

## **Pushy power, funky vibes, and the odd fair-trade chocolate bar: Otesha on a mission to inspire rural Victorians**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fourteen young people will be arriving at Stawell via peddle power on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2009 with a mission to inspire people to think about sustainable consumption in their everyday lives. On arrival to Stawell the bike riders will have rode over 600kms of a 1300 km journey.

The Otesha Project (Australia): Cycling for Sustainability is beginning its bicycle tour in rural Victoria starting in Melbourne on January 18th. The tour will ride near the Great Ocean Road, up to the Grampians, making our way over to Bendigo before finishing back to Melbourne while speaking to youth about sustainability issues.

Since 2000, The Otesha Project (Aus.) has pedalled across Australia educating youth and raising awareness about environmental sustainability and social justice issues. Otesha is a Swahili word for 'reason to dream' and is the underlining philosophy of the organisation. The Otesha crew combines theatre performance with interactive workshops to empower high school students to consider their life choices to ensure a positive future.

Whilst in Stawell they will be delivering an education program to Marian College and Ararat Community College on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February, and will be doing a presentation at the Ararat Regional Library on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February.

For Angela – co-director – the experience of the bicycle tours is fulfilling on many different levels:

“What I love about these tours is that to me it is the perfect way to make a difference in the world; by being inspired by others and inspiring others in a hilarious and engaging way,” she says.

Tour participants will travel around rural regions of Victoria and present the comical *Morning of Choices* presentation and engaging workshops to youth and community groups throughout the state. The collective community works together to make all this possible by creating workshops around issues they are passionate about.

The Otesha Project (Australia) is seeking support from your community; any donations of food would be welcomed. There are also opportunities to host our team whilst we visit and we'd love to engage with other sustainable community initiatives, so please contact us. Contact Angela Jones or [victour@otesha.org.au](mailto:victour@otesha.org.au)

Dylan Prins has travelled down from Sydney for his first tour. He caught up with the NSW group at their end of tour party in Newcastle.

"I was immersed in the infectious positive buzz of the group, the energy of the team was amazing. I loved their take on the 'Morning Choices' performance and I'm looking forward to creating the play which we'll be bringing to Stawell in February." Dylan enthused.

Notes to Editors:

- The Otesha Project (Australia): Cycling for Sustainably – reason to dream
- Currently seeking support as our 14 cycle team members come through your town: Victorian rural loop (18 January – 1 March 2009).
- Contact: Angela Jones 0439 433 154
- Email: [victour@otesha.org.au](mailto:victour@otesha.org.au)
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