MEDIA MONITORS

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Epic ride coming to an end

AFTER 198 days on the road, the Great Australian Bike Ride arrived in Swan Hill yesterday afternoon.

The 17,800 kilometre event to raise money for mental health research began in Melbourne in March, circumnavigated Tasmania and then travelled through Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia.

While most of the 140 riders are cycling one or two stages, four have ridden the entire way.

The ride is being held to raise money for Australian Rotary Health mental health research and education programs.

It is also aimed at addressing the stigma and myths associated with mental illness.

The riders stayed in Swan Hill last night, enjoyed a meal prepared by the local Rotary Club and will leave for Boort this morning.

Swan Hill Rural City Council Mayor Greg Cruickshank will flag the group off on their leg to Boort at 8am at the information centre on Curlewis Street.

They will finish their epic journey in Melbourne on Saturday, with a mad hatters' party in Carlton.

To donate or sponsor a rider, visit www.greataustralianbikeride.org.au.

Mental Health Week will also be launched in Swan Hill today with a community event at Riverside Park from 11.30am.

FUNDRAISER: Riders after their trek from Balranald to Swan Hill yesterday.

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