

Veterinarian Kathleen Graham was first diagnosed with a malignant glioma of the brain in 2006. Graham was only 24 years old and in her first year out after graduating from Veterinary Science at Sydney University. The shock diagnosis came after she had been experiencing frequent and severe migraines and seizures. She went through brain surgery, radiotherapy and various chemotherapy regimens.

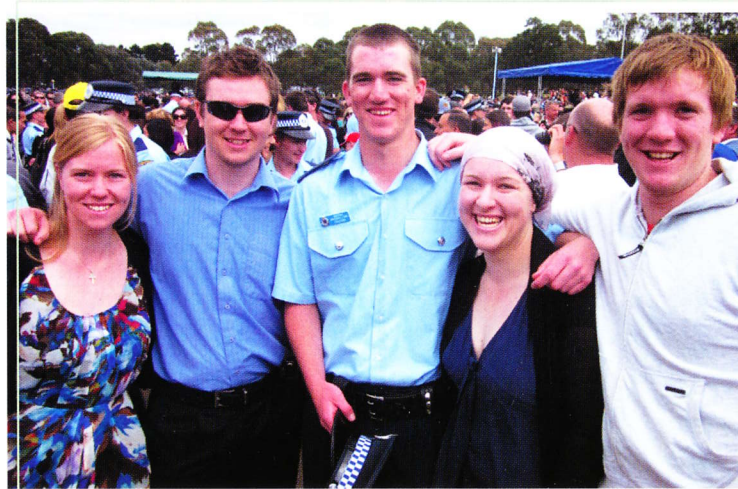
Now, six years later and still practising as a passionate and dedicated small animal veterinarian, Graham will participate in the Ride to Conquer Cancer – a 200 kilometre bike ride over two days through country NSW.

Graham has always maintained an optimistic approach to life and puts her heart and soul into her work as a practising veterinarian.

“As my treatments have all gone very well, I’ve been lucky enough to continue working through most of my chemotherapy after taking time off for surgery and radiotherapy,” she said. “This has been largely due to the fantastic vet hospitals I’ve had ongoing work with, including The Animal Referral Hospital, Cherrybrook Vet Hospital and South Tamworth Animal Hospital.”

Graham is now preparing for the

Riding 200km to conquer cancer



Kathleen Graham (second from right) with siblings

200km bike ride, which she said will be a real challenge - not only the distance itself, but the substantial fund-raising goal she has set for herself.

“I’m hoping to raise \$10 000 for Lifehouse. I know it seems like a ridiculous amount of money, but if everyone donates whatever they can and we can get the word out,

I think it’s achievable. Every one of us has either been affected by cancer themselves or knows of someone who has. Organisations such as Lifehouse will help the patients get from a diagnosis and through the maze that is cancer a whole lot easier.”

The Chris O’Brien Lifehouse at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney will open in 2013. This centre will continue to run the services currently provided by the Sydney Cancer Centre, but will be so much more. As well as being a centre for early detection, treatment and integrated care, Lifehouse will be a centre for cutting edge research and scientific development so that advances in cancer research, diagnosis and treatment will be possible.

“As a cancer patient, life becomes largely about cancer and a lot of the people you know are also cancer patients,” she said. “In supporting organisations like Lifehouse, hopefully the day for a cure gets here in time for those we know who are affected by cancer.”

Graham has enlisted her six siblings to participate in this charity event in October 2012.

To support Graham's efforts, please donate online at tinyurl.com/vetmag0312b.

■ **GRETTA HOWARD**