



# A pedal into history

TOWNSVILLE'S new V8 Supercars track has been broken-in by cyclists from all over Australia as part of a fundraising tour across the country.

The 24 riders stopped off in Townsville to mark the fifth stage of the 17,800km Great Australian Bike Ride to raise funds for Australian Rotary Health's research into mental illness.

Rider and Townsville Daybreak Club Rotarian Marty Wilkinson, who joined the Proserpine to Townsville and Townsville to Charters Towers legs, was thrilled to be breaking-in the track ahead of national motorsport heroes.

"I'm really excited to be one of the first to ride on the V8 track, and I'm sure the other riders were too," he said.

"When I come to watch the V8s in July I will certainly take pleasure in knowing my

wheels have been on the track before theirs – just maybe not going as fast."

Members of the public and North Queensland Fury players Jacob Timpano and Marton Vass joined the riders on the new street circuit.

Townsville 400 committee chair, Cr Tony Parsons, said the opening of the track gave the community a good opportunity to view the top-class facilities while supporting a good cause.

"The Townsville track will be one of the best of its type in Australia and it's great that riders of the Great Australian Bike Ride were first to take a spin on it," he said.

"There's a real buzz starting to build in the city as the event gets closer and the arrival of the riders at the Reid Park track was a perfect opportunity for the community to have a look at the progress on the facilities and support a worthy cause at the same time."



NQ Fury players Jacob Timpano (left) and Marton Vass joined riders participating in the Great Australian Bike Ride for a pedal around the V8 track *Photo: David BROCK-GRAHAM JJ125514*