



APRIL 2007

Inside this Issue

- 2** Gordon's Tour
- Ride Reports –
- Tandem Ride Day
Easter Rides
- 3** Easter Rides cont.
- 4** Farewell Brian & Barb
- Regular Rides
- For Sale / Wanted
- Tips

Bicycle Wagga Wagga
PO Box 5789
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
www.bww.org.au

Next Club Night – Planning Meeting

Where: **43 Cutler Ave, Koorringal**
Time: **7.30pm**
When: **Wednesday 2 May 2007**

All members and any prospective members are invited to attend.

Any questions or further information required?
Contact **Peter Makin** on **6926 4228**.

Pete's Ponderings....

WOW, hasn't time just flown by, it only feels like yesterday that we were all getting over Christmas and the New Year. What a very full few months we have all had with the Get Away to Ganmain, The Big Ride, the Easter rides and all of the regular rides. For the teams that are participating in The Fleche Opperman All Day Trial, I wish you all the best of luck and hope to see you in Rochester.

I would like to thank all the committee, ride leaders and support personnel that helped make the Easter Rides such a success. It was great to see so many people out riding. With the beautiful weather we are having they are great days to get out on the bike, but don't forget your lights and warmer clothing if out early or late. Over the next few months we have the Pleasant Hills ride, and June long weekend ride; mark them in your calendar for some great riding and socialising.

Speaking of socialising it has been a delight to see so many at the dinner meetings lately. Until next time, happy cycling and watch out for those catheads.

Regards from your President
Peter Makin

UPCOMING RIDES:

Pleasant Hills with Marksy – 12-13 May

The annual Pleasant Hills experience is on again.

On Saturday the plan is to meet at 40 Walana Crescent and stow your camping gear and spares in the van.

Then set off at a leisurely pace or racing pace if you prefer and regroup at the Mangoplah store for morning tea. The journey will continue onto Yerong Creek for lunch provided by Jan. Then onto Pleasant Hills to stake your campsite or if you're lucky to secure one of the five hotel rooms relax until dinner (riders cost) at the Hotel.

Breakfast will also be provided at the Hotel (riders cost). The return journey will be via The Rock with morning tea at your choice of The Rock Café or experience the Uranquinty Bakery.

Cost for the weekend's entertainment and riding is only \$5 plus bed/brekkie fees.

To register contact Marksy on - 6922 3814.

Gordon's Long Weekend Tour 9-11 June

Gordon is well known for his fantastic tours, this one will be no different. Three days of Flat, Fast and Fuss Free riding. There will be full support following the ride each day. The ride is suitable for all grades of rider and both the fasties and slowies will be guaranteed an enjoyable weekend, as will their non-riding partners.

Day 1 Riders depart Wagga – Mangoplah – Cookardinia – Culcairn (80km).

Day 2 Culcairn – Walla Walla – Walbundrie – Lockhart (94km) very flat terrain.

Day 3 Lockhart – The Rock – Mangoplah– Wagga Wagga (93km). Due to the ride being on the long weekend Gordon has avoided the major roads. The road surfaces are all excellent which makes for fuss free riding.

Accommodation at Culcairn is available at the hotel - \$50/double or twin. At Lockhart there is a choice of hotel, motel, B&B or campground. Contact Gordon for all accommodation reservations on 6921 4444 or 0428 694 335 or email gordon@riverinascooters.com.au

As this ride is taking place over the long weekend it would be wise to get in quick so that your preferred choice of bed can be arranged.

Ride Reports – Tandem Ride Day Vision Australia

Lyn Butler



Gillian Helyar and Kathy

On Sunday 25 March an enthusiastic band of cyclists from Wagga and Canberra gathered at the Wagga netball courts for an afternoon of tandem cycling with blind and vision impaired people.

Organized by Lyn Butler of Vision Australia, in association with Pedal Power Canberra and Bicycle Wagga Wagga, the purpose of the day was to introduce blind people from our area to the joys of cycling. Seven clients from Vision Australia took up the challenge of being stokers for the day, and an erstwhile bunch of our Wagga cyclists were trained in piloting a tandem bike with a blind stoker.

And what a day it was! Who will ever forget the sight of Gordon and Colin whizzing around the courts at a terrific rate. Or the smiles, laughter, and sense of achievement of the participants. The circuit along Copland Street provided an opportunity to experience a group ride and to extend some of the skills practised on the court.

The day was an enjoyable social occasion, with the chance to catch up with Gillian and Keith Helyar, Lauren Brand, and Bob and Judy James, all former Wagga residents now living in the Canberra big smoke. At the end of their ride, the BWW Sunday afternoon mob joined us at the courts for afternoon tea.

Special thanks are due to those who so willingly agreed to pilot for the day; to Gordon Moore, Geoff Windsor, and Females in Training (FIT), who provided the tandems; and to the Vision Australia staff who organized afternoon tea for all.

It was good to have the use of the netball courts for the afternoon. There's a need for places where people can safely learn to ride. Such days will be so much safer and more interesting when our Rail Trails have been completed. At least one of the participants has since joined

BWW, and others will happily line up for another such occasion.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the services that Vision Australia offers to people who are blind or vision impaired can ring 1300 847 466 or call into the Wagga office at 102 Peter Street.

Easter Rides 2007



Oura Outing – Friday

Ride Leader: Lyn Stenhouse

Perfect cycling weather set the scene for an enjoyable 35km ride to Oura and back.

Thirty riders and 29 bikes assembled at the Wagga Wagga Beach for the beginning of what was to be a great four days of Easter cycling.

The large bunch of riders gave a bright and visual presence as they cycled through town and out the Oura Rd. As the riders warmed up so did the speed, which allowed a few riders to challenge themselves up and over the hills past Oura.

So after riding back to town and a quick regrouping at the Beach the bunch was escorted to Wollundry Avenue for afternoon tea.

The social occasion allowed club members to introduce themselves to a number of visitors from Sydney and have a catch up with fellow cyclists and their families.

Ladysmith Loop – Sat

Ride Leader: Phil Powell

A large group of riders set off for the sights to the east of Wagga. Weather was perfect with a slight breeze blowing.

We made our way out via Gregadoo Road turning left onto Tumberumba Road heading for our lunch stop at Ladysmith. What a spread! We were well fuelled for the return journey.

Everyone made it safely back to the beach then retiring to prepare for the social gathering that night.

Coolamon Caper – Sun 8am

Ride Leader: Ray Stenhouse

Eleven cyclists lined up for the ride to Coolamon for coffee and cake. The route was the opposite that used for the past few years for the Canola Canter going out the Old Narrandera Road to Millwood then up to Coolamon before heading east to Marrar then heading south back to Wagga.

The group stuck together pretty well up to Malebo. Having regrouped at the top the riders enjoyed a slight tailwind out to the Millwood Road.

The countryside was very different this time of year as compared to when we do the Canola Canter. The effects of the drought were very easy to see. At Coolamon we arrived in time for the Hot Rod parade and time to enjoy the fare on offer at the Coolamon Bakery.

Having refreshed and refueled the bikes were again mounted and this time pointed towards Marrar. This piece of road is a delight with wide shoulders, good surface and gentle undulations.

Some sought refreshments again, it is thirsty work this cycling business. The Marrar Hills were calling and with the aid of a tailwind again it

was very pleasant cycling back to Scribbles. Only the one flat tyre marred the experience but with good weather, interesting countryside, and great company who can complain? Well, Brian can, as he had the puncture.

Southern Sights – Sun 2pm

Ride Leader: Geoff Marks

A small group set off in great riding conditions to tour the southern parts of Wagga Wagga. The visitors were shown parts of suburbia as they made their way out to Glen Oak. They then travelled a different route back to Scribbles Café where they met up with the family riders and enjoyed coffee and chat.

Family Friendly – Sun 2pm

Ride Leader: Peter Makin

Seven intrepid riders set out for the shores of Lake Albert; consisting of two bikes with tag-a-longs, and three others, one being a very determined 8 year old girl.

A nice leisurely ride out via the levy bank bike path and onto Apex Park via Koorungal Road.

After refueling at Apex Park, we were off to Scribbles taking the same route, at a slower rate as we discovered that a little person drinking 2 litres of water in a short time requires several pit stops.

Once arriving at Scribbles we met up with the other Sunday riders and discovered that the easter bunny had left us all a surprise.

Uranquinty Loop – Monday

Ride Leader: Reg Pearce

What a day to end the Easter rides. Weather was ideal and riders were raring to go when they arrived at the Wagga Beach for their journey to Uranquinty.

Seventeen riders made their way along the Mangoplah Road, one experienced a puncture just out of town and one was lost for a short time. After repairing the puncture and locating the lost rider, we all made good time to the Oxley Bridge Road turnoff.

The lead group was met just a few kms along the road where they had just finished repairing four punctures.

By the time we all arrived at the Quinty Bakery there was a total of 12 punctures repaired and all in record time.

We were in the midst of cathead country but like scouts 'We were prepared' and rose to the challenge. The riders made their way back to Wagga via the Olympic Highway.



The committee would like to express their thanks to the ride leaders who excelled in their roles, and also to all who assisted with the setup and running of the weekend.

From the feedback that we received participants enjoyed their riding weekend and our Sydney ladies have expressed their thanks for being looked after so well they really did enjoy their country weekend of riding.

We look forward to the same next year.

Farewell speech from our dear Canadian Friends...

As the dust settles behind our out-bound caravan, we wanted all Wagga BUG'ers to know how grateful we are for your welcome and friendship over the past months.

We had never ridden with a bike group before; our most serious riding had been the "Spin" class at an Invercargill gym. But we find we enjoy it immensely. Perhaps like the tiger, you're a changed animal once you swallowed your first coolie. The challenge of keeping the mob in sight, Flying Phil, Kiwi John, Madame Secretary, Handy Andy, Electric Reg, Ballroom Peter... turned into a healthy obsession.

With time and pain, I mean, practice, we could eventually return to 4-Bares without looking like we'd been dragged through a hedge. And actually taste what we were drinking. As everyone knows, much of the credit for the spirit and attitude of the Club goes to Madame Secretary for her light but effective hand in organization. And she can certainly walk the talk on a roadbike.

Our Cycle Club friendships are the highlight of our stay in Wagga Wagga. We also leave better informed.

I think I know what "out for a duck" means; I know that an Australian fly will gladly give up its life, just to poop on your tongue; you don't wear underwear on a bike; and I appreciate the value of a big hat.

We'll come back to NSW, and if circumstances are generous it may be Wagga. Meanwhile, we're going back to the feudal life aboard a

small sailboat. Our summer goal is to reach the upper portions of the Adriatic Sea.

We're always in search of another ridge up that Hill of Supreme Moments, and we hope we'll find one in Croatia.

Remember our email andyrob1953@optusnet.com.au - fellow BUG'ers - and if you catch yourself in the eastern Mediterranean, we'd be happy to see if Red Shoes can make you seasick.

Very best wishes to all in the Club. And touch a heart.

brian anderson/barbara robertson



Brian and Barb are planning on joining a mountain bike tour with Adventure Escapes and wish to extend an invitation to any of our members who may be contemplating an overseas adventure next year.

Here are the details they have so far from Adventure Tours - .

New China & Tibet Trip - Next year we are heading to China and Tibet! We have just one departure of a 17 day Chengdu to Chengdu trip scheduled for the 30th of August 2008 (just following the Beijing Olympics). Check out the trip details at: <http://www.escapeadv.com/trips/china/china.htm>. We have lots of interest and have bookings already.. if we have enough starters we will look at scheduling a second departure.

So if this sounds like your cup of tea please let us know as soon as possible.

Phone: +64 3 443 1126, Email: info@escapeadv.com

Check out our website at: <http://www.escapeadv.com>

Regular Rides - Social

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

B4 Breakfast Ride – Saturdays leaving the 4 Bears at 7.30am. Distance – Gregadoo Loop 35km

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

FOR SALE or WANTED

BICYCLES/GEAR

This will be a new segment in upcoming newsletters.

(Advertise your cycling items that you no longer need and would like to find a home. Drop an email to secretary@bww.org.au and it will be included in next newsletter)

TIP: When riding in a bunch it is good etiquette to let riders behind know if there are obstacles/potholes coming up. One way is to use hand signals, it also helps if you speak at the same time to alert them to the danger.

Follow the link below for information on the RTA website for cycling rules.

http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety/bicycles/making_itsafertocycle/bicyclesafety/cyclingrules.html

Remember –

'BE SAFE! BE SMART! BE SEEN