



press clip

A ride of memories

By **RHONDA MALKIN**

THE fight against a rare form of cancer by a Hills teenager is being commemorated with a bike ride from Perth through regional WA.

Darlington teenager Carys Gilbert lost her battle with a rare and extremely aggressive form of cancer in October last year. Her uncle, Kim Gilbert, has co-ordinated a bike ride called Red Sky Ride for a group of 19 cyclists who will raise money for teenagers with cancer.

"The effort and fight Carys put up against her cancer will have a profound impact on the riders," Mr Gilbert said.

"While the riders know that this is going to be a difficult journey, they have the choice to do it. Carys didn't have a choice to have cancer." Mr Gilbert said it was sad that one in three Australians would be affected by cancer.

"The Head of the Department of Haematology at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and founder of SolarisCare, Dr David Joske, be-

lieves we are currently experiencing a cancer epidemic," he said.

The ride will also raise awareness for the services provided by SolarisCare, which Carys used during her treatment. SolarisCare provides integrated care for cancer patients and its services are free of charge to patients and their carers.

"Their services are integrated into mainstream medical care and aim to provide patients with the tools to cope with the emotional and physical side effects of chemotherapy, radiotherapy and surgery," Mr Gilbert said.

The group aims to raise \$150,000 by riding through York, Narrogin, Kojonup, Bridgetown, Bunbury and Mandurah during this year's event and \$1 million in the next five years. Perth Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi will officially send off the group on March 2 and welcome them home on March 9.



Deb Young, of City Beach, and Kim Gilbert, of Kingsley, with a photo of Carys Gilbert.

Picture: Dominique Menegaldo d272244