



January 2007

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Bicycle Wagga Wagga
PO Box 5789
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

www.bww.org.au

Next Club Night – Dinner Meeting

When: **Wednesday 17th January**

Where: **Koorungal Hotel Restaruant**

Time: **6:30pm**

RSVP: **Peter Makin on 6926 4228**

Pete's Ponderings

Greetings for 2007, I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year. This year already promises to be a very full year of cycling with the Big Bike Ride, Opperman, Weekend rides and all of our regular rides.

2006 saw lots of great rides organised by club members. The 2007 ride calendar is progressing well, with lots of great rides proposed for this year. The January version is included in this newsletter. Thanks to Graeme and those who have offered to organise a ride for their time and effort.

The end of the year saw Greg and Leila Fell move north to Newcastle, I thank them both for their contributions to cycling in Wagga Wagga. It has been a steep learning curve to step up to the role of President, and I thank everyone for their time and patience.

It has been great to see our regular rides well supported with numbers growing on some rides.

Enjoy your cycling in 2007, and I hope to see you on the road.

Regards from your President
Peter Makin

BWW

2007 Membership Renewal

It's that time again.

Memberships are now due. For a small fee \$10 per family, \$5 per adult and \$1* per child you can be kept up to date with the latest rides and events of BWW via email and quarterly newsletters. Not only that, you will be entitled to 10% discount off accessories at the 3 local cycle shops.

Membership forms can be obtained from the website www.bww.org.au As well there is a copy is attached to this newsletter.

If you sign up before **27 February 2007** you will be entered into a draw for a **\$50 Dean Woods** voucher. The winner will be drawn at the planning meeting the following night.

**Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an onroad adult rider*

Ride Calendar

At the end of this newsletter is the 2007 Ride Calendar.

This has all the currently planned rides conducted by BWW as well as Audax and other events occurring throughout the year.

Please note this is subject to change and new versions will be forwarded when available.

Our calendar is by no means full. If you have an idea for a ride that you would like to share with others then please contact **Graeme Buchan** on **02 6922 6806**. Graeme will help turn your idea into a reality, and don't be afraid if it's your first attempt. There's plenty of experienced Ride Leaders that will be happy to help you.

Meetings

Dinner Meetings – these will be held on the 4th Wednesday every second month. The next one is on **17 January** at the **Kooringal Hotel** commencing at **6.30pm**. Please RSVP to **Peter Makin** on **6926 4228**.

These meetings are to encourage members to meet in a relaxed atmosphere and guest speakers play a big part at these meetings. We welcome any suggestions from members regarding topics that interest them.

Planning Meetings – These are held the 4th Wednesday every alternate month to the dinner meetings – next one is scheduled on **28 February**. The venue is yet to be decided upon and this will be advised closer to the date.

These meetings are very important for the ongoing running of the club. Everyone's input is welcome.

Big Ride Warm-Up 24th - 25th February

Last year's ride to Ganmain was such a huge success that it is back by popular demand.

This is designed to act as a warm up for those attending the Big Ride in March and also a weekend escape for all the others.

Further details will be provided via email when they come to hand.

NSW Big Ride 17th - 25th March

Momentum is building towards the 2007 NSW Big Ride, pedalling off from Taree and then through the towns, forests and beaches of the Mid-North NSW Coast. This year's figure-of-eight route winds through Tuncurry-Forster, Gloucester, Port Macquarie and with a 9-day/500km and two 4-day/250km options to choose from, there's something for everyone!

BWW will once again arrange transport to and from the event. Please speak with Ray Stenhouse on 0418 400 455 to book your seat. Remember spaces are limited so book your spot early.

Easter Weekend

Our annual Easter rides will be here in no time.

A planning meeting will be held on **11 January – 7pm – 49 Brooklyn Drive** to discuss proposed routes. All members are welcome to attend and have input in the running of this event.

During the past few years we have had visitors from all parts of NSW who have enjoyed the rides around Wagga and the company and look forward to returning each year.

Ride Reports

Escape to Laurel Hill

Bicycle Wagga Wagga's end of year trip "Escape to Laurel Hill" was held over the weekend of 24/26 November.

This weekend of cycling through the spectacular Riverina Highlands was enjoyed by 51 cyclists from Bicycle Wagga Wagga, Pedal Power (Canberra), Leeton, Cootamundra, Albury and the Sydney Bike Friday Club.

A group of 15 enthusiastic Bike Friday tourists also spent the weekend with us at Laurel Hill Forest Lodge as part of their alpine tour from Cooma to Wagga Wagga.

A challenging day ride of 75km was held on Saturday, visiting the very attractive Mannus Valley and the village of Rosewood before returning to Laurel Hill via the Link Road. The route featured high country grazing lands, old native forests, plantation pines, cool country vineyards, mountain streams and valleys as well as distant views of Kosciuszko and the Main Range of mountains.

The hills were a real test for many of the riders as they ground their way up to Laurel Hill driven by the promise of a wine tasting of Tumbarumba Wines.

On Sunday the group enjoyed a shorter but equally spectacular ride of 44km through towering native forests and apple laden orchards into the mountain township of Batlow.

At Batlow, over a cup of coffee, we farewelled the Bike Friday party who continued onto Gundagai whilst the remainder returned to Laurel Hill for lunch after a great weekend of highland cycling and meeting many new friends.

Great Ocean Road

In October several Bicycle Wagga Wagga members spent four days touring Victoria's Great Ocean Road.

Their journey started from Warrnambool where they travelled to Port Campbell on day 1. Day 2 saw them go to Apollo Bay, then Anglesea and then on to Geelong.

The weather conditions were less than perfect with strong head and side winds as well as high 30 degree temperatures. The spectacular scenery more than made up for it.

If anyone is looking for a short tour then consider this ride. Details can be found on the web at www.greatoceanrd.org.au/cycling

Around The Bay in a Day

Members travelled to Melbourne to participate in the Bay in a Day ride. There were several routes to follow. Some include crossing the West Gate Bridge which is closed to bicycles at other times as well as having a ferry trip across the bay.

This is at times a tough ride but all participants finished in time without mishap. The weather was favourable even though headwinds were present.

This event was well planned and lunch breaks and stops were handled efficiently. This is one ride that members should consider completing at least once as crossing over the West Gate Bridge was magic.

Sydney Spring Cycle

The weekend following the Around the Bay in a Day in Melbourne was the Sydney Spring Cycle. While the event isn't as long as the Victorian one there are still a number of

highlights that make the trip up there worthwhile.

There is the opportunity to ride across the Sydney Harbour Bridge in a traffic lane instead of being shoved off to the side. This means, if you were keen, you could ride across Melbourne's and Sydney's signature bridges within a week.

There are special road closures to assist getting the large mass of cyclists from North Sydney out to the Olympic Park. A lot of the route takes you along cycle paths and traffic management side of this event means minimal interaction with our larger and faster fellow road users.

Your entry into the event allows you to travel to and from the event free on trains. This is a great help and allows you to stay out near the finish and not have to negotiate your way into town and have to find an elusive parking spot.

This ride attracts all sorts of cyclists. There's mums, dads, kids, serious and non-serious cyclists all out enjoying the opportunity to explore Sydney from the seat of a bike.

Even if you don't want the thrill of riding across the two bridges consider going along next year. The event is run by Bicycle New South Wales.

Sydney to the Gong

A less than perfect day on 5th November didn't discourage several of our members from completing the Sydney to the Gong Ride.

This was the 25th running of this event which is run by the Multiple Sclerosis Events team as a major fund raiser. In

addition to this, the ride was the first one to use the new Seacliff Bridge. With these attractions a record field had entered.

There are two distances to try. There is the traditional route of 90km which starts at St Peters. The 56km route begins at Heathcote. Both routes pass through the Royal National Park which was spectacular at times.

Unfortunately the weather conditions and the record numbers did spoil the ride somewhat. The sandblasting near Wollongong wasn't the most pleasant experience either.

However, next year the weather may be better and there may be fewer people. So why not think about giving it a go? For additional details please see the website www.gongride.org.au. Take a look at the video of this year's ride. There's a familiar face in there somewhere. Sorry, there's no \$50 Dean Woods voucher to be won by the first person to email the Secretary/Treasurer with the identity of the cyclist.

Regular Rides

Coffee Grinds – Wednesdays leaving the 4 Bears Cafe at 9am. Distance – Various routes, 40-50km – Ride Leader on hand

B4 Breakfast Ride – Saturdays leaving the 4 Bears Café at 7.00am dst. Distance – Gregadoo Loop 35km – Leaderless ride

Sunday Rides – Sundays leaving the Wagga Beach at 2pm. Distance - Various routes 30-40km – Ride Leader on hand

TIP – When going on rides no matter what the distance always carry enough food and fluids to ensure that you have energy to complete the ride.



2007 Bicycle Wagga Wagga Ride Calendar as at January 2007 – (subject to change)

Date	Event
Thur. 11 th Jan	<i>Planning Meeting- Easter Rides</i>
Wed. 17 th Jan	<i>Club Night –Koorinal Hotel Function Room – RSVP Peter Makin 6926 4228</i>
Sat. 27 th Jan.	<i>Audax Alpine Classic - Bright</i>
Sat. 10 th - 18 th Feb	<i>Great Tasmanian Bike Ride- Bicycle Victoria - www.bv.com.au</i>
Wed. 28 th Feb.	<i>Planning Meeting</i>
Sat. 24 th & 25 th , Feb	<i>Big Ride Warm-Up – Ganmain with Geoff Marks 6922 3814</i>
Sat 17 th to 25 th Mar	<i>NSW Big Ride 07- Tour de Mid-North Coast – Taree Bicycle NSW – www.bigrade.com.au</i>
Wed. 28 th Mar.	<i>Dinner Meeting -</i>
Fri 6 th to 9 th Apr.	<i>Warby Wander –Les Sobey 02 6041 5460</i>
Fri. 20 th -Mon. 23 rd Apr.	<i>Easter Rides at Wagga Wagga</i>
Wed. 25 th Apr	<i>Planning meeting</i>
Sat. 28 th & Sun 29 th Apr	<i>Opperman 24hr Ride- Audax</i>
Sat. 12 th & Sun. 13 th May	<i>Pleasant Hills Ride- Geoff Marks 6922 3814</i>
Wed. 23 rd May	<i>Dinner Meeting –</i>
Sat. 9 th - Mon 11 th Jun.	<i>June Long Weekend Drought Breaker Ride-</i>
Wed. 27 th Jun	<i>Planning Meeting-</i>
Sat. 14 th - Sun 15 th Jul	<i>Gordies Ride-</i>
Wed. 25 th Jul	<i>Dinner Meeting- AGM.</i>
Sun. 19 th Aug	<i>June Ride-</i>
Wed. 22 nd Aug.	<i>Planning Meeting-</i>
Sept.	<i>Spring Ride tba</i>
Wed. 26 th Sept.	<i>Dinner Meeting-</i>
Sat. 29 th .30 th & 1 st Oct.	<i>Long Weekend Ride in Canberra- Keith & Gillian Helyar</i>
Sun. 7 th Oct.	<i>Canola Canter- Audax – RayStenhouse 0418 400 455</i>
Wed. 24 th Oct.	<i>Planning Meeting</i>
Nov.	<i>Ride tba</i>
Sat. 24 th .-Sun 25 th Nov.	<i>End of Year Ride (details tba)</i>
Wed. 28 th Nov.	<i>Dinner Meeting</i>
Dec.	<i>Christmas Party (details tba)</i>



**PO Box 5789,
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650**
www.bww.org.au

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **Fax:** _____

E-mail address: _____

Membership required: (please circle)	Family \$10	Adult \$5	Child (under 16) \$1
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I enclose the membership fee of \$ _____

I am a member of **Bicycle New South Wales** (BNSW) (please circle) Yes / No

I agree with the objects of BNSW as outlined below:

1. To promote the use of the bicycle for transport and recreation as a means to improve quality of life and protect the environment.
2. To promote the education of bicyclists and other road users in the interests of road safety.
3. To advocate the enforcement of the rights and obligations of bicyclists.
4. To advocate engineering and equipment appropriate for the use of bicyclists.

Please note that membership of Bicycle Wagga Wagga does not include membership of BNSW nor does it include personal insurance. You are encouraged to join BNSW, with which Bicycle Wagga Wagga is affiliated, and which provides additional benefits. Children under the age of 16 will need to be accompanied by an onroad adult rider.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Receipt Number: _____

Date: _____