

Duo hit blinding speeds

By LUCAS FORBES

ANDREW Devenish-Meares isn't one to let his lack of vision slow him down especially when the sport he loves involves riding down hills at 80 kilometres an hour.

Mr Devenish-Meares, along with his pilots Dave Philip Thomas and Dave Rubie, are trying to raise \$10,000 to buy a new racing grade tandem bicycle.

Their current bike is 20 years old and was bought second hand and modified with spare parts.

Mr Rubie said the bike had gotten to the stage where they needed a new one.

"We cobbled it together out of stuff from people's sheds and bought it online as cheap as we could but Andrew has really progressed to the point where he needs something faster," he said.

Currently the trio lead the blind tandem B category of the National Para-cycling Series.

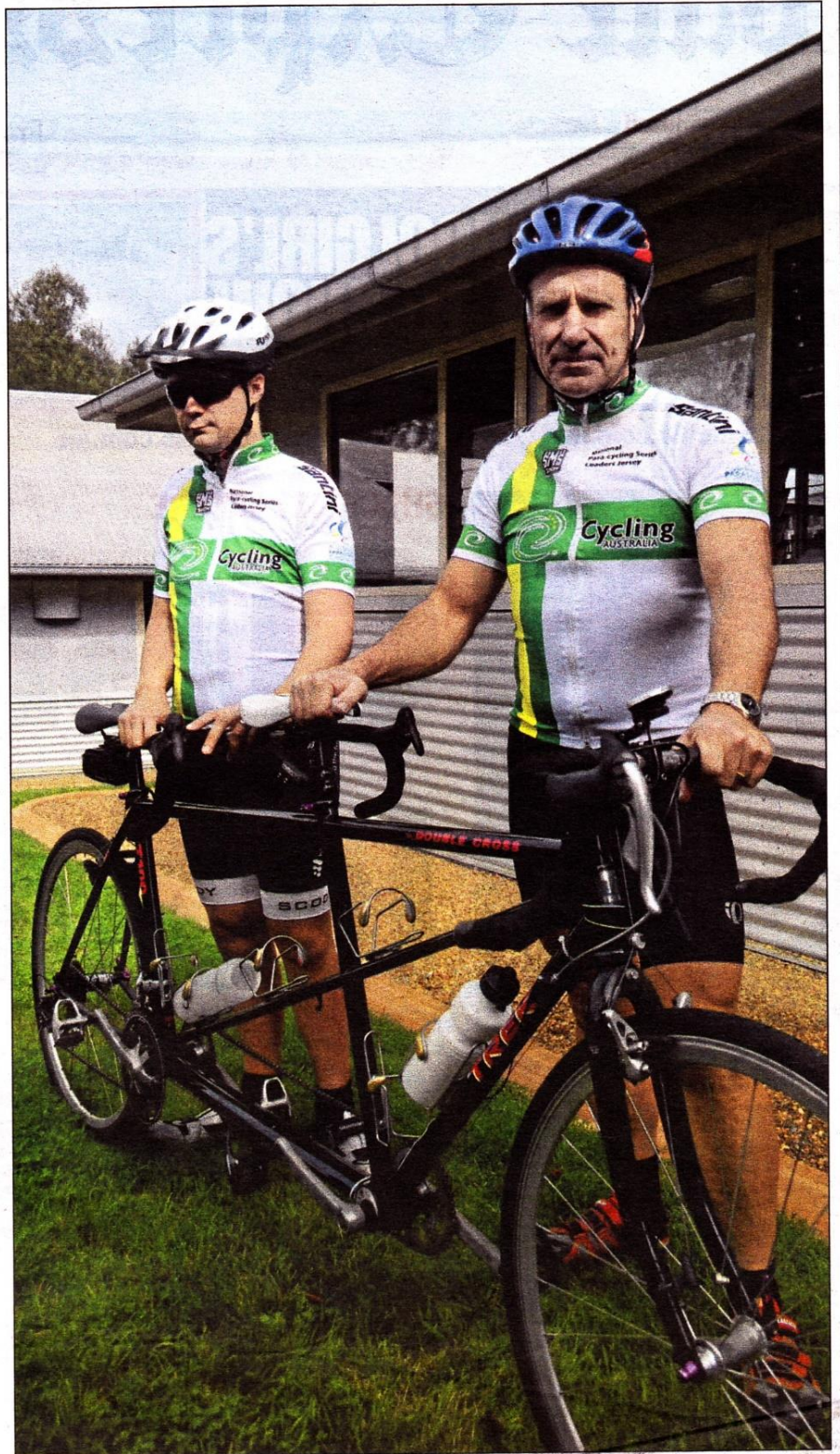
They're trying to raise \$10,000 to purchase a good quality racing tandem bike with any remaining funds being put towards bike maintenance.

Already they've raised more than \$1200.

Tandem bikes are more expensive than singles ones since they have to be manufactured to take the strain of two riders.

Parts for tandems are not as widely produced either and therefore even simple maintenance can be expensive.

Armidale Dumaresq Council, Dumaresq Lions Club and Duval Lions Club have all already donated \$250 each.



TOGETHER: Andrew Devenish-Meares and Philip Thomas with their 20-year-old bike.