

Cyclists ride to remember



IN THEIR MEMORY: More than 200 Bendigo cyclists took part in a ride to honour those who have been killed or injured on the road. Full story — Page 2.

Picture: LAURA SCOTT

Cyclists remember mates on silent ride

By RACHEL BROWN

BENDIGO bike riders paid tribute to killed and injured cyclists in a silent road event at the weekend.

More than 200 recreational, competitive and social participants turned out for Bendigo's inaugural Ride of Silence, which started nationally last year.

Participants converged in Epsom for the start of the 8 km ride, which travelled along Napier Street and ended at the war museum in Pall Mall.

Bendigo Ride of Silence spokesperson Eddie Barkla said the city's cycling clubs were strongly represented, along with members from the Bendigo Cycling Network, which attracts up to 300 social riders at regular meets.

"We're overwhelmed with the support for the first ride and for all the affiliations to join together," Mr Barkla said.

"I believe this was the second event (to be held) outside Melbourne in Victoria and the second year Australia has taken part."

The Bendigo and District Cycling Club member, whose work colleague was killed in Ballarat two years ago, said the event was held across the globe, allowing cyclists to commemorate loved ones and old friends.

"The rides have three goals: to honour those who have been injured or killed; to raise awareness that we have a right as road users; and to ask that we all share the road."

During the ride, cyclists do not speak.

Some participants wear black armbands in memory of riders who have died on the road, while red is worn for the injured.

Mr Barkla said a second ride would be considered next year, with a possible fundraising element.