

Bicycle Wagga Wagga – Ride Report

Mudgee on Bike Fridays

A BIKE FRIDAY TOUR OF MUDGEE – 5 – 8 November 2009 – David and Lisa Glastonbury

We're always keen to go for a bike ride to somewhere new and different, so over the weekend 5 – 8 November we joined up with a group of Bike Friday enthusiasts to ride from Capertee near Lithgow to Mudgee and Gulgong in the NSW Central West.

To join this ride we had erected our small tent in Mudgee and caught the Thursday morning, 6.45am CountryLink bus from Mudgee, complete with folded bikes, to the rendezvous location and breakfast in Capertee.



Capertee Valley

For the first day, Thursday, we rode as a group of seven along the spectacular Capertee River Valley, through a unique landscape of rich river grazing flats bordered by sandstone canyons forming the Gardens of Stone and the equally spectacular Wollemi National Parks.

Given the continual presence of sandstone escarpments to the east, it was quite difficult to accept that we were still on the “eastern or coastal” side of the Great Dividing Range however we eventually got the geography right as we made the long climb over the Dividing Range.



Rylstone Streetscape

Our first evening was spent in the picturesque and historic township of Rylstone. This village is largely unspoilt and retains its sandstone architecture of civic buildings and residential cottages set along wide Plane Tree lined streets. As would be expected of a village with this character there are now many quaint shops to explore and cafes in which to relax at the end of a great day's ride.

The group spent the night at the historic Globe Hotel and enjoyed dinner and a bottle or two of local wine in the attached garden Bistro.

The route on Friday was somewhat less hilly and took us through the village of Lue before winding past many green and luxurious vineyards into Mudgee.

In Mudgee we joined up with about 35 Bike Friday owners and riders who were visiting Mudgee for an annual get together. Just about every configuration of Bike Friday was represented from tandems to Pocket Rockets.

We really enjoy these get togethers to hear the stories of the many travels undertaken by these Bike Friday cycle tourists. It certainly does promote an urge to go cycle touring!

Our ride on Saturday was from Mudgee to Gulgong, a return trip of about 80km. Whilst we were in Gulgong for perhaps a couple of hours, one could spend days exploring this unique village of narrow streets that wind between quaint clapboard and iron buildings complete with verandas and iron lace. The village precinct contains approximately 130 buildings classified by the National Trust.

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Butcher Shop Café, Gulgong

Dinner on Saturday night gave further opportunity for exchange of travel tales over a glass or two of excellent Mudgee Shiraz.

On Sunday morning we all enjoyed another group ride of about 40km around the Cudgegong River Valley which passes through Mudgee and is crowded with many vineyards.

The weekend and the cycle tour ended as would be expected with another scrumptious dinner at the local boutique brewery.