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BIKE HIKE

Don't be big wheel in ride for asthma

■ Vivienne Ryan

Don't be alarmed by the gentleman pedalling his oversized bicycle furiously on the freeway tomorrow, it is all part of Dan Talbot's cunning plan to get his heart racing to raise money for the Asthma Foundation.

The Bunbury policeman is in the HBF Freeway Bike Hike for Asthma with almost 10,000 cyclists who will cover either 60km, 30km or 10km along the Kwinana and Mitchell freeways to Joondalup.

Mr Talbot has owned his penny farthing less than three months but is not worried about the distance, having warmed up with the National Penny Farthing Championships in Tasmania last month.

"I've only had it since January

and I rode it home from Perth," Mr Talbot, who lives in Busselton, said. "Once you are up and pedalling you are fine, but you can't stop and put your foot down, it is a little bit hairy in that regard."

"You can't coast either because the pedals are fixed to the wheel, so when it goes too fast your legs get flung off."

But Mr Talbot is yet to fall off and said he looked forward to hitting the tarmac for a good cause.

It is the seventh annual ride and kicks off Cycle Instead week. Riders of all abilities can do either 60km from Kwinana, 30km from Belmont or 10km from Greenwood.

Roads to be closed include:

Kwinana Freeway southbound from Mitchell Freeway to Thomas Road from 4am to 9.30am.

Eastbound lanes of the Graham Farmer Freeway (including the tunnel) from 4am until 10am.

Mitchell Freeway southbound lanes from Burns Beach Road to Perth from 4am until 12pm.

Hodges Drive (eastbound) from the freeway from 4am until 2pm.

The intersection of Joondalup Drive and Grand Boulevard from 4am until 2pm.

Grand Boulevard from Joondalup Drive to Shenton Avenue from 4am until 2pm.



Set: Dan Talbot will do 60km on his penny farthing. Picture: Jeff Henderson