

In our schools

A reason to dream

MARIE BOLITHO

GOOD Shepherd Senior campus students were greeted by 15 young people all on bikes last week, to inspire them to think about sustainable consumption in their everyday lives.

The 15 bike riders started a 1300 km journey of rural Victoria on January 18 as part of the program 'Otesha' – Cycling for Sustainability.

Otesha is a Swahili word meaning 'reason to dream'.

The Otesha Project has been run since 2000 with young people pedalling all around Australia to send the message on environmental sustainability and social justice issues.

The crew combines theatre performances with interactive workshops to empower high school students to consider their life choices and ensure a positive future.

Otesha leader Julia Collin from Canberra said the program was a good opportunity to get into rural community and spread the word about sustainability.

"We are using our butt power to ride around the west of Victoria, visiting

schools and community groups to give an hour long theatrical presentation and also delivering some workshops and things," she said.

"Things we talk about are climate change, consumerism and food, the drought and sustainable transport."

She said the group consisted of people from the ages of 20 to 25 and came from as far as Perth, Brisbane, Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney, America and Canada.

Good Shepherd College senior campus student Jasmine Nuske said she enjoyed the performance and workshop.

"It was really good, they presented it really well and it was good they came to good shepherd," she said.

Jasmine said the performance was an eye opener as to how much water each person uses per day.

"Some things we learnt was about water usage, I didn't know how much water we use a day and it is a fair bit," she said.

"I am going to cut down on my water usage, like turning taps off when I brush my teeth."

Jasmine said she would like to see something like the Otesha project again.



OTESHA project riders all have a break after a theatrical performance and delivering workshops to students of Good Shepherd senior campus on the environment and sustainability.