

SOUTH AFRICAN TRIVIA

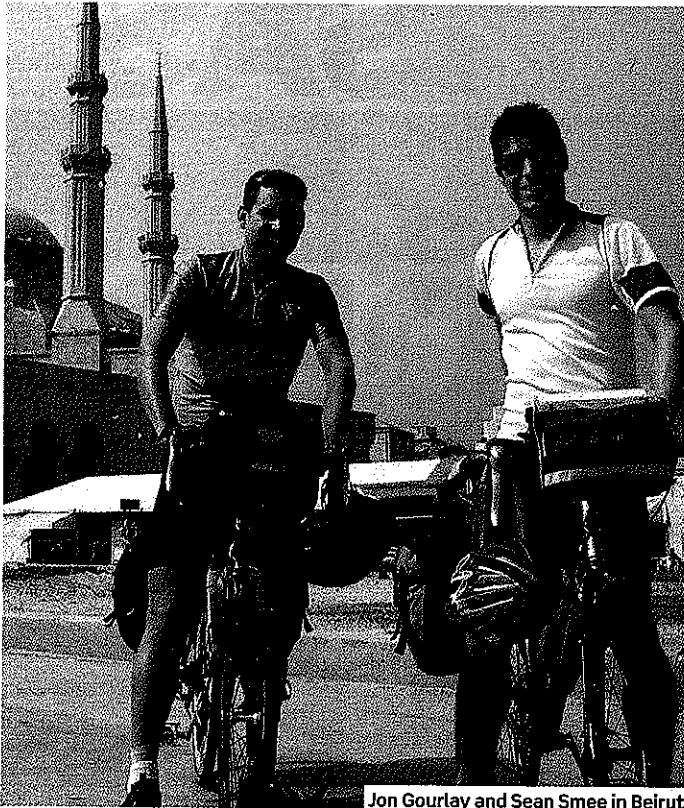
Dr Christiaan Barnard, at Groote Schuur Hospital, Cape Town, performed the first human heart transplant in the world in 1967

Got a local story for us? Email communitynews@tntmagazine.com

AUSTRALIAN FACT

Silverchair were originally known as Innocent Criminals

Epic tour on two wheels



Jon Gourlay and Sean Smee in Beirut

Two Australian cyclists have completed a six-month journey around the coastline of the Mediterranean Sea in a bid to raise money for charity.

Sean Smee and Jon Gourlay, both 27 who live in Bristol and London respectively, decided to undertake the cycling trip to raise money for the Fred Hollows Foundation — a charity that seeks to eradicate avoidable blindness in developing countries.

"The task of riding across mountainous North Africa in summer really took its toll on us," Gourlay said.

"Not to mention that we were pretty sick of cycling full stop after six months on the road."

The journey covered 17 countries on three continents and saw them ride more than 13,000 kilometres as they raised \$5000 for the Fred Hollows Foundation.

"It was an unforgettable

experience cycling over the freezing Mt Lebanon range and passing bombed-out roads and bridges on our way into Beirut," Gourlay said.

The duo, who paid for the trip themselves, say they averaged about 100 kilometres a day during the trip.

"Combined we had about 20 punctures, on top of two broken wheels, two broken chains and three busted gear shifters," Gourlay said.

During the trip, they had time to take in the sights of the Middle East, Africa and Europe with rest days kept busy playing tourist in different countries.

"The highlights included Beirut — it's a pretty cool place, seeing Siwa Oasis and the Nile Valley in Egypt and the Roman ruins Leptis Magna in Libya," he said.

Along the way, locals assisted them with their trip, often inviting them in for meals and giving them drinks.

"Having the opportunity to meet people on the ground in countries such as Libya, Syria and Algeria was invaluable — the hospitality we were shown was extraordinary," Smee said.

"The kids were always so happy to see us and would just flock in our direction," added Gourlay.

» For more details on the Fred Hollows foundation or to donate money, see www.hollows.org.

First for South African student

Fulham and Chelsea College have awarded their first scholarship to partially-sighted South African student Theresa Robberts — and her guide dog, Sandy.

Robberts, who moved to London last year from Cape Town, was given the scholarship while she completes the second year of her degree level course in Business Management at Fulham and

the individual's ability to overcome barriers, show great determination, courage and perseverance," said FCC patron Lord Thomas Pendry.

Robberts said the FCC had made her dream of studying abroad a reality.

"I really enjoy being in London and studying and would recommend that anyone, regardless of their disability, try

both feel welcome and they also assist me on a daily basis with the challenges I have to face."

FCC director Matthew Collins said Robberts, who had to live in London for the first six months without the assistance of her guide dog Sandy, who was held up in quarantine, was an inspiration to other students.

COMMUNITY DIARY

Email your listings to communitynews@tntmagazine.com

SEPTEMBER 27

The Centre for New Zealand studies will hold a free screening for the British premiere of *Out of the Box* at the Lecture Theatre B, Birkbeck, 43 Gordon Square, University of London. For details, email Ian Conrich ianconrich.co.uk.

OCTOBER 3

A seminar with South African businesses will discuss national and international business confidence in South Africa at Deloitte, 180 St. James's Place, London WC2. Free to members (donations and canapes to be served for visitors (£15 for a guest, £5 for a member). Email reception@sabusinessclub.com.

OCTOBER 5

The New Zealand University Graduates Association will host an annual supper at Zealand House. Professor Gilmore will deliver a talk on the origin of the universe, the nature of reality, followed by an informal buffet supper. For more information, see www.nzociety.co.uk.

OCTOBER 8

The Speight's Great Beer Delivery bringing a bar full of Speights on a boat to you is expected to dock at Canary Wharf. The New Zealand boat will have spent 10 weeks on the trip from New Zealand to London. For more details about the journey, see www.greatbeerdelivery.co.nz.

OCTOBER 11

Australian Business in conjunction with the Asia Business Association and China-Britain Business Council offer members and their guests a rare opportunity to network over drinks and canapes at the Hyatt Regency London.