

Cyclists ride for polio fight

BY MATT MCLENNAN

JIMBOOMBA Rotary members aim to host another Australia Day cycling event next year, such was the success of the inaugural event last week.

Cyclists hit the road in the early hours, in a ride which served two purposes.

It helped to raise funds to fight polio, while also celebrating the 100th birthday of Rotary in Australia and New Zealand.

One rider was on board for every year, with all 100 departing Jimboomba for the scenic ride in the dim light of the early hours.

They rode from Jimboomba to Beaudesert and back, taking in a scenic but challenging route.

Heat and fog affected the pack, with visibility low when the riders went through Biddiddaba about 5.45am.

Cars were few and far between on the course, and Beaudesert Cycling Club president Rick Gillow said the drivers the cyclists encountered were courteous.

Some riders set off from Selwyn Park, Beaudesert, for



PELOTON: A large group of cyclists set off in the early hours of this morning.

a 34km ride to Jimboomba.

Police were on hand to help hydrate the riders at a special stop at Beaudesert IGA.

Riders met at Jimboomba Community and District Hall

to celebrate the day with an Aussie staple - a barbecue.

They swapped stories of their quick times and ride exploits.

Mr Gillow said the ride would become a regular

fixture, with many spruiking the event and the generosity of organisers over breakfast.

"Subject to Rotary and the police, but we have had quite a lot feedback saying it would be great to have an annual

event," he said.

"We might alter the route, as it could be a bit boring, doing the same route all the time."

Mr Gillow said some little things might be altered, but

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Rick Gillow

overall, organisers were happy with the format.

"It has been almost faultless," Mr Gillow said.

Visiting Brisbane riders said they loved riding on Logan and Scenic Rim's roads, and the fry up afterwards.

Rotary clubs of Beaudesert and Jimboomba, Beaudesert's satellite club and the cycling club combined to host the ride.

Rotary Australia, the Australia Day Council and Logan City Council chipped in to raise vital funds.

Rotary said that, on average, it cost \$3 to protect a child from polio, a crippling disease which has been eradicated in large parts of the world.

It is still prevalent in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

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