

14-17 April 2006 – Bruce Hackett

The Easter Rides are becoming an annual event in the BWW Calendar and this year the rides were once again well supported. It was good to have Ben and Barb in Wagga again and to see how Nicholas has grown in stature and confidence. We were also able to welcome two other visitors from Wollongong on their touring tandem.

The mountain bike option on Friday proved popular with fifteen riders. Some riders thought the River Trail was scary and challenging but none took up the option of bypassing The Quarry. Some were seen to walk up the steep and eroded gully but the ride down to Kapooka was nothing short of exhilarating. A sudden rainsquall forced us to take shelter under the bridge at the barracks entrance, but a thorough dousing during another squall on the road back could not be avoided. After bypassing the planned Silverlite Reserve Route, the return journey was via Ashmont and Dobney Avenues and the walkways and cycleways. Only a few riders accepted the invitation to Afternoon Tea at Wollundry Avenue, where we were able to dry off before enjoying the delicious scones with jam and cream while comparing notes with those who enjoyed the road option.

On Saturday the Ladysmith Ride was again an enjoyable day with Leila and David providing back up and the Ladysmith Store excelling itself in the provision of sandwiches and coffee for lunch in the warm autumn sunshine. I passed on the dinner at the RSL Club but I'm led to believe that the seventeen people who were present had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

On Monday the ride was the clockwise Uranquinty loop, which was a new experience for me and proved another enjoyable ride. It was also my first experience of the Quinty Bakery, where the Wholemeal Sandwich with lots of salad was enough to sustain me for the rest of the day. A confrontation between one cyclist and a motorist at Kapooka Bridge looked like getting lively but was eventually resolved amicably, and for some at least the day and most enjoyable weekend ended with more tea and scones at Wollundry Avenue.