



January 2006

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Bicycle Wagga Wagga
PO Box 5789
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

www.bww.org.au

Ramblings from El Presidente

Greetings for the New Year. 2006 promises to be another great year of cycling and I look forward to seeing you on the road or in the coffee shop.

2005 saw lots of action. Many successful rides. Club nights at Scribbles. A new CEO for BNSW - Alex Unwin (who has actually been to Wagga Wagga twice). He is putting some changes in place and we look forward to more interaction with BNSW.

The Helyars finally returned after two and a half years on the road in Europe. No sooner have they returned than they are planning a move to Canberra! They will be missed.

We are once again proposing a busy ride calendar for this year. Keep your eye on the newsletters, the Leader and the website for details. We could use a few more people to help with organising and running rides so see me or a committee member if you would like to help.

Our council is still putting cycle facilities on a low priority, however there is a little more interest being sparked. Whenever you can put in a plug for cycle facilities and keep them on the council's radar.

Our regular rides are attracting ever more riders. If you have friends with a new year's resolution then tell them about them and bring them along!

Enjoy your cycling in 2006.

Greg Fell

Membership Renewals

Bicycle Wagga Wagga's membership is aligned with the calendar year so it's time again to renew your membership. The fees have not changed since BWW was formed. For the nominal fee of \$10 you get a Family membership with Adult membership costing just \$5 and a child under 16 only needs to part with \$1.

When you consider that your membership gets you a 10% discount on parts and accessories at each of Wagga's four specialist bike shops your membership fee will be recouped very quickly.

Please complete a Membership Form and forward this together with your payment to
The Secretary/Treasurer
PO Box 5789
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Bus to The NSW Big Ride

Are you are intending going to this year's NSW Big Ride? Even though it is far closer to get to with the ride beginning at Holbrook, and back from Binalong this year you still need to do it. So how are you going to get there and back? Greg Fell is organising a bus and trailer and this would be a very convenient way to get there and back.

Call **Greg Fell** on **6922 3474** as soon as possible if you are interested.

In the past BNSW has agreed to co-hire the bus and trailer. This has assisted greatly in keeping the costs down and has huge benefits for both parties.

If you intend to use the bus, or know of other people that may be interested please let Greg know. The more the merrier, and the cheaper too!

Club Nights

The next Club Night will be held on **21st February**. Normally the Club Nights are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month however this one is a week earlier to accommodate the NSW Big Riders so there's no excuse.

Keith and Gillian Helyar have accepted the invitation to be the Guest Speakers for the evening. The Helyars, for those of us not familiar with their exploits, have spent more than two years abroad.

A lot of this time was spent cycle touring so they have had some wonderful, and to be truthful, perhaps some not so wonderful experiences. After all, no one could really think that having your bike stolen in Spain is wonderful especially when you've only just arrived in the country and the bike is laden with half your camping gear and it's the middle of the night too!

As the Helyars plan to leave Wagga's surroundings in the near future it gives us an opportunity to hear about their time and perhaps be inspired ourselves to do that or something similar.

Come along and enjoy dinner before the meeting. Even if you don't have dinner, have a coffee and cake. Be at **Scribbles Café** at **6:30pm** for dinner preceding the Guest Speaker's address at 7:30.

The Club Nights are held every second month. All members and any prospective members are invited to attend. If you want to hear or deliver an address on a particular topic contact **Greg Fell** on **6922 3474**.



Towing a trailer doesn't slow you down. Craig Gibbins demonstrates this on the recent tour in Tasmania with the guidepost flexing in his draft.

Coffee Grinds

Haven't been able to make one of these rides on Wednesday morning rides yet? Make it one of your New Year's resolutions to do so. These have proven to be very popular.

It doesn't matter if you can only make it once, or once in a while, join the regulars at **9:00am** at the **4 Bears Café** in the Koorinal Mall.

Generally these are road rides. However, just to make it interesting David Glastonbury throws in a mountain bike alternative every now and then. The ride goes for about 2 hours and is followed by, of course, conversation, coffee and cake at the 4 Bears for those that have the time afterwards.

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

B4 Breakfast Ride

The B4 Breakfast Ride is also proving to be very popular, this especially so given the warmth of the weather in the later part of the day. Get out there in the cool of the morning, get your exercise in, enjoy breakfast as your reward for your efforts, and then get on with the rest of your day.

During Daylight Savings the ride starts at **7:00am** from the **4 Bears Café** in the Koorinal Mall. Once Standard time returns in April the start time reverts to 7:30am.

The ride is a clockwise circuit of the Gregadoo Loop. Being a loop you can ride it at a pace that suits you. Generally it about 90 minutes but really this is up to you. This gets you back in good time to the 4 Bears Café for a light or hearty breakfast depending on how you feel.

Contact **Greg Fell** on **6922 3474** for further details.



Everyone knows that cyclists will ride hundreds of kilometres on a feed of pancakes. Some of the Tassie tourists line up to refuel.

Regular Sunday Afternoon Rides

These will start for 2005 on **5th February**. The rides are 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 finishing at Scribbles Café for some conversation over a drink and some refreshments.

Wantabadgery Wander

Big Ride Warm Up – 11th - 12th February

The Big Ride Warm Up will be a 2-day event. Gordon Moore is organising this ride.

An afternoon departure is scheduled on Saturday. You will leave Wagga Wagga via the Wiradjuri Bridge, passing through North Wagga, Oura, and Wantabadgery ultimately

arriving at Sandy Beach Reserve for the evening camp, a distance of 42 kilometres.

Just like on the Big Ride, the support vehicle will carry your luggage.

Riders of all levels are encouraged to participate. A fully operational sag wagon will accompany the ride at all times and riders should be aware that they can ride the sag or their bike at their choosing. There is absolutely no need to feel intimidated by the distance.

There's the option of two Afternoon Teas, one at the Wantabadgery Store where the participants will return for dinner, and the other at the Sandy beach campsite.

Sunday is a retrace of the route taken the previous day although the more adventurous may take the option of returning via Juneec.

Contact **Gordon Moore** on **6921 4444 or 0428 694 335** for further details.

Tumut – 19th February

There are 50km and 100km Audax ride being organised by **David O'Brien**. Called the *Canberra Gap Bash* the 50km is flat but the extra 50km for the 100km event is very hilly with a 1000m climb. Rides start at 8am.

Audax rides are not races. These are events where participants challenge themselves to complete their nominated distance within a time limit. For the 50km event the time limit is 3 hours 20 minutes and the 100km participants have twice that.

Contact David on **6947 4742** about these rides.

NSW Big Ride – 25th February – 5th 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 starts at the submarine in Holbrook. It will make its way to Jingellic. Then Tumbarumba followed by Tumut which will host the Rest Day.

Next is Gundagai. Then Juneec. Cootamundra, and Boorowa follow and finally the ride will finish at Binalong. Then it's all over for another year.

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

Warby Wander – 4th & 5th March

After a very successful ride in September last year Les Sobey has brought forward the *Warby Wander* to March.

It is a two-day cycle tour of approximately 140km each day. It starts at Albury, traverses the wonderful Warby Ranges and you will spend the night in cabins at Wangaratta. The ride returns to Albury the next day along the Snow Road via Myrtleford and Yackandandah.

There is vehicle support to transport luggage but no sag wagon. 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 **23rd January**.

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

Tumut – 19th March

This is a 200km Audax ride. The *Highlands Tour* is a testing ride guaranteed to have some hills. It visits Tumut, Batlow, Tumbarumba and Adelong.

Contact **Charles Taylor** on **6981 4109** about this ride.

As The Crow Flies – 25th March

Chris Rodgers enjoyed the *Canola Canter* so much he decided to create an Audax Super Series based out of Wagga. This

involves completing a 200km, 300km, 400km and 600km ride within the Audax year.

As The Crow Flies is the 300km ride. It is a southern circuit through Mangoplah, Walla Walla, Walbundrie, Lockhart, The Rock, Mangoplah and then home.

Contact **Chris Rodgers** on **03 5726 9412** about this ride.

Tumut – 8th April

This is a 100km Audax ride. The *Red Eye Dash* is a night ride just for the hell of it and a hamburger at Gundagai. The ride starts at 6:00pm.

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

Easter Rides – 14th – 17th April

Bicycle Wagga Wagga will be holding a series of rides over the Easter weekend for the fourth year. These rides have attracted visitors from Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne in past years. The visitors have joined the local riders and have enjoyed something a bit different to their normal fare.

This year there are five rides over the four days. You can do one, or you can do the lot.

On Friday, 14th April, at 1:30pm the first ride is a 35km ride called *Northern Sights and Scenes*. This is followed by afternoon tea.

On Saturday, at 9:00am a 65km trip to Ladysmith and back will be on with morning tea/lunch at the Ladysmith Store. On Saturday night the cyclists will

gather with their friends and family for dinner at one of the licensed clubs.

On Sunday there will be two rides on offer. At 9:00am the Downside Loop will be ridden. This is a 45km ride with a bit of dirt thrown in to make it interesting.

After enjoying lunch at Scribbles Cafe at 2:00pm there will be a 33km ride to the Wagga Wagga Winery and back with a return to the lunch venue for coffee afterwards.

To finish the weekend on Monday there will be a 55km southern circuit which includes a visit to the Uranquinty Bakery. This ride begins at 8:30am. After an early lunch the visitors can make their way back home having tasted some of the wonderful cycling available in the Riverina.

Contact **Greg Fell** on **6922 3474** for more information. Please register by **7th April** so that arrangements with the lunch and dinner venues can be put in place.

Tumut – 29th April

The *Festival 50* is a flat ride around Tumut and Blowering Dam. Beginning at 6:00pm you will be finished in time for the Festival.

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

Safe cycling!