



From 2nd - 4th April, hundreds of riders will take part in the annual Tour de Rocks event. Riding from Armidale to South West Rocks, the aim of the event is to raise funds to help find a cure for cancer.

Kevin Hill is one of the event's most well-known participants - it'll be his seventh ride this year, and the total amount of funds he's raised for the event over the years is staggering: in the vicinity of \$50,000! Kevin is a staunch advocate for Tour de Rocks; if you happen to see him out and about selling raffle tickets, make sure you stop and say G'day!

Hi Kevin. Tell us a little about yourself and your background in the New England area.

I moved to Armidale back in 1974. I am married, with three children and four grandkids.

I'm a local builder in Armidale and the New England area.

Why did you first become involved with Tour de Rocks?

I heard about the ride and asked around to see what it was all about. When they told me the route of the ride, which takes you from Armidale to South West Rocks down through the Big Hill, I became very keen to participate - I've always wanted to ride down the Big Hill.

This year is my seventh ride; I started back in 2012 and have only missed two rides since the commencement of Tour de Rocks.

What else inspired you to take part?

I just like to help people - and what better way to do it, than riding on our mountain bikes and having some fun along the road!

“

When they told me the route of the ride, which takes you *from Armidale to South West Rocks down through the Big Hill, I became very keen to participate* - I've always wanted to ride down the Big Hill.

raffle prize from Bench Africa, so I'm also selling these for \$50 each, or three for \$100.

There are other local charity organisations in Armidale that have heard and seen how much I sell; they want me to help them raise funds too.

What are some of your favourite memories from your Tour de Rocks experience?

How much have you raised for the event to date, and what have been some of the fundraising activities you've been involved with?

The first couple of years I didn't raise that much, but over the last few years I've increased my sales of the raffle tickets - and I think I would be getting close to \$50K. I mainly sell the \$5 raffle tickets for my fundraising, and over the last few years Tour de Rocks have been donated an Africa

Reaching the finish line, especially on the first ride, and seeing everyone cheer you on as you arrive at the headlands in South West Rocks. And, all the good laughs and stories you hear along the road.

What will be your involvement at this year's event?

Well, I'm out and about already selling raffle tickets throughout the Armidale and New England area.

But this year will be a special year, as my daughter is going to join me on the ride for the first time.

Why would you encourage others to get involved?

The whole event is just so well organised, and we are all trying to get an end result and find a cure for cancer.

Where can we find out more info/register for the event?

I'm not up with the technology, but you can access information on the website: www.tourderocks.com.au

They also have a Facebook page, you can ask one of the riders currently training around town, come and see me selling raffle tickets throughout Armidale on most Friday nights in all the local pubs, or go and visit Kay or Paula at New England Travel.

Thanks Kevin. Congratulations on such a wonderful fundraising effort!