



## TRI CYCLING AFRICA

TRI CYCLING AFRICA reveals a side of the often misunderstood people of West Africa in a way that is rarely seen in the news. In an entertaining but non-sensationalist way, Jeff McLean and his one cameraman travel for two months on a bizarre and highly unique form of transport: a tandem recumbent tricycle. Along the way they experience the challenges and triumphs of a completely unplanned journey through a little travelled region of West Africa with nothing pre-arranged but flights.

Perhaps surprisingly, peace and beauty emerge, contradicting the commonly held belief that the region is a hotbed of violence and instability. Rather than concentrating on drought and corruption, TRI CYCLING AFRICA focuses on the fine qualities of the indigenous peoples and the richness of their environment. While touching on the economic poverty and desperation of some of the locals, it reveals a hardy, happy, diverse population and a race of people that is noble and generous in its daily life. But there are frustrations: breakdowns, language barriers, exhaustion and theft leave the duo stranded and desperate.

Another side of Africa is also revealed that is not just wildlife savannah or desert, but a sparsely populated land that moves slowly from a sub-desert scrub, down to a tropical landscape. Neither of these images is often connected with Africa.

All the action, excitement and emotion are captured with the freedom of a hand-held camera.

### **JEFF MCLEAN (PRODUCER / DIRECTOR / PRESENTER)**

Jeff McLean is currently a Project Manager at Salmat – a large mailing and imaging company located in Melbourne. He previously rode a human powered tricycle from Vietnam to England (over 16,000 km) through Asia and Europe, and has written a book about the lessons he learned from the peoples of the world he encountered. That book “3 Wheels, 2 Continents, 1 People” inspired this film. This is the first time that Jeff has visited Africa. Jeff has volunteered at a local radio station since 1995 and speaks at community and corporate functions covering themes such as fear, travel, cultural diversity and achievement.

### **MARTY POWELSE (CAMERA / EDITOR / NARRATOR)**

Marty Pouwelse is doing what he loves as a Professional Photographer, running the gamut from portraits, weddings, events and commercial work to landscapes, cityscapes and severe weather. He previously worked for Austereo in Brisbane as an Audio Production Engineer for radio stations Triple M and B105. Marty has won several state and national commercial radio awards and a number of nominations for achievement in Production. As well as shooting and editing this film, he also took on the role of narrator. This journey was the first time that Marty had cycled a long distance, and was his first travel outside Australia.



## JOURNEY DETAILS

Location:	<b>WEST AFRICA</b>
Duration of journey:	<b>7 ½ WEEKS</b>
Arrival in Mali:	<b>3rd OCTOBER</b>
Return deadline from Benin:	<b>25th NOVEMBER</b>
Distance of journey pedalled:	<b>1000 km</b>
Total distance of journey:	<b>3500 km</b>
Countries visited:	<b>MALI, BURKINA FASO, GHANA, TOGO, BENIN</b>
Vehicle:	<b>GREENSPEED TANDEM RECUMBENT TRICYCLE</b>
Camera:	<b>PANASONIC 3CCD MiniDV</b>
Camping equipment:	<b>NONE</b>
Support crew:	<b>NONE</b>
Fixed route:	<b>NONE</b>

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

*West Africa was chosen as the destination to show that people could be trusted in most regions of the world, despite the irrational fears that a person may have due to various natural degrees of ignorance. We could have gone to Turkey, Iran and Pakistan, places that affected me so strongly and positively in this regard, and documented in my book "3 Wheels, 2 Continents, 1 People", but the integrity of the shoot would have been compromised considering I'd already visited these places.*

*I wanted to honestly capture both my own reactions and the reactions of the general public, in a place where I had only the most cursory knowledge of a country and its peoples. In researching possible destinations, I chose to avoid those few countries in West Africa on the brink of or experiencing civil war. While I had no intention of placing Marty, my cameraman, and I in any harm, I did want to steer clear of regions that are well known and visited amongst travellers and tourists alike. The result is, I think, a film of interest to a wide demographic. It has a couple of great twists near the end, and will delight those who have come along for the ride.*

**Jeff McLean**

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