



Cycling for the Igorot Scholarship Program (ISP) Fund Raising

Greetings Everyone!

I am very pleased to report a successful fund raising for the ISP.

This was possible only because of your generosity, digging deep into your pockets even amidst these hard economic times, your efforts in campaigning for the cause, and your encouragements to all concerned.

This is our second year to cycle for the program and it's encouraging to see the increasing interest that has been manifested so far.

As at 4 November 2009, we have pooled together the value of an estimated 130K+ pesos. A very significant amount to bolster the ISP budget!

To put it in perspective, the amount raised would cover 13 students for a year at 10,000 pesos grant per student per year.

There are still individuals and groups, such as Lourdes Nucup, Lolit & Juerg Hafner & BIBAK Switzerland who have indicated their interest in contributing to the program so the amount might increase.

Briefly, as most of you are probably aware, the aim of the program is to provide financial assistance to qualified Cordillera high school graduates attain college education.

A more sustaining objective is to uplift the lives of peoples from the Cordillera through education.

It is our fervent hope that you continue to support this noble cause.

Education is the best legacy that we can leave to the youth of the Cordillera.

Again, a BIG THANK YOU to all of you and may you be blessed with much much more.

Riding for the ISP
Raleigh Agdaca



Outcome

- Below is the financial summary of your contributions:

Location	Currency	Amount	Peso exchange rate	Estimated Peso equivalent
Australia	Aus\$	1,762.00	42.80	75,413.60
Canada	US\$	111.50	46.00#	5,129.00
Canada	Cad\$	100.00	44.00#	4,400.00
Europe (Belgium, The Netherlands, Austria)	Euro	306.25	67.88	20,788.25
Europe (Switzerland)	Phil Peso	10,000.00	1.00	10,000.00
USA	US\$	350.00	46.00#	16,100.00
Total				131,830.85
#Estimates				

- There are still individuals and groups, such as Lourdes Nucup, Lolit & Juerg Hafner & BIBAK Switzerland, who have indicated their financial support so it is likely the amount will increase. We will account and acknowledge their contributions accordingly when we receive them. We thank you in advance.
- This endeavor has also shown that we can work together, and distance is no barrier, when it comes to supporting worthy causes.
- For my part, my legwork was slower by 45 minutes – getting to the finish line in four hours and 30 minutes.

NB: Please bring to my attention anyone I missed so that we can account and acknowledge their contributions accordingly. My apologies in advance.

Donors From Australia

1	AMI Education, Melbourne (www.ami.vic.edu.au)	500.00
2	Amiga Engineering c/- Michael & Cecily Bouchier (www.amigaeng.com.au)	200.00
3	Anonymous	50.00
4	Boni & Joanne Degay, Jr	100.00
5	Evelyn Padua	25.00
6	Gary and Tess Anderson	50.00
7	Gary Hoheisel	100.00
8	Gloria Bayerl	50.00
9	Joseph & Imee Apacway	62.00
10	Mary Jane Cayad	30.00
Sub-total – Australian Dollars		1,167.00

Donors From Australia, continued

11	Mitch & Melchora Chin	25.00
12	Pamela Palantis	100.00
13	Paz Aptimes	100.00
14	Raleigh Agdaca	150.00
15	Stefannie Murray	50.00
16	Tyren Awingan	50.00
17	Veronica Amato	50.00
18	Vicky Tiamzon	50.00
19	Wilma Gabuat	20.00
	Sub-total– Australian Dollars	595.00
	Total – Australian Dollars	1,762.00
20	Oliver Carub – waived transmittal fee	10.00

Donors From Other Locations

Canada

1	Bart Alatan	20.00
2	Ceasar and Eliza Castro	91.50
	Total - US Dollar	111.50
3	Elmo Carino	100.00
	Total – Cad Dollar	100.00

Europe

1	Switzerland – Joy Cadangen	10,000.00
	Total - Philippine Peso	10,000.00
2	Belgium – (Cordi-Bel)	106.25
3	The Netherlands (Igorots in Holland)l	100.00
4	Austria (Igorots in Austria)	100.00
	Total – Euro	306.25

USA

1	Gloria Simon	100.00
2	Nancy Basilio Vargas	100.00
3	Rosalynnda Teckney-Callagan	100.00
4	Steve & Portia Gomez	50.00
	Total - US Dollar	350.00

Remittance

- Australia – The amount of Aus\$1,762 converted to P75,413.60 was remitted by Raleigh Agdaca to the ISP account in Baguio via electronic transfer on 4 November 2009.
- Canada – The amount of US\$111.50 (from Bart Alatan & Caesar & Eliza Castro) was remitted to IGO USA through its treasurer, Ron Sagudan, in Virginia, USA. Elmo Carino has indicated that he will remit his contribution to ISP Baguio sometime this month.
- Europe – The contributions from Cordi-Bel and Igorots in Holland totalling €206.25 converted to P14,000 was remitted to the ISP account in Baguio on 30 October 2009. Joy's (Switzerland) contribution of P10,000 was remitted to ISP Baguio on 29 September 2009. Igorots in Austria's contribution of €100 was submitted to Dr Caridad Fiar-od, chair, ISP Board of Trustees.
- The contributions from USA were all remitted to the IGO USA through its treasurer, Mr Ron Sagudan in Virginia, USA.

The beneficiaries of your efforts and generosity: ISP grantees to-date

	Name	Province	Course	Year	School
1	Yana May Bugnay	Benguet	BS in Medical Technology	4-Fourth	Saint Louis University
2	Ariadne Cadias	Benguet	BS in Hotel & Restaurant Mgmt	4-Fourth	University of Baguio
3	Cherry Ngina	Benguet	BS in Education	4-Fourth	Benguet State University
4	Haydee Padilan	Mt Prov	BS in Education	4-Fourth	Benguet State University
5	Pudico Balinggan	Benguet	BS in Agricultural Engineering	3-Third	Benguet State University
6	Grail Binwag	Ifugao	BS in Elementary Education	3-Third	Ifugao State University
7	Samuel Duyan	Kalinga	BS in Agricultural Business	3-Third	Benguet State University
8	Hazel Joy Tiyang	Ifugao	BS in Nursing	3-Third	Ifugao State University
9	Emilia Dakilas	Mt Prov	BS in Elementary Education	3-Third	Mt Prov State Polytechnic College
10	Marlo Abyado, Jr.	Benguet	BS in Dev't Communication	2-Second	Benguet State University
11	Jennilyn Banao	Kalinga	BS in Education	2-Second	Kalinga Apayao State College
12	Yvonne Taguiling	Ifugao	BS in Education	2-Second	Ifugao State University
13	Michelle Pespes	Mt Prov	BS in Nursing	2-Second	Mt Prov State Polytechnic College
14	Romeo Tugade, Jr.	Apayao	BS in Education	1-First	Apayao State College
15	Orly Callisen	Mt Prov	BS in Nursing	1-First	Mt Prov State Polytechnic College
16	Jemima Dagiw-a	Mt Prov	BS in Nursing	1-First	Mt Prov State Polytechnic College
17	Janice Menzi	Benguet	BS in Elementary Education	1-First	Benguet State University
18	Sheena Dacara	Abra	BS in Agriculture	1-First	Benguet State University

The Event

The Around The Bay cycling event is part of the Melbourne Cycling Festival.

Participants can enter in the following categories:

50km, 80km, 100km, 210km, or the 250km after payment of the relevant fee.

My event was the 100km.

Most of the participants raised funds for their own charities or favorite organization.

Around 15,500 riders participated in this year's Around The Bay.

The number is growing every year and it is not surprising given the beneficial effects of exercise (cycling) to our well-being and to the environment.

The event is described as Australia's largest single day bike ride.

It attracts cyclists, not only from all over Australia but also from abroad.

The Ride, 18 Oct 2009

Travel to the Starting Line in Sorrento

During the day of the event, I woke up at 3:00 AM to prepare and travel to the city to catch the bus to Sorrento. We left the city at 5:00 AM and we arrived at Sorrento at around 6:30.

The forecast was 9-19 degrees C with 25kph south southerly wind and true to the forecast, it was cold and windy.

Minutes later the trucks carrying our bikes arrived so it was time to unload them and re-fit the parts we have taken off in transit. More buses are still arriving.

Start time was 8:00 AM so while waiting for the others to arrive I had time to take in the scenery at the bay and did a bit of warming up.

Close to 8:00AM we positioned ourselves to our designated group as per our average speed that we have nominated.

I joined the 25-29 kph group which was in the middle of the three designated groups. The one in front is the 30 and above kph average speed and at the tail end the under 25 kph average speed.

8:00 AM and it's all systems go.

The Ride, continued. . .

It was a slow start as everyone was trying to warm up, pick up their rhythm, and position themselves in the crowded lane allocated for the riders. About a kilometre later, the boys were separated from the men, so to speak.

I thought we had a bit of tail wind so this should be an easy ride. How wrong was I! Hang on, wasn't the forecast south southerly wind? We were going north so we must be going against the wind.

No wonder, it felt harder than last year. But to be fair, maybe natural progression has taken its toll on this rider. It has been one year since the last Around The Bay.

Time to focus on the ride ahead. The ride from Sorrento to Melbourne was by no means easy. I would describe it as moderate to hard – more climbs than descents. In few of these climbs, many a rider had to walk up, unable to pedal. Well, I managed.

I wondered. Was it the preparation? The inspiration? Or the strategy? Or was it the walkathons we did growing up in montanosa? Surely, must be a combination of all of these.

For the occasional rider like me, some of these climbs are a physical and mental battle. Or even a test of one's character as one rider puts it. So at those testing times, when the going gets tough, I had to strategize.

As I said before, we were going against the wind so obviously a windbreaker would help. In organised cycling groups, the riders alternate at the front of the pack to break the wind force for the others to conserve energy while waiting for their turn at the front. I wasn't in such a group.

But I tried a similar tactic by shielding from other riders when I had the opportunity. I preferred faster riders because I thought they would propel me a bit. It worked! But only for a very short time.

The Ride, continued. . .

I mean, very very short time. The fast riders would quickly disappear much quicker than they appeared. Even though the spirit is willing, the body is weak. Can't catch up with them. Following slower riders is not an option, they would just confuse my momentum and rhythm.

So most times I am on my own against the elements. When the puffing got faster and the legs got weaker, I tried other strategies such as looking for an inspiration. At one point while I was just doing that, a beautiful figure appeared in front of me.

Wow! The Lord works in mysterious ways! I'll chase the owner of that and hopefully that would bring me close to the finish line much quicker.

But then she slowly disappeared from my sight (and mind you I tried not to blink in case I lose her) until she became just a speck in the long road ahead. These were recurring scenes during these climbs.

There were times when throwing in the towel was becoming an appealing thought. But every time that's about to happen, it always dawned on me that I was cycling for the ISP.

Sounds corny (very corny) but that was inspiration enough for me. Furthermore, I thought about you, the supporters. Disappointing you guys would have been to bear. And I don't want to be disappointed either.

So, four hours and 30 minutes later I arrived at the finish line, tired but not defeated. Well, just. . . there's another 15 kilometers more to go to get home.

I actually enjoyed the ride, the scenery, the competition (against myself).. .the challenge. Going downhill in about 60kph was exhilarating.

Hope you enjoyed the ride with me. If you haven't. . .

I hope that you will enjoy the photos ahead. . . .

Photos at Sorrento



Photos taken while on my bike



Photos at the finish line



Photos taken along the bike paths while training for the ride Melbourne Cityscapes



More Cityscapes



Photos taken along the bike paths while training for the ride Coastal views



More coastal views



That's it folks. Thank you once again and God bless. Until next time. Ooops... just one more slide ahead



Around the Bay
in a Day[®] 2009
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Sunday 18 October 2009

FINISHER!

CONGRATULATIONS
Raleigh Agdaca

bean ground & drunk 100km

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Sunrises along the bike paths

