



May 2002

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Safety Strategy Group

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## General Meeting

Bolton Park Stadium was the venue for a General Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2002.

There was a small representation of members other than Committee members. One of the items discussed was the production of a BWW ride calendar that details rides planned for some time in advance. This will need some work yet before it becomes a reality. Any suggestions or offers to lead rides can be made to any of the Committee members.

It was decided at this meeting to donate a Club jersey to the RTA Big Ride to auction for MS. The jersey raised \$115!

## Tumbafest

There was a small contingent of riders going to Tumba this year, however they reported a great ride combined with several activities, which was well worth the trip.

## Wangaratta BUG

Those who went reported a well organised and interesting weekend, with good weather thrown in. The riders came from all over Victoria and the organisers were especially pleased to see the NSW visitors.

One really good point was to see the Buchan family out and about on their bikes. It was very pleasing to see Graeme once again enjoying the delights of cycling after a long recuperation from his injuries. Although the pace may have been subdued to what it once was it is understood that Vanessa can produce a fair turn of speed when pointed in the right direction.

This may become an annual event, so you may get a chance to join the group next year.

## Audax Rides at Tumut

Four members participated in the 100km ride, but that wasn't enough for one chap who couldn't resist more! Carol, Ian, Ray, and Craig pedalled their way around the 100km route that eventually took them out past Brungle to the Gundagai Polo Club. Craig, despite having a flat tyre, decided 100km just wasn't enough and lined up for the 200km on the Sunday (and more punctures) followed by the 50km on the Monday.

## The RTA Big Ride

Some of the several members who participated in this ride are maintaining that all the stories about "what happens on the ride stay on the ride". However they will say it was very enjoyable with great weather and scenery.

The bus to and from the RTA Big Ride proved to be very successful with 12 people using it. Most went all the way however we did manage to pick up a few passengers along the way. The riders arrived at Manilla late on the Friday preceding the start and set up camp for the first time.

After breakfast the group was joined by their intrepid "Ride to the Ride" friends. Shayne was heard to say that there would be no "Ride to the Ride" next year and that she would be taking the bus. Well, we've heard that before so we'll believe it when we see it.

With our bike boxes safely in the custody of Fitzzy most rode down to the start however there was one who couldn't manage this due to a slight technical problem with a tyre however it was nothing that a new one couldn't fix. Another of our company had to call for a new tyre too on Day 1 as 400 metres into the ride there was a loud bang which scared most of the surrounding riders with them thinking someone had fired a gun. A radio call

back to the start soon saw a new tyre delivered and the tyre changed.

As indicated earlier the weather was great. There was only a small fall of rain at Bundarra to dampen the riders' enthusiasm and even this didn't manage to cause much grief. Generally the days were fine and sunny, not too hot, not too cold with the nights not being too cold to be unbearable.

The ride route was interesting with a few challenges for most. Some people tried to whip themselves into a frenzy in preparation for the supposed horror day, Bundarra to Guyra, but even this day did not cause any of our group to call for the sag wagon. This day did see the pupil beat the coach into camp and this saw a change in the dynamics even if only momentarily. It does have to be stated though that the coach did stop for afternoon tea whereas the pupil didn't.

The nine days quickly evaporated with a number of entertaining activities to help pass the time. The rest day in Inverell was enjoyed, as were the delights that were found at each of the towns visited by the riders. Before we knew it it was all over for another year as the group crossed the finish line at Walcha riding in formation.

We found Fitzy, who had come across from Tamworth, recovered the bike boxes and set about preparing for the trip home. The bus arrived back in Wagga in the early hours of Monday morning with most of the passengers just a little bit weary from the nine days of fun.

The ride was a great success from many perspectives. All the riders made new friends and caught up with friends made on previous rides. The weather was good, the riding was good, the scenery was good, the company was good, in fact, everything was good. Is it any wonder then that there were some riders suffering from the newly identified affliction – Post Ride Depression?

Not only was Bicycle Wagga Wagga well represented with cyclists we were well represented with our members also volunteering their services. Milton Wilson, together with his lovely wife Sandra, were instrumental in providing one of the most sought after services on the ride. Milton coordinated a group of 10 masseurs that set up each day at the various campsites.

Sandra made sure that everyone who needed to use this service was fitted in much to the relief of many cyclists and their tender parts. The RTA Big Ride

would not be able to operate as it does without the work done by the volunteers. These people give of their time and energies to provide a great range of services, ranging from massage in which the Wilsons were involved to food preparation and route marshalling.

We are particularly proud of the Wilsons and their contribution. They have been doing this for a number of years and their efforts, and that of the other volunteers is appreciated by all of the riders.

The massage services are provided on a donation basis and Milton and his team raised over \$2700 for Multiple Sclerosis. The ride is used as the major fund-raiser for MS and many riders also choose to be fund-raisers. This year Greg Fell and Ray Stenhouse both are fund-raisers. While they are now into the collection phase of their activities it is not too late to make a donation. Should you wish to contribute please contact Greg on 6922 3474 or Ray on 6921 4552. Any donation over \$2 is tax deductible and a receipt will be issued.

Next year's ride will begin in or near Sydney in March. The route has yet to be finalised however it is anticipated that it will pass through the Southern Highlands before heading west. Getting to and from the ride next year should be easier than it was this year. All of this year's participants would recommend the ride so start your planning now.

## Club Clothing

The polo shirts are now available, and you should already see some people sporting them. These look very smart and are available in white or a lovely yellow. The shirts are available in the full range of sizes. The sizes are fairly generous – check with a member who has one before you order.

The cost is \$27.50, and you can obtain one by going to Buchanan's Embroidery at 40 Tompson St., and showing your BWW membership receipt.



*Bicycle Wagga Wagga and known associates at Inverell.*

## Regular Sunday Rides

The regular Sunday afternoon rides continue to start at 2:00pm at Wagga Wagga Beach. These rides have been generally finishing up at Scribbles Café on Fitzmaurice Street. The rides continue to run according to “who turns up”, so some effort is made to accommodate all riders. **This may change if a detailed advanced ride calendar is developed. What do you think?** Chat about it to one of the Committee members.

Remember to bring a few dollars so that you can have a coffee and cake afterwards.

## Mountain Bike News

**Night Rides** - Martin Zweep reports a strong interest in the night rides each Wednesday, with some regular participants.

Meet at the Museum carpark at 7:00pm if you wish to join these rides.

**Weekend Rides** - There is a trip away from Wagga on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Check the “Riverina Leader” for details each week. Trips have been made to Tumbarumba, Livingstone, Beechworth, and several members participated in the “Gold Rush” ride recently.

**Bicycle Orienteering** - Martin also has some information about “Bike O” if you have any interest in this activity.

**Livingstone National Park** - Martin has drafted a response from BWV to National Parks and Wildlife Service suggesting that Livingstone NP be retained as a venue for mountain biking, and detailed reasons for this.

**Contact** - Martin can be contacted on 6931 8926 (ah) if you require further

details about any of the mountain bike rides. Martin is especially keen to use electronic means to let MTB riders know what is happening. Please drop Martin an e-mail at [mzweep@csu.edu.au](mailto:mzweep@csu.edu.au) if you can use this method of communication.

## Junee Family Recreational Day – May 19<sup>th</sup>

Everyone is invited to join the celebrations at Junee on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> when a Family Recreational Day will be held.

The day will commence at 10.30am at Memorial Park, with a ride around the town. There are lots of giveaways and fun for kids, so it will be a great family day, as well as a good chance to sample the new bikeways in Junee. There will be free cool drinks at a couple of venues, a free bike safety check, lots of free special helium balloons, money boxes, drink bottles and T-shirts. Lunch will be available for purchase from community groups. The whole day is being supported by the Junee Shire Council, the Police, Lions, Rescue Squad and numerous others.

More seasoned riders will be accommodated also with a 20 to 50km ride starting at 1:30pm. This will allow you to go out earlier, do the ride around town, have lunch and do a more substantial ride in the afternoon. There are also 20km, 30km and 70km rides mapped out. The maps and information are available from Gillian if you are interested.

This is a tremendous opportunity for families, and the Junee organisers will be enormously pleased to have visitors – people from all around the region are being invited so it will be a great opportunity for a get-together.

## Social Weekend at Talbingo – 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> June

Bookings have been made for accommodation on Saturday and Sunday nights at the Talbingo Mountain Retreat for the Queen’s Birthday weekend. The weather will be fresh, so the cosy accommodation will be welcomed.

You will need to bring a towel, a pillow case, and either a sleeping bag or sheets for single beds (doonas and pillows are supplied). There are two beds per room and the cost is \$16.50 per person per night.

You will also need to provide your own breakfasts and lunches. It is envisaged that we dine out at the local club on the Saturday night, and have a BWV BBQ on the Sunday (to be confirmed). You can, of course, take food and prepare it at the Lodge if you desire.

Talbingo is a great place for both road and mountain bike enthusiasts. There is a veritable feast of dirt tracks, and plenty of opportunities to explore on all sorts of wheels, or even feet! The challenge of the Talbingo mountain climb on bitumen awaits the roadies, plus some more gentle rides once you are at the top. There are some great dirt tracks up there too.

The weekend lends itself to shorter rides on the Saturday with a big ride for those inclined on the Sunday.

Please make a booking with Geoff Marks on 6922 3814 as soon as you can – there are already quite a few going and there are limited numbers. Should be a top weekend!

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### SAFE CYCLING TIP

**Remember** - Bright clothes help people to see you when you are riding.

## To Yack & Back – 24<sup>th</sup> August

Graeme Brown is organising a 100km or 200km ride from Corowa. These rides are run under Audax rules. Graeme can be contacted on 6033 2668.

## Polaris Style Bike Rally

Martin Zweep is hoping to organise a combined bitumen / dirt rally in a couple of months. This should appeal to all styles of riders as it will involve points collected from various locations with different degrees of difficulty (distance or terrain). It will be arranged as a fun competition, and you will be able to collect similar points from paved routes and unpaved routes. Keep an eye on the Riverina Leader if it comes up before the next newsletter.

## Mid-week Rides

One of the successful rides conducted by other groups is a mid-week ride. We have been asked by several members about conducting these and have had one volunteer so far to lead a ride. If you are keen to join others for a regular ride, probably on Wednesday mornings, please contact Ray Stenhouse on 6921 4552.

## Bicycle Expo

The date set for the 2002 Bike Expo in Wagga Wagga is Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. At this stage, previous exhibitors are being notified of the date.

Please contact Graeme Buchan on 6922 8606 or Gillian Helyar on 6921 1651 if you would like to contribute in some way.

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### **SAFE CYCLING TIP**

**Remember** – Make certain that you wear your helmet correctly when you are riding.

## Bikeways Steering Committee and Bicycle Safety Strategy Group

If you have an interest in the development and maintenance of the bikeways network, and/or an interest in bicycle safety you may like to volunteer your skills/time to these activities.

Bicycle Wagga Wagga have representatives on the Bikeways Steering Committee. The Committee was formed during the development of Wagga Wagga City Council's Bikeways Plan. Since the adoption of the Plan in November 1997 the Committee took on an oversight role as the plan was implemented.

Now the Committee acts as a community advisory body. While Wagga Wagga continues to grow the needs of cyclists will constantly need to be reviewed just in the same manner as other transport options requirements are reviewed. It is through the Committee that Council can be made aware of potential and existing problems and that the future development of the city's bikeways can be directed.

The Wagga Wagga Bicycle Safety Strategy Group was formed as a result of Bicycle Wagga Wagga approaching the Roads and Traffic Authority with a request to develop a plan to increase cyclists' safety. The group has expanded to involve additional stakeholders including the Greater Murray Area Health Service, the NSW Police Service, Wagga Wagga City Council as well as the Wagga Wagga Cycling Club and the Tolland Cycling Club.

There is plenty of work to be done and perhaps it's an idea that you have that may be what is needed. More information can be obtained from Gillian Helyar on 6921 1651 – please don't be shy!!