



Epic journey takes a breather among the hospitality of Burdekin Rotary clubs

A BICYCLE journey that started in Melbourne in March and will return to the southern city in October after a staged trip around Australia, made a brief stopover in Ayr last week.

Riders in the Great Australian Bike Ride were hosted by members of the Rotary Clubs of Ayr and Home Hill last Thursday night at the end of day 62 of their nine-stage trip around the nation.

The epic journey is part of the team's fund-raising efforts for Australian Rotary Health.

The 16 riders and their support crew were guests of the clubs at a dinner held in their honour in conjunction with the Ayr club's weekly meeting.

In a presentation to the meeting,

two of the riders told of their ride from Brisbane, the reasons for it and all the problems associated with the ride to date.

They spoke of the average distance each day being 110kms and the most in one day being 140 kms – which could not be achieved without the many volunteers and helpers who had given up so much of their time to assist.

The riders expressed their gratitude to the two clubs and their members, who hosted many of them in their homes.

They said that the public had been very generous in their support and all the funds raised would go towards support for mental illness.

Many of the riders had been af-

ected by this problem, which made it very personal to them.

Highlight of the evening was the presentation of a cheque for \$1000 to Tom Brown from Mission Beach – one of only four riders who will complete the full journey around Australia from Melbourne.

There was also an exchange of club banners from the Rotary Club of Bendigo Sandhurst to Home Hill Rotary Club past president John Woods and Ayr Club president Lex Cox.

The riders were flagged off by Mayor Lyn McLaughlin from Ayr on Friday morning as they commenced the next leg of their journey towards Townsville, before heading west on their Great Australian Bike Ride.



Great Australian Bike Ride team members, Bill and Antoinette Cunningham (centre) with Home Hill Rotary Club past president John Woods (left) and Ayr Rotary Club president Lex Cox at last Thursday night's dinner meeting.