

### OBERON TO FORBES – 31 March to 8 April 2001

Fourteen members including the Butler's young children, Steven and Kimberley, enjoyed The RTA Big Ride from Oberon to Forbes in glorious cycling weather. After a faltering start with trailer light problems they arrived in Oberon just in time to make the official start. The "Ride to the Ride" riders were all there ready to go.

The first two days were up and down, with the gravel hill on the first day beating some, and Cherry Tree Hill on the second seeming to go on forever. Some long, fast downhills were also experienced.

It was good to catch up with a number of old friends as well as making new ones. "Henry Lawson's Mates" in Gulgong was a good show and many enjoyable dinners in the Brasserie were had. The rest day in Wellington saw some retreating to the pub for soft beds and we lost one member to some new Sydney acquaintances only to reappear on the last day for the bus home. Marksy missed his game of golf and Steven and Kimberley were stars of the Red Faces show on Wednesday night. Cumnock (pop 300) will not forget the 1700 invaders on Thursday night the only pub in town had to send for emergency supplies mid afternoon to last the night.

The riding became more undulating as the ride headed south for Canowindra and Grenfell with the glorious weather continuing. Good times were recorded by many as they found their rhythm and the kilometres slid by. A little more gravel near Goolagong tested the skinny tyred troops. The warm days meant many thirsty riders in the afternoons and busy times in the local watering holes.

Grenfell put on a big fireworks display and Street Party to help celebrate the last night of the ride. The last day was a strong headwind as we headed to Forbes. This made it hard going with the disappointed Butlers missing the massed finish. Nevertheless, a great ride was had by all.

Shayne, Greg and Pam, supported by Bevan, rode home from Forbes to complete their ride while Geoff and Leo found excuses to hitch rides.

Thanks to Ray Stenhouse and Jan Whitlock for organising the transport, the Butlers for taking the trailer to Oberon at short notice and Shayne Godde for organising the rest day accommodation (second time lucky).