

YOUR LIFE

Charity ride to focus on the world's wheely needy

Wheel2Wheel helps lesser-known charities

ONE man, 13,000 gruelling kilometres and eight untold humanitarian stories.

That is the challenge Sunshine Beach's Morgan Parker has set for himself.

The 40-year-old left a successful career in property investment banking to found Wheel2Wheel, a not-for-profit organisation that highlights the needs of lesser-known charities around the world.

The concept of which was picked up by the National Geographic Channel in 2012, with the television series seen in 22 countries and watched in over eight million homes on the channel, as well as on SBS in Australia.

Parker is working once again with the National Geographic Channel for the second series to be filmed in 2015.

He said he had planned a 60-day motorcycle expedition around India, with each of the eight episodes featuring a critical humanitarian crisis.

"We will be focusing on child labour, homelessness, vulnerable water resources, endangered species and sanitation, and providing insight into Indian charities successfully addressing the issues," Parker said.

Sharing the lives of the victim's first-hand, Parker will be secretly fundraising with the support of philanthropists, influential business leaders and celebrities to deliver the much-needed support these organisations need to make a difference.

He said he would immerse himself in its culture, history, food and tourism to uncover the "real India".

"The ambition in Wheel2Wheel is to experience the humanitarian issues, not just talk about them," Parker said.

"I will be looking at what could give people hope for a brighter future and

BY NUMBERS

To date, Morgan Parker's Wheel2Wheel foundation has raised more than \$3 million in cash or in-kind, had over 486,700 views on YouTube, over 40,000 fans on Facebook and had over 175,000 unique website visits.

working with the charities to do this.

"It might be as simple as building a new toilet – only one in six Indians has access to a toilet.

"We have spent the last 18 months researching charities doing great work locally that aren't receiving donations broadly and lack public awareness of what they are doing.

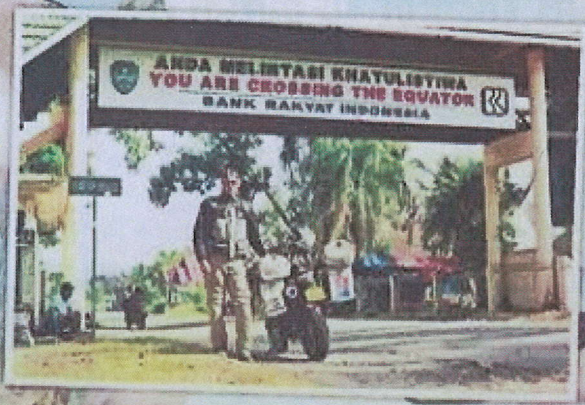
Parker said he was excited for his next adventure but it only felt like yesterday that he was setting out on his first ride, which saw him take a 125-day motorcycle trip from Hong Kong to Brisbane (25,000km through 10 countries).

He said he was able to create meaningful change and awareness for 10 charities, including the creation of a public education centre at Bear Sanctuary in Vietnam, housing for an AIDS orphanage in Thailand, establishment of a legal aid fund for abused women in Malaysia and the purchase of computers and vocational training equipment in East Timor.

And he has high expectations of what he and his supporters could achieve this time round.

— KRISTY MUIR

Keep up to date via
www.wheel2wheel.tv



BIG EFFORT: Wheel2Wheel saw Morgan Parker take a 125-day, humanitarian focused motorcycle trip.

PHOTO: COURTESY