



17,800km in the name of charity

By THOM KLEIN

THE scenic setting of Bonny Hills heralded the start of a well-earned break for a group of fundraising cyclists on Friday.

A dozen pedal-pushers swapped the challenge of the saddle for a weekend of relaxation in the Hastings area as they completed another leg of the Great Australian Bike Ride.

A reception party of Rotary Club members welcomed the

riders and their nine-strong support team to the Bonny Hills Uniting Church Conference Centre, where they met 36 young people attending the Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly (RYLA).

Money raised from the ride will go towards the Australian Rotary Health's \$4 million fund that provides scholarships and research grants for mental illness.

Having got underway in Melbourne on March 21, the ride will take in 17,800km of Australian roads and is made

up of nine stages.

The Bonny Hills stop-off meant the seven cyclists completing the entire ride had completed 2300km, around the halfway mark of the fourth stage from Sydney to Brisbane. RYLA representative Damian Jackson presented ride support manager Denis Green with a cheque for \$1000 raised by the young leaders, with a further \$1000 going to a local cause. The ride will finish in Melbourne on World Mental Health Day on October 10.



□ **If it's Friday, it must be Bonny Hills:** RYLA participant Stuart Southwell (back, right) points to the latest port of call for the Great Australian Bike Ride. Helping to raise awareness and funds for mental health issues on Friday were cyclists Tom Brown, John Farrugia, Roberta Gordon, Karen Brown and Gonny Rundell, with local RYLA members Kathryn Charlier, Brookes Spokes and Damian Jackson.