

Raising awareness about driving

YEAR 11 students from Whitsunday Christian College, Proserpine High School and Bowen High School attended the Rotary Club's Youth Driving Awareness (RYDA) course last Thursday at the PCYC.

RYDA, which was created by Rotary in Sydney eight years ago, is now operating in five Australian states and in February of this year the course put through its 100,000 participant in Sydney.

This is however the first time the event has been held in Airlie Beach, where 140 16-year-old students from Whitsunday schools were educated in driver safety.

According to Queensland Operations Manager Michael Cullen, 16 is the target age for the program.

Students attended six sessions throughout the day with topics being stopping distances, hazard per-



Students from Proserpine High School along with volunteers from the Rotary Club attended Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) at the PCYC last week. Pictured are Lily Rogers, Kane Houchen, Sue Lewis, Pier Vallegra, Tyler Pavey and Reid Owen.

ception, self celebrating and fatigue, police discussions, road crash survivor stories, finance and insurance.

The sessions included powerful video presentations and visits from police officers, health professionals and a presentation by a crash survivor who has a debilitat-

ing injury as a result of a vehicle crash. RYDA co-ordinator from the Whitsundays Pier Vallegra started planning for last Thursday's event in October of last year and says it will be an annual event.

"It was a real eye opener for the students and we look forward to next year's group," he said.