



# Hidden Valley swaps V8 power for pedal power

By **REBEKAH CAVANAGH**

DARWIN'S Hidden Valley was home to revving V8 Supercars last week but yesterday it was all about pedal power at the 2.8km race track.

About 70 amateur and experienced riders of all ages hit the track on their bicycles as part of the Top End Rotary's Pedal Power Bike Ride Challenge.

Throwing a leg over a bike and doing three laps was a bit of a challenge for Joanne Schilling who said she had not ridden a bike for almost three years.

The former Rotary district governor got into the spirit of the ride by wearing a tutu, as promised to her friends and colleagues.

"After three laps my legs are more or less jelly," she said. "Everyone was joking that I wouldn't be able to do it and that we'd need an ambulance waiting for me at the end, so I'm rapt to have finished three laps

— and that's without any stacks."

Ms Schilling, 56, said she personally raised \$950 for the challenge.

"I told all my work colleagues I was risking life and limb and they all threw their hands up to donate money," the education department worker said.

Event committee chairman John Palamountain said the family event promoted healthy living while raising funds for the Australian Rotary Health Research Foundation.

It coincided with the arrival of cyclists in Darwin riding in the Great Australian Bike Ride — a nine-stage ride around the country that began in Melbourne on March 21 and will finish back there on October 10. They also took part in the challenge.



**PEDAL TO THE METAL:** The gang all set to hit the bitumen to raise money for charity. Picture: KATRINA WOODWARD