



Bike ride passes through Kiama

AFTER a huge send off from Melbourne's Treasury Gardens on March 21, cyclists in the Great Australian Bike Ride made a stop in Kiama yesterday.

The cyclists were making their way towards Wollongong for an overnight stay before completing three of the nine stages of their epic 17,800km event.

The Great Australian Bike Ride aims to raise awareness of mental illness and funds for mental health research and education programs supported by Australian Rotary Health.

Cyclists rode around Tasmania

and made their way back through Victoria and NSW via the Riverina, Canberra, Goulburn, the Southern Highlands and Wollongong and will arrive in Parramatta tomorrow.

While most cyclists are taking part in one or two stages, four are riding the entire way around Australia - Victorians Gonny Rundell and John Farrugia and Queenslanders Tom Brown and Roberta Gordon.

This elite group's ages range from 58 to 70.

However, not all participants have to use pedal power to reach the next town. The ride's support crew is

cruising along in the comfort of a colourful ride bedecked Winnebago and three Toyota Commuter buses while ride director Geoff Kennedy is travelling in a Rav 4 lent by Toyota as part of its support of the event.

This is a bike ride that no one could miss seeing as it tours Australia.

After riding 2200km to complete Stage 3, the riders will finish in Parramatta, the home of Australian Rotary Health.

They will then have two well-earned rest days before heading north for Brisbane.



• **Epic** cyclists: Queenslanders Roberta Gordon and Tom Brown and Victorians Gonny Rundell and John Farrugia during their stopover in Kiama yesterday.

Picture: ELENOR TEDENBORG