



■ **WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE:** Cootamundra Bradman Birthplace volunteer, Eric Thorburn (third from left) shows riders of the Great Australian Bike Ride the room in which Bradman was born in. Pictured with Eric are Karen and David Brown and Malcolm Nicholson.

Riders see Birthplace

ALTHOUGH the 14 riders who are taking part in the stage three leg of the Great Australian Bike Ride have spent the majority of their time in the saddle, they still want to see as many tourist attractions as they can along the way.

During their recent stop over in Cootamundra, the riders of the Great Australian Bike Ride supported by Rotary Health met up with local Rotarians at a dinner held at the Country Club.

Cootamundra Mayor and local Rotarian, Paul Braybrooks, managed to pull some strings in opening the

Bradman's Birthplace Cottage in Adams Street earlier than normal, so the riders could enjoy one of Cootamundra's most famous attractions.

The riders met at the Birthplace early Wednesday morning, before departing from the front of the Cottage for the next stretch of their 204 day trek around Australia, heading for Harden and Boorowa later that afternoon.

The riders were given a guided tour by Bradman Birthplace volunteer, Eric Thorburn.



■ **WOW WHAT A RIDE:** Great Australian Bike Riders (second from left) Roberta Gordon and John Farrugia (far right) were pictured telling immediate past president of the Cootamundra Rotary Club, Richard Hicks about where their mammoth 17,000 kilometre bike ride across the country will take them. Both Roberta and John are taking part in the full bike ride challenge around Australia which raises funds and awareness for mental health.

Great Australian Bike Ride passes through Coota

COOTAMUNDRA became the temporary home for a group of cyclists, support riders and vehicles during a stop over on Tuesday night.

The riders who are aged between 18 and 80 are riding around Australia, a total of more than 17,000 kilometres as part of the Great Australian Bike Ride, which raises funds and awareness for mental health.

The ride commenced on March 21, with the first leg from Melbourne to Hobart, which saw 74 riders taking part, 204 days later the ride will conclude back in Melbourne on October 10, World Mental Health Day.

The riders travelled from Wagga on Tuesday, where they were treated to a barbecue dinner at the Cootamundra Country Club, hosted by members of the Cootamundra Rotary Club.

Wednesday morning saw the riders depart Cootamundra leaving from Bradman's Birthplace in Adams Street, heading for Harden and Boorowa.

During the rider's departure from Cootamundra they were

accompanied by members of the local Bicycle Users Group.

The ride is supported by Rotary Health, with the majority of the riders being members of or partners of Rotarians.

This year's ride is the first Great Bike Ride across Australia of this scale, the ride initiative came after members of the Rotary District 9810, from the south east of Melbourne into the Yarra Valley decided to complete a week long ride each year, with the ride growing to a nation wide scale.

To date the ride has raised \$3.5 million for mental health.

According to Ride Director, Geoff Kennedy, before the riders even got into their bike saddles, organisers spent approximately 20 months in forward planing of the Great Ride.

While in Cootamundra, the riders were either home hosted, or were accommodated at local motels, hotels and the caravan park.

There is still room for riders to participate

For more information to follow the ride around the country or to make a donation visit www.greataustralianbikeride.org.au.