



April 2003

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Committee Vacancies

Martin Zweep has left us for greener southern pastures. Gillian and Keith Helyar are in the last stages of organising themselves for an extended tour overseas. This leaves us with considerable, but not insurmountable, holes to fill on the Committee.

Martin was particularly active organising MTB rides, and the Urban Challenge among other things. We are hopeful that another mountain bike rider will step forward to continue the work that Martin began.

Gillian has been extremely active being our representative on the Bikeways Steering Committee, and the Safety Strategy Group. The recent successful Expos were also another of Gillian's accomplishments.

While the accomplishments of those leaving are large we do not expect that anyone taking their positions will necessarily assume the duties vacated. What is needed is some people that are willing to share the load with the other Committee members. If you have some time available and wish to contribute please contact **Graeme Buchan** on **02 6922 6806**.

We wish Martin, Gillian and Keith all the best as they venture forth on their various paths.

Bikeways Action Group

Following the Public Meeting held on 5th February to discuss the Bikeways and the results of the survey several additional meetings have been held.

It has been decided that our approach with Council has to change. We have tried to co-operate with Council but it appears that the squeaky wheel gets the oil.

Consequently a Bikeways Action Group has been formed. The purpose of this group is to agitate Council so that hopefully the interests of cyclists will be taken into account whenever Council proposes new developments.

At the last Bikeways Steering Committee Meeting, which was deemed informal due to lack of numbers, Council Officers indicated that there was little or no money budgeted for bikeways. They seemed to also be of the opinion that the bikeways were all but complete.

If you have some ideas about how this can be achieved please contact **Graeme Buchan** on **02 6922 6806**.

Paris-Brest-Paris Farewell

A farewell for Gillian and Keith will be held on Saturday 21st June. Details will be published in *The Riverina Leader* when these have been formalised.

The Helyars have been busy qualifying for this 1200km Audax event and will be looking forward to this as their first experience on their extended sojourn from our shores.

Please come and wish them farewell.

Membership Benefits

As members of BWW you receive discounts on parts and accessories at each of the three Wagga Wagga specialist bike shops.

In addition, through the Alliance program, discounts are available at Mountain Designs stores.

Please drop in to these shops and take a look at the various products that will make your cycling more comfortable, safer and pleasurable.

BWW Jerseys

Netti has changed their standard jersey design and the problems we had with the first run should now have been eliminated especially with regard to long sleeved jerseys.

To be able to produce the women's fit and the men's long sleeved, medium zip garments we need about 6 more orders in each version. If we cannot get these extra orders then only the men's short sleeved and men's long sleeved, full zip jerseys will be available.

Short sleeved jerseys will cost \$82.50, the long sleeved jerseys will cost \$95.00.

Those that have expressed an interest in buying jerseys will now need to confirm their order with **Ray Stenhouse** on **02 6921 4552** by **21st April**. Payment is also required by that date as Netti requires part payment at time of order

If you haven't already expressed an interest it's not too late. Ring Ray.

Visibility Campaign

Last year BWW as part of the Safety Strategy Group conducted a visibility campaign. As the colder months approach and the light recedes it is highly important that we as road users do everything possible to ensure that we are seen.

The use of brightly coloured clothing can make a huge difference to a cyclist's visibility as can the use of light coloured clothing during hours of low light and darkness. The use of reflective material on your clothing and your bike will make you very conspicuous which will decrease the likelihood of you being accidentally hit because you were not seen.

Don't forget that the use of a white front light, a red rear light and a red rear reflector are legal requirements if you ride your bike in hours of darkness. Remember - Be seen, be smart, be safe.

Wangaratta BUG Weekend

Several members made the trip down to Wangaratta to enjoy cycling in Victoria's picturesque North-East region. This was a great social weekend and as it is an annual event should be an event to put in the diary for next year.

Clean Up Australia Day

Our mountain bike friends removed over 2 tonnes of rubbish from Willans Hill as part of the Clean Up Australia Day activities. BWW provided some refreshments for the tired but happy rubbish collectors after their hard work. Some of the items removed were very unusual to say the least however the environment is all the better for their efforts.

The RTA Big Ride

The annual RTA Big Ride has come and gone once again. Wagga Wagga had a strong contingent of experienced and novice riders take part in the 9 day ride from Warragamba in Sydney's west to Cootamundra.

The bus was packed with people, bikes and luggage and travelled up to the start on the Friday prior to the ride. We were fortunate in that we were permitted to stay at the first night's camp at Camden. After a restful night's sleep for some, the eager riders took the opportunity to warm up for the ride by cycling to Warragamba whereas several others, for one reason or another (do you really need a front wheel?), took the bus to the start.

Upon arriving at Camden at least one of the tents had been relocated by a person, or persons, unknown. The occupant of this tent met a lot

of new people the ride as he was regularly asked who he was and where he was from by interested neighbours the following mornings.

Dinner the first night was held in the rain however this did not dampen the riders' spirits too much and was a good test of the waterproofness of the tents.

The second day to Bowral saw the first of the hills. Despite this it was pleasant riding across to Oakdale and Bargo. There was some more overnight rain but dinner was dry.

Day three to Bundanoon was a pretty ride spoiled by the uphill into Robertson for morning tea. Lunch was at the Fitzroy Falls Dam picnic area which was very pleasant. Again rain dropped from the sky making for some interesting riding, especially with the nice big downhill into Bundanoon.

Day four saw some interesting events. At Tallong, one of the novice riders, now being used to queues for everything placed herself in the queue for the mens' loos. Another novice rider decided to put some style into her dismount as she cruised in. The degree of difficulty was acute, the execution off just a little and the result was a spectacular domino effect with one bike being slightly injured.

Another of the riders had his downhill roll into Goulburn curtailed by a blowout and a mechanical failure saw a 27 geared bike reduced to a single gear bike.

The rest day at Goulburn saw some people experience the camping lifestyle while others headed off to more solid accommodations. The opportunities to sight-see, repair bikes, or do nothing were taken. A squall that evening tested the tents once again.

Day six, to Bungendore, proved to be a challenge. There was



A murder of crows or a flock of galahs? The Bicycle Wagga Wagga team at Yass.

reasonable assistance to Windellama but from there on it was very hard with huge gusts of wind making going difficult. This was one of the longest days and the wind made it all the more difficult. Overnight it was a bit chilly but there were no cases of hypothermia.

The following day to Yass also was a challenge, particularly after the previous hard day. However, the thought of seeing their family, and a celebration afterwards no doubt helped keep some of the riders focussed on the target. The best Mixed Grill since Wellington was discovered and nearly consumed.

There was a very chilly start to the day to Harden, but it was not as cold as when the ride last visited Yass. Just to make it interesting the route planners discovered every hill that could be climbed and put the riders across these.

The final day had arrived all too quickly and it was off to Cootamundra. It was generally uphill to morning tea and then a few more hills followed by some nice downhill to finish off with. Having assembled for the run to the finish some photos were taken before the riders pushed off for the final few kilometres.

One of our number decided that this was not enough and packed the

pannier and set off reaching Wagga Wagga that evening and was home in Henty the following day.

The riders ranged in age and experience. There were several riders just new to riding, one who has only been riding about two months, who took on the challenge to participate in the ride. All, old and new, can be pleased with their efforts and many will already be looking forward to the next Big Ride.

The ride gave people the opportunity to expand their horizons, meet and re-meet friends, to see countryside from the saddle of a bike and to get some good healthy exercise. If you have thought about participating but have been concerned about your ability then don't hesitate to ask some of the riders from this year. They are sure to tell you to come along and enjoy the fun.

Without the time, efforts and generosity of volunteers the RTA Big Ride would not occur. Milton and Sandra Wilson again headed the Massage Team that provided comfort to many tired and tested riders. The team raised over \$3000 for Multiple Sclerosis through their efforts and kept many a bike rider out on the road.

Ride Calendar

As always, we are looking for something different to offer our members. If you have some ideas for rides please do not hesitate to contact **Graeme Buchan** on **02 6922 6806** so that these may be added to the calendar or programmed for a future date.

Ride Leader Guidelines

BNSW has released some guidelines for Ride Leaders. If you have a favourite ride or two that you would like to share with others but weren't sure how to go about it then these guidelines will help. To obtain a copy please contact **Ray Stenhouse** on **02 6921 4552**.

Corryong 12th/13th April

These rides, in conjunction with the Man From Snowy River Festival, are short rides. Accommodation at Corryong has already been booked out for this weekend however if you are interested in attending please contact **Graeme Buchan** on **02 6922 6806**.

Easter Rides

Ben and Barb have put together a program of rides for those people not travelling away at Easter that want to get out on their bikes.

Friday's ride, the Gregadoo Loop, commences at the Corner Store in Main Street, Lake Albert at 9:00am.

On Saturday meet at the Wagga Beach at 9:00am for a loop out to Downside of approximately 50km. There's morning tea at Billy's Café afterwards. That evening meet at Ben and Barb's for a Pizza Party. Be there at 6:00pm to order the pizzas.

On Sunday meet at the Jubilee Park entrance on the Holbrook Road for a 50km loop. On Monday, meet at the Wagga Beach at 9:00am for another 50km loop.

Contact **Ben or Barb** on **02 6971 1109** for further information.

Cabramurra

Unfortunately the proposed trip to Cabramurra for the ANZAC weekend has had to be cancelled. However, as the venue offers so much for various types of cycling activities it is still in the pipeline and will be conducted at some time in the future.

Dinner at Dartmouth 3rd /4th May

This is a ride aimed at the more experienced cyclist. It departs from Albury and is about 135km each day over hilly terrain averaging 25km/h. Baggage will be carried but there is no sag wagon. You must register for this ride with **Les Sobey** on **02 6041 5460**.

Pleasant Hills 17th/18th May

This supported overnight ride is being organised by **Geoff Marks**. There is limited hotel accommodation and plenty of camping. Details will be published in the regular column in *The Riverina Leader* in the coming weeks. Contact Geoff on **02 6922 3814** to register.

Mini-Urban Rally 25th May

Last year's Rally was enjoyed by all that participated. It's something different with the object being to follow clues and map out a route that allows your team to collect points all within a timeframe. Contact **Neil Russell** on **0418 972 373** or call **02 6933 4016** during business hours for further details.

Grenfell 7th/8th & 9th June

Over the long weekend in June, Grenfell will host the Henry Lawson Festival. **Graeme Buchan** has organised some rides of 30 and 60km. As it is the long weekend, accommodation could prove difficult to obtain and it is recommended that you book as early as possible. Contact Graeme for further details on **02 6922 6806**.

Regular Sunday Rides

These will continue to be held each Sunday commencing at 2:00pm from Wagga Beach. The route and difficulty is decided on by the riders who turn up, but are generally about 1.5-2 hours in duration with a coffee shop finish.

Mid-week Rides

Glastonbury's Coffee Grinds is a series of social Wednesday morning rides of about 30km. These have been held fortnightly. The rides start and finish at a Coffee Shop with the plan that the cyclists return in about 2 hours for coffee.

Another series of 4 rides will commence at **9:00am** on **9th April** departing from **Barefoot on Norman**, on the corner of Coleman and Norman Streets. The other rides on **23rd April, 7th May and 21st May** will also begin at Barefoot on Norman.

David and Lisa are hopeful that these will become regular rides. It also has the potential to spin off to having mountain bike rides on alternate Wednesdays. Even if you cannot make it on a regular basis, if you're available on the day, David and Lisa would be pleased to see you.

You can contact **David and Lisa** on **02 6926 2354**.

Audax Rides

Tumut – There is a series of three rides over three days at **Easter**. There are 50km, 100km and 200km rides to choose from. The 100km ride is on Saturday, 19th April. The 200km event is on Sunday, and the 50km is scheduled for Monday. You can do one or the lot. Contact **Jimmy Goode** on **02 6947 3300** for further details.

Bright - 50km, 100km or 200km rides from Bright will be conducted on **11th May**. The 50km and 100km rides are quite flat compared to other events held in this beautiful area and have been enjoyed by BWW members previously. Contact **Peter Shennen** on **03 5755 1449**.

Safe cycling!