

## **Bicycle Wagga Wagga – Ride Report Iandra Castle Weekend 2005**

**Iandra Castle and Stockinbingal - 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> October 2005 – Heather Pearce**



A bunch of happy riders on the balcony of Iandra Castle.

The BWW group held another successful riding venture on Saturday and Sunday 29/30 October. This time we toured in the Young/Cootamundra region. Kerrie Burkett was tour leader and had an action packed weekend planned for us.

Around 14 riders from Wagga, Cootamundra and Young assembled themselves and their bikes at the Young Railway Station for a 9 o'clock start. We left Young in high spirits which were short lived as we encountered the first of many rolling hills before we even left town. The group made their way to Monteagle without any troubles enjoying the sights and sounds of the

country road that we travelled on. We all stopped and had our first break at the town hall. Shade was also very welcome as the weather was quite warm and humid. After a 15 minute break we all headed off for the Iandra Castle.

The first group to arrive at the Castle were confronted by three people at the gates, one on horseback. We were informed that they were going to stage a hold-up of a coach in 10 minutes and that we were welcome to watch but had to hide behind the trees out of sight. So we did, thinking that it was better to be there then to travel on further and upset the horses pulling the coach. So there were 11 riders crouched down among the trees waiting for the coach to arrive, which it did, a minibus with elderly people onboard. The horse rider pulled the coach over waving a pistol, then entered the coach, as he did our three other riders came down the hill and passed by without seeing the rest of the group hidden amongst the trees. Thankfully the horse rider had been out of sight because who knows what would have happened had they seen the rider with his gun pointed at the coach. After a few laughs we all set off to catch up to the rest of the group to turn around and go back to the Castle for our noon tour.

After a brief history given by the tour operator we all leisurely made our way around the Castle and then enjoyed a lovely hamper lunch prepared for us. We then set off for our return journey to Young. After saying goodbye to the travellers from Junee and Young the remainder of the group drove to Cootamundra for the overnight stay.

During the evening festivities we all agreed that we would ride to Stockinbingal which was around a 44km return trip.

We all met up on Sunday and enjoyed a breakfast which was a charity event for the Cancer Council of Cootamundra then hopped on our bikes for another hilly ride out to Stockinbingal. The weather was overcast but we were not fazed as the countryside around this area is spectacular. We set off at 9.30 in a group of 11 with riders from Wagga, Coota, Young and Canberra.

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Arriving very early at Stock we decided to have brunch in the little country store and take in the antiques housed in the old school building next door. During this time the rain started to fall so we decided to make our way back despite the drizzle. The trip out was quite pleasant with a few hills and a tailwind, we were not too excited about the return trip if a headwind was around and the same hills were travelled, but on the return, thanks to the rain, the wind subsided to nothing. We were wet but it was still quite warm with only the hills slowing us down.

Upon arriving back to Coota we were greeted by the Motel owner offering us the use of a shower and towels before heading home which we all were grateful for. A quick lunch then home we all headed.

It was a wonderful weekend spent with great friends and a fantastic job was done by Kerry and her husband, Shane, who helped out in many ways. The tour was well promoted and supported, nothing was too much trouble for Kerry and Shane who had arranged everything in advance but were able to handle any last minute changes with ease and had taken into account everyone's needs to ensure a perfect weekend was had by all. Thank you both from all of your fellow bike riders.