



January 2004

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Bicycle Wagga Wagga Membership Is Now Due

Membership Year

Membership is now aligned with the calendar year. If you haven't already renewed your membership it is now time to do so.

Renewals

The fees have not changed since BWW was formed. The fee for a Family membership is \$10, and Adult membership costs \$5 and a Child under 16 membership is \$1.

Don't forget, one of your membership benefits is a 10% discount on parts and accessories at the three Wagga Wagga specialist bike shops. Therefore your membership cost can be easily recouped with a purchase or two. This makes your membership very affordable.

If you haven't renewed your membership you will find a Membership Form with this newsletter. Please complete the form and forward it together with your payment to the Secretary/Treasurer, PO Box 5789, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650 at your earliest convenience.

Cabramurra

Those BWW members that ventured to Cabramurra for the Christmas Party had a great time. As well as some riding, with some personal horizons shifted, there was some serious socialising and everyone enjoyed themselves.

David and Lisa did a great job, and in the interests of fire safety, there was only ever one campfire. Our thanks go to the Glastonburys for their organisation of this weekend in the mountains.

If you couldn't attend then you should make certain that you make this year's.

BWW Jerseys

There is only one men's short sleeved jersey in stock. Although it is a size L the sizings are quite small. You could be the proud wearer of this jersey if it fits and you are willing to part with \$82.50 for it.

There are a number of ladies' jerseys in stock. The ladies jerseys all have long sleeves and there is a range of sizes available. The cost for one of these collector's items is \$95.

Please contact **Ray Stenhouse** on **02 6921 4552** as soon as possible after 27th January if you would like to try a jersey on for size.

Bus to The RTA Big Ride

If you are intending going to this year's RTA Big Ride from Gloucester to Berowra Waters and wish to use the bus then please advise **Ray Stenhouse** on **6921 4552** as soon as possible after 27th January.

In past years BNSW has agreed to co-hire the bus and trailer. This has assisted in keeping the costs down. However, until numbers have been confirmed, we don't know if this arrangement will be viable.

If you intend to use the bus, or know of other people that may be interested please let Ray know.

Bikeways Action Group

Bicycle Wagga Wagga's **Bicycle Action Group (BWW BAG)** has a most challenging and demanding period coming up in March, although a potentially rewarding one if our plans are orchestrated in a correct and timely manner.

It is no secret that the bikeways and general cycling facilities such as simple and basic facilities like bike racks in the shopping district, point of destination facilities such as showers and bicycle lockers in the CBD, not to mention the bikeways themselves, pale into insignificance in comparison with other major centres around the state.

Not that we should be ungrateful for the facilities we currently have (as limited as these are), the point is that if cyclists do not highlight the needs of the cycling fraternity, which includes the commuter, and the recreational cyclist as well as school kids and sporting cyclists, then who will? This is one of Bicycle Wagga Wagga's most important mandates.

To this end Bicycle Wagga Wagga formed the **Bicycle Action Group** early in 2003 to address these concerns. This committee, chaired by President Greg Fell has been quietly exploring opportunities and formulating plans of action to get the point across to the decision makers of Wagga Wagga that our bikeways are far from 'state of

the art' and far from complete. For instance, almost no maintenance or construction has been carried out in the past four years and it is this writer's understanding that on at least one occasion bikeway funding was returned to the government coffers because the money was not used.

The major opportunity to highlight our cause will arise in March. As all members will be aware, the upcoming Council elections will be both interesting and perhaps even controversial and one could be excused for thinking that perhaps there may be some deadwood on our Council so it is obvious that there is a possibility some heads could roll. At least, there will be a huge wing of hopeful candidates campaigning for a seat at City Hall.

The **BAG** has identified this election campaign as an opportunity to highlight the inadequacies of our bikeways and facilities. It is proposed to convene a meeting with Council Nominees to individually discuss these very real issues. It is ideal we only speak to a small number of Nominees at any one time so four meetings have been scheduled. The first is scheduled for Tuesday **2 March** at **7.30pm** at **6 Blake Street**.

This is a time when we need the support of members. We need your presence at, at least one or two, of these informal meetings. If you ride your bike (the venue does have secure bicycle parking unlike many public places in Wagga Wagga) then an even stronger message will be delivered. Please grab this opportunity to help the BWW

committee to negotiate bicycle facilities. There is strength in unity so numbers are extremely important. So please pick up the telephone and phone **Greg Fell** on **6922 3474** outside of business hours and indicate your willingness to attend and afford yourself the opportunity to informally express your viewpoint to prospective Councillors.

Bike Course

Bicycle Wagga Wagga in conjunction with Riverina Community College will be conducting a course '**Bicycle Riding For Beginners**' which carries the endorsement of Bicycle New South Wales. This course is aimed at people who may have purchased a bicycle and feel they do not have confidence to ride on Wagga Wagga's roads and bikeways. Participants will learn how to ride safely in a group or individually on our roads, correct riding techniques, how to make basic adjustments to their bicycle and how to become a more confident rider on a bicycle. The objective is to encourage people to ride around the block, the suburb or the entire city for fitness, weight loss and general well being.

Tom Dawson of Morgan Street Cycles who is an accredited Australian Cycling Federation Coach has kindly offered to lead the course ably assisted by our very own Geoff Marks. Riverina Community College is handling the advertising, promotion, bookings and registration for the course. The cost is \$33.00 for four weekly sessions of two

hours duration on Tuesdays at 10.00am commencing 18 May.

In addition to encouraging cycling in the community the flow on benefit may well be the expansion of Bicycle Wagga Wagga's membership. If you know of anybody who would benefit from this course, have them phone the **Riverina Community College** on **6921 7663**.

Hazard Forms

BWW has a Hazard Report Form. If you see a problem or a potential problem on the roads and bikeways of Wagga Wagga please complete one of these forms.

Once completed forward this to the **Senior Engineer, Civil Infrastructure** at **Wagga Wagga City Council**. This is an opportunity to work with Council to make it safer for all cyclists.

Additional forms are available from the website or the local bike shops.

Ride Calendar

We are in the process of finalising a calendar of rides for 2004. BWW rides together with other rides that may interest members will be listed which will help you program your cycling events for the year.

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 **Ray Stenhouse** so that these may be added to the calendar or programmed for a future date. Ray can be contacted on **6921 4552**.

Until the calendar is released please whet your appetite with some of the following rides.

Coffee Grinds

David and Lisa Glastonbury kicked off some mid-week rides last year. While they were away the tradition continued. This year the Glastonburys hope to develop these rides even further.

This year proceedings will commence on **21st January**. There is a ride of about 2 hours followed by, of course, a visit to a coffee shop for those that have the time afterwards.

The rides are supported by retirees, seniors and flexi takers. Even if you can only make it once, or once in a while, join the regulars at **9:00am** at **4 Bears Café** at the Kooringal Mall.

This year the rides will be held every Wednesday. The rides will be suitable for road bikes although if you only have a mountain bike don't let this stop you from joining in on the fun.

The regulars would be very happy to see some new faces. If you are keen to join others for a ride, on Wednesdays, please contact **David or Lisa** on **6926 2354**.

Regular Sunday Rides

These will start for 2004 on **1st February**. As usual the will be held each Sunday commencing at 2pm from Wagga Beach. The route and difficulty is decided on the riders who turn up, but are generally about 1.5-2hours in duration with a coffee shop finish.

Tumut – 14th February

This is an Audax ride. It is a new 50km ride which starts at 4:00pm with a flat or hilly option. It finishes with pizza in the park.

Contact **Jimmy Goode** on **6947 3300** to find out more about this ride.

Benalla – 21st February

This is also an Audax ride. There is the option of 50 or 100km ride.

A social ride and stay on Saturday night for a mystery bus trip. Bookings close **February 1st**.

Contact **Ray Watt** on **0439 716 420** or e-mail raymond_watt@yahoo.com to find out more about these rides and the mystery bus tour.

Pleasant Hills – 6th & 7th March

This is a BWW ride which sees a return to the scene of the good times. Ride out to Pleasant Hills, stay overnight and ride back to Wagga the following day.

This is a great training ride for those going on the RTA Big Ride. However it's a great training ride even if you aren't going on the RTA Big Ride too.

Geoff Marks is the man to ring for further details and to book in. Geoff can be contacted on **6922 3814**.

RTA Big Ride – 20th - 28th March

This Bicycle New South Wales annual event has been extremely popular in the past and this year should prove to be the same. The ride goes from Gloucester to Berowra Waters with the rest day in Newcastle.

Contact **BNSW** on **1800 68 68 54** for details. If you are going don't forget about the bus. See page 1 for details.

Dartmouth for Dinner – 20th & 21st March

Can't make it to the RTA Big Ride? Then this might be just the ticket. This is a BWW ride organised by Les Sobey. A very successful ride was had last year and this undoubtedly will be just as good.

It is a two-day cycle tour of approximately 130km each day. It is aimed at the stronger more experienced cyclist capable of maintaining an average speed of 25km/h in undulating country.

Registration and payment is to be made in full to Les by **February 19th**.

Contact **Les Sobey** on **6041 5460** to find out more about this tour.

Tumut – 21st March

This is another Audax ride. A Highlands Tour which is a new ride but guaranteed to have some hills. Unsupported.

Contact **Jimmy Goode** on **6947 3300** about this ride.

Easter Rides – 9th/10th/11th/12th April

Following on from last year's successful weekend of rides Ben and Barb are organising some rides from Wagga Wagga over the Easter weekend. If you are around looking for a ride or two or four then these could be just what you need. If you have visitors tell them to bring their bikes and join in too.

On Friday discover the delights of quiet country cycling on mainly sealed roads with a bit of dirt thrown in for good measure.

Loop to Ladysmith on sealed roads, mostly out of town on Saturday. After the ride come to dinner at one of Wagga Wagga's licensed clubs.

On Sunday take a pleasant country ride to Junee for lunch at "The Loftus". After lunch return to Wagga Wagga for coffee and cake.

Finally, on Monday, ride to the Charles Sturt University, the home of CSU wines and cheeses. Return to Wagga Wagga for a BBQ before heading home.

You will need to **register** before **March 5th**. There is a small registration fee to help defray the costs associated with getting the rides up and running.

So, there's no need to just sit around eating buns and chocolate wishing there was something to do. Get out and do it, earn that chocolate and the buns, or earn the credits so you can have some more. The more people the merrier.

Contact **Ben or Barb** on **6971 1109**.

Wangaratta – 18th April

A 100km or 200km Audax ride. According to the blurb it's bakeries all the way.

Contact **Chris Rogers** on **03 5726 9412** to find out more about these rides.

Tumut – 24th April

A very flat 50km ride during Tumut's Festival of the Falling Leaf. Or a flat to undulating 100km ride.

Contact **Scott Doyle** on **6947 4691** to find out more about flats rides in Tumut.

Mountain Bikers

The regular mountain bike rides will once again be conducted on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month.

Now that the weather is warmer and the light more plentiful the Wednesday evening rides at Willan's Hill are happening.

All of the rides vary in distance, terrain and time. Whether you are an experienced mountain biker, or someone that is relatively new to the game there is bound to be something to take your interest.

In addition to the rides organised by the locals there are plenty of others around too. There is quite an array of activities with enough to keep you as busy as you want to be.

It is best to contact **Neil** on **0418 972 373** for details

Safe cycling!