



Great Australian Bike Ride

The epic 17,800 kilometre ride around Australia to raise awareness and funds for mental health research and education programs, known as the "Great Australian Bike Ride", travelled through Robinvale last Friday and visitors and locals alike all enjoyed the adventure.

Robinvale Euston Rotary hosted the riders on Friday, after they came in the cold wet weather from Mildura and rested at the Robinvale Leisure Centre where they enjoyed showers and lunch. The riders and their crews were able to enjoy all the comforts of home, thanks to the generosity of the following community minded people who gave them a place to stay.

Dougal and Gloria Leslie, Pat and Mary Curran, Bob and Aileen Norton, Gary and Jenny Letts, Bill and Val McGinty, Len and Beryl Arnott, Brian and Rosalie Handreck, Reg and

Margaret Jackson, Michael Scragg, Peter and Sharron Jury, Trevor and Clare Jury and Vin and Ann Walsh.

Rotary thanks all these people who helped to make the event so successful.

On the Friday night, Rotary put on a meal and had a guest speaker named Professor Michael Sawyer who talked about Mental Health. Professor Sawyer is Head Researcher at the Evaluation Unit at the Women's and Children's Hospital in South Australia and Professor, Discipline of Paediatrics at the University of Adelaide.

Along with these impressive qualifications, Professor Sawyer is also the Chair of the Australian Rotary Health Research Committee. His research has focused on the quality of life of children with chronic illnesses and epidemiology of child and adolescent mental disorders. He is currently the lead investigator of the research team responsible for evaluating the 'beyond blue' Schools' Research Initiative. At the dinner, Professor Sawyer gave some staggering statistics about mental health and young people. He also

talked about the research that Rotary was involved in and his ideas on a preventative approach to dealing with the impact of mental health on young people. The evening was not only entertaining, but guests enjoyed great food as well. Rotary would like to thank Natalie Puleio and Mary Violi who helped on the night.

After a good rest, the riders headed off to Balranald and were accompanied by local Robinvale Bike Riders. The participants in the Great Australian Bike Ride hope to reach Melbourne by Saturday.

