I have already completed my registration! It is a great honour to represent Tearfund again, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who sponsored me as I rode the 2021 Tour.

So, will you join a movement for freedom and use your bike to combat modern slavery?

The event starts on Monday, April 10, 2023. To register, visit: tourofnewzealand.co.nz

You can also email us at tonz@tearfund.org.nz for more info and register for the event at: fundraise.tearfund.org.nz