



## How Can You Co-Write 'Cycling Solo'?

600 words interview

### **Cycling Solo: Ireland to Istanbul**

by Hazel Edwards & Trevelyan Quest Edwards

ISBN 1920785922 \$19.95

Brolga Publishers

Pan Macmillan Distribution

[www.hazeledwards.com](http://www.hazeledwards.com) for details

Q. Is Quest his real name?

A. Yes.

Q. How did you collaborate on the book 'Cycling Solo'?

A. He did ALL the cycling, camped out and wrote the blog in internet cafes. I helped with editing it into a book and providing the family reflection. (Reversed section at end of book)

Q. Mother-son co-authors are unusual collaborators. What else has Trevelyan written?

A. He was the quirky three years old who inspired 'There's a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake.' 28 years ago. He's published a humorous 'Backpacking' article and helped with research for my latest YA novel 'Outback Ferals'(Hachette) which is set in Darwin.

Q. Why did you co-write?

A. So many were enjoying his quirky observations that the ex-blog had wider, longterm appeal. Since he's a cartographer, it was also a kind of mind-mapping.

Q. In what way is blogging the new electronic autobiography? '

A. Records significant experience in the moment. Has immediacy he would have lost if he had waited to write on his return.

Q. How does Cycling Solo differ from most rambling, ego-centric blogs?

Easily- read, candid observer with a sense of humour as well as being a survivor; camping on a budget of next- to- nothing while cycling alone for five months. No watch, just a compass.

Q. Who is the audience?

A. Already has fans in cycling clubs. Many twenty- and thirty-something's INTEND to 'do' an extreme adventure, somewhere exotic, but most just dream or join the coach tour. So there is an international market of wannabes for secondhand, vicarious adventure from a first person viewpoint. Also has long term appeal for those interested in the educational aspect of blogging as it fits the journeys/quest theme for senior secondary students. Reflection which evaluates Blogging Bicycology means a comparable readership to my 'Antarctic Writer on ice' based on e-mails from my Antarctic expedition, where the electronic method of recording the process is as valid as the content.

Q. Why did he cycle alone for five months?

Personal quest. Fit. Broke.

Q. Are you still talking to each other?

A. Yes.

Q. How long did it take to write?

A. He arrived home with the bike in bits in September and we've got the book out in just under a year as he's now working back in Darwin, so we edited by e-mail and Skype.

Q. Why did you do it?

A. Editing his blog has made us closer. Trevelyan doesn't even have a watch and I'm ultra time conscious, so we're very different personalities. Orienteering was a family sport which meant map reading and getting lost were weekly challenges, but the family that electronically writes and explores together, stays together.

Q. What makes it different?

A. Anecdotal headings rather than chapters, reflect the blogging style. Has photos with quirky captions...

Extract:

At the start, Irish people took pity on the stupid bloke on a bike who was wet and frozen and brought their pragmatism to my proposed journey.

‘Och aye, Istanbul’s a long way laddie, you should fly.’

‘Well, I want to see what’s in between.’

‘Drive then.’

‘I can’t afford that.’

‘Train.’

‘Trains only go to the cities and they’re too expensive.’

‘Bus then.’

I have an aversion to buses too. Mate, I’ve spent days on them travelling around Oz and I don’t think I could handle Contiki.

‘Well then laddie, if you don’t want to drive, and you want to go on two wheels, a motorbike’s your answer.’

I didn’t have much money; I had time and didn’t mind roughing it. So a deadly tready was my way.

Trevelyan Quest Edwards &  
Hazel Edwards ([www.hazeledwards.com](http://www.hazeledwards.com))