



BUG NEWS

The information RE-Cycle

APRIL 2013

President's Report

Well, I'm convinced that the hills in Tasmania are getting steeper. I'm just a couple of weeks back from my 3rd Tassie Bike Ride and another marvellous week on the bike. The Tassie East Coast is generally seen as a flatter area, but they still seemed to put a mountain range in front of us every day. Ann Eulenstein was also on the ride and you can read her article elsewhere in this newsletter. Maybe it's just another 5 or 6 years on my age that made them seem steeper than last time. Hopefully in a few more years, I will have forgotten again and give it another go.

It has been interesting to follow the recent debate in the Chronicle Letters section, involving cyclist behaviour. There are regularly complaints from motorists concerning cyclist behaviour, so I thought I should see what the actual rules say. The best places to see these rules are on the Bicycle Network website and on the Vic Roads website. Rule 129 concerns Keeping Left. It states that all vehicles, including bicycles, but not motorcycles, should keep as near as practicable to the left hand side of the road. Therefore, we must keep well over to the left hand side of our lane. Riding out near the centre line is against the law. Another rule that especially concerns cyclists, is about riding two abreast. It is covered in Rule 151 and states that cyclists can ride two abreast, but should be within 1.5 metres of one another. A third rider is only allowed if they are overtaking the first two riders. Therefore two riders side by side is ok, but not a third unless they are overtaking.

I believe our BUG group does this well most of the time, but sometimes we are inclined to wander all over the road, and spread over the whole of our lane. This can be very annoying to other road users, and can harm the reputation of our club if we are seen to be regularly in breach of the road rules.

We are, rightly, very quick to complain when motor vehicles do the wrong thing by us, but we do need to remember that we also have responsibilities to do the right thing. Our BUG group promotes safe riding, and so let's make sure we are good at demonstrating it.

Happy cycling and many tailwinds.

Tony Ransom

COMBINED RIDES WANGARATTA BUG WITH THE HANDLEBAR HARRIERS WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL:

The Handlebar Harriers are a Melbourne based cycling club.

On 24th April sixty of their members will be spending time in Wangaratta and have expressed they would like to join the BUG for a series of rides in the Glenrowan area.

There will be 3 rides – 35, 50 and 70kms catering for all degrees of cycling experience from ‘casual’ pace on the flat to ‘huff & puff’ pace over the Warby Ranges.

This will be a fantastic opportunity for the BUG to meet up with another Melbourne club and enjoy a great day riding with them, finishing at Glenrowan for refreshments.

The BUGs have also been invited to a BBQ at Painter’s Island Caravan Park in the evening of Wednesday 24th April (time to be advised - BYO everything).

BUG members have volunteered to lead the three rides – Fran Kneebone (35km) – Des Steele (50km) – Robin Kneebone (70km).

All rides will start from Batchelor’s Green at 9.00am and members may choose which distance they wish to ride on the day.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Marjorie Corrigan would like to thank all the members who have phoned, called or emailed to enquire about her wellbeing. I am glad to say that Marjorie is recovering okay after a recent fall when she broke her wrist. She is looking forward to joining us on future rides.



COROWA RIDE

On Wednesday 17th April there will be a ride followed by lunch in Corowa.

The ride will start from the John Foord Oval, Corowa at 9am. Plenty of parking at the Oval which is located on the banks of the mighty Murray River just over the bridge from Wahgunyah. There is a toilet block there.

The ride is 40km – easy riding on flat terrain, commencing from the Oval and returning to the Oval after completion of the ride, load the bikes on to the vehicles and drive a short distance to the Newmarket Hotel for lunch. The Newmarket’s meals are very reasonably priced and include a Senior’s menu.

Important to Book Lunch with me:

Lunch has previously been booked but it’s important that I give the Hotel exact numbers (or near enough) so that they know how many they are catering for so I’d like to hear from members who will be attending the ride/lunch by Saturday 13th April. Ring 0411 223 429 – there is a message bank attached if I’m not available at the time you ring.

Maureen

Mount Beauty Weekend

26-28th April 2013

28 people are booked on this weekend and it is **now closed** – this is sufficient number of cyclists to be riding as a group in this type of terrain.

Final Information Sheets have been emailed to all participants.

Special Note:

BUG members who are unable to join the group for the whole weekend are more than welcome to join the group on Sunday 28th for a ride over the Sandy Creek Bridge to Tallangatta township and brunch. 25 km return of easy riding, or for non-riders – join us in Tallangatta for brunch. We will be meeting at the Huon Reserve (signposted as you travel along the Murray Valley Highway from Wodonga) on the edge of Lake Hume at 10.30am. Toilets are situated there but weren't too presentable when I previewed.

If you do decide to join us, please give me a call to let me know you will be coming. If anyone has any queries please contact me on 0411 223 429.

Maureen



We have had a great attendance on our rides especially the out-of-town rides, which on occasions have included cyclists from other clubs and communities.

It has been most pleasing to meet up with other cyclists from further afield than Wangaratta and thanks go out to members of the BUG who encourage this – keep up the good work!

Recently, nineteen members gathered for their ride at Moyhu, nothing unusual about this you might say, but what was unusual was that the group included a few members who don't have the chance to take part in the out-of-town rides since they don't have the vehicles to get to the destinations. Thank you to those members for their thoughtfulness and generosity who willingly transported their fellow members, both to the Moyhu ride and on previous occasions to other destinations

Maureen

WANGARATTA'S FAMILY FUN RUN



Tony getting ready to lead the runners

On Sunday 24th February Col, John Myles and myself had great fun leading out the recent Wangaratta marathon, half marathon and fun runs. I am actually in awe of what these athletes achieve. It is easy enough to pedal 42 km at about 16km/hr, but to see the runners toiling along behind, and actually pass me briefly at one stage, was quite inspiring.

The event seems to have been a great success, and should run again next year, so hopefully we should have the job again next year. There is one complication though. They now hope to include a 100 km run starting around 2am. We have heard a rumour that Terry Kirby will volunteer to lead this one.

Tony

TAILS FROM OUR CITY COUSINS

Labour Day Long Weekend I visited Wangaratta with my wife Trisha, good friend Bob and his wife Jan. Bob and I have not ridden for some time and are used to rides every weekend of around 80-100km per day. We have both been off the bikes for a while so were keen to put some "miles in our legs" as they say. Painters Island was home to us for the weekend and we took advantage of the warm!!! weather to push some pedals for a few days.

We missed the Friday BUG ride which was a shame as we were travelling up from Melbourne. Our first morning was very warm, a late start saw us setting out on the trail towards The Vine Hotel, not for a beer but to get us on the way to Boorhaman for a short ride to remove the cobwebs off our city legs. At The Vine they were setting up for a wedding and things looked very posh. The outdoor area has been revamped and a new deck installed, it looks good. The trail has been very well maintained since we were last here during the floods. Lots of new tarmac and clearing done, congrats to the local council and you guys. The pub eventually came into view, no sausage sizzle with coleslaw as per the "Old Bug Weekend Days", but still a welcome sight for two hot cyclists. We chatted with the Publican about the brewing of Buffalo Beer, very interesting stuff but we had to get back, otherwise we would have to call for the sag wagon, as the beer was very inviting. (we had a couple to wash the dust away and support the local industry)

The next morning we set our sights on Milawa via the route set out per the BUG weekend and returning via the new rail trail through Oxley and into Wangaratta.

A good mornings riding, great trail, we stopped for a while at Bowser, to pay our respects to Alan Watson, and to chat with a couple on a tandem who had been riding for 4 days along the trails of the North East and were heading back to Wangaratta to finish their holiday. They asked us about the best place to eat when staying at Painters Island. The Sydney Hotel was the cry, they went there for lunch as we found out later and had a great meal!

We carried on along the trail, slowly getting back into a rhythm that we had not experienced for along time. The knees cried out for mercy as did our bums! BUT the trail said get into it!!! We called in at Tarrawingee for some fresh water and a brief stop. As we were riding along the River Road looking at the mounds of earth near the Quarry works when Bob shouted...."look out"

I thought, due to the wind that a car was approaching from behind as we couldn't hear much. Bob peeled off to my right and I stopped pedalling as I thought here comes a car and I'll just wait till it passes. To my surprise below us was a "6 foot Brown" I had no momentum as Bob veered right.

I lost balance and realised that there was no car. The snake was coiled and went for Bob, he was gone and I was in the way. By the time I realised that it was a snake he was travelling faster than I was and he was very close to my legs. I pedalled away and we didn't look back.

Further up the road I asked Bob if the snake was a dangerous one, (I don't know about Brown Snakes!!!)

"Jeez Mate he said, he coiled up and had a go at you, missed you by that much!!!"

All the way back we would normally enjoy the scenery but we spent all afternoon looking for bloody snakes!!! Lunch was at the Milawa Cheese Factory, yum! We set off for home via the trail and had a really great trip home.

For our final days ride we decided to exit the caravan park via the new bridge to explore. Great stuff!

We got onto the bike trail very quickly and rode all around the back of town, past the footy ground, sports centre, new housing estates and along various trails.

We rode for around 30km without getting onto a main road, we passed people jogging, walking the dog, taking the kids for a ride etc. fantastic stuff!

You are so lucky to enjoy seeing so much in such a short time. Sadly home beckoned so we packed up in the afternoon and got ready to go home. 115km for the weekend, not bad after such a long time off the bikes.

Tea at The Sydney..

Till next time....

Good to be back in "WANG"

Best regards to all.

Mike & Trisha Molloy

TRACK CYCLING

Since the early 1900's, Victoria has been the "Mecca" for track cycling. Thousands would flock to velodromes like the Exhibition Track (Exhibition Gardens Carlton), the Motor Drome (Olympic Park) where "Oppy" (Sir Hubert Opperman) set many records including motor pace behind the motorbike and the Famous North Essendon Board Track (1939-1960's)

Track cycling was a major sport and produced many champions including world champions. Riders became household names. Riders such as Sid Paterson, Russel Mockridge, Keith Reynolds, along with international stars Oscar Plattner, Enzo Sacchi, Reg Harris to name just a few.

The crowd would be treated to a typical program of handicap racing 1/2 mile, mile, heats & finals, 4 man derby, 2 man match races and the spectacular 5 mile aces scratch race.

Modern six day racing unlike the early 1900's six day races (2 men to a team) which were 24 hrs non stop with one rider of each team on the track at all times bringing in his team mate when the "Jam Sessions" were on. Aussie riders Alf Strom and Reg Arnold became world renowned for their skills in the discipline.

Christmas carnivals in Victoria were responsible for attracting huge crowds to Shepparton, Echuca, Wangaratta and the drawcards in Tasmania were Launceston, Devonport, Ulverstone and Burnie. Other famous wheel races from years gone by, such as "The Melbourne Cup on Wheels" and the "Austral" wheel race are still run today and the "Austral" was once ridden on grass at The Melbourne Cricket Ground.

The track bike has no brakes, no gears, and silk tyres stuck on very narrow rims with shelack.

I came down from Wagga Wagga and rode the Olympic Velodrome for a season. The velodrome was of similar dimensions as the old North Essendon Board Track (7 laps to the mile). I love my road bike, but nothing compares to the big banked saucer and the atmosphere of the clatter of perpendicular boards, and the noise of the crowd. Although I won many club events I never won a big wheel race, nevertheless I got in a lot of finals.

My most memorable ride was running 2nd to Dudley Crowe, triple 5 mile Australian Sprint, mile champion at Cootamundra in the 1950's. Track cycling is a fairly dangerous sport, full of thrills and spills of which I've had a few.

They should have called me "Autumn Leaves" as I have the dubious honour of falling off at Wangaratta, Albury, Bombala, Wagga Wagga and the Olympic Velodrome.

Happy cycling

Don Bradshaw.

Which way did the rest of the team go?



Chiltern - Rutherglen Ride.

Chiltern Park was buzzing with cyclists organizing themselves and their bikes – introductions made to our six cyclists from Chiltern then it was time to set off on our ride to Rutherglen. The morning was very cool and riders were anxious to get on their way in order to warm up – and warm up they did as they climbed up the long, steady incline before turning off towards Cornishtown. A peloton of 21 riders with a tail wind and warm sunshine made for a speedy ride through picturesque farmland – a bit too speedy maybe as we arrived at the Café Viand, Rutherglen ahead of our scheduled time – a good excuse for us to add a few more kilometers to our total so we did a tour of the township and arrived back at the café to indulge in their good food and engage in, at times, very animated conversation. By now our very wayward Country Lad had joined us – but that's a story for later! After refreshments photos were taken to record the occasion and then it was back on the bikes – and a head wind all the way back to Chiltern. Cheerios said to our visitors, we hope they enjoyed riding with Wangaratta BUG and a thank you to Dianne for arranging a great day.



A Country Lad's Senior Moment

Suffering a senior moment (more to come I suspect) the Country Lad arrived for Saturday's ride, not only at the wrong time but alas, also in the wrong meeting place.

Thankful for modern technology, a mobile phone call directed him to the right place but unfortunately we were already half way through the ride some kilometers away. Eventually this Country Lad who'd lost his way, caught up with us for refreshments at Rutherglen. After much explanation and a cup of coffee to regain his composure the Country Lad joined us for the second half of the ride back to Chiltern where we finished the ride – not so the Country Lad – he had to ride back to Rutherglen to pick up his vehicle before making the long journey back to outback Dookie!! We hope he didn't have another senior moment on the way home.

Maureen

Great Escapade Tasmania

Bicycle Network Victoria organise the Great Escapade rides each year. They are 9 day bike rides in various areas of Australia and New Zealand and sometimes further afield. This year the ride was in Tassie starting from Launceston on 9 February and stopping at Scottsdale, Weldborough, St Helens, Bicheno, Triabunna, Copping and finishing at Port Arthur on 17 February. It was a ride of 531 kilometres.

I entered this ride thinking it would be a unique way to experience a part of Tassie and for the challenge..... and a challenge it was! From the very first day until the last we had hills, hills and more hills with average daily elevations of nearly 900 metres. The biggest day, Launceston to Scottsdale was a total elevation of 1500m. The downhill runs were exhilarating especially through the damp rainforests. The Elephant Pass descent at 450m was breathtaking and lots of fun.

When riding a bike you experience smells and sounds a lot more intensely than when driving in a car. The smell of road kill assaulted our nostrils with regular bursts on most days but the smell of lush rain forest and sea air in the early mornings are happy memories. Further south the pungent smell of burned bushland greeted us as we approached Dunnalley and Eagle Neck. The sound of burned crunchy leaves shaking in the breeze in the burned out bushland was eerie.

Club President, Tony Ransom, was also on this ride and we managed to run into (not literally) each other on most days, which was handy on one day when I desperately needed to borrow \$10 to buy a delicious morning tea baked by a Sorrell ladies committee. I'm sure you will all hear Tony's stories in coming months, especially the one about the toilet on the truck and maybe the pancakes at Elephant's Pass.

The constant hill climbing made this ride a very tough ride but a ride I thoroughly enjoyed on many levels. Friendly people, great weather, brilliant organisation, great food and of course, the beauty of Tassie !!!



Ann & Tony at a Pancake
stop on top of Elephant Pass

Ann Eulenstein

TASMANIA—A STATE OF MANY HILLS

From all accounts Anne and Tony had a great time riding in Tasmania, however they are both still passing comments about those hills.

Tony was heard saying, “there must have been an earthquake since my last visit as I don’t recall the hills been this steep.” His fellow BUG member replied by saying, “no Tony, there hasn’t been an earthquake, you have aged since your last visit”. Now who needs friends like that.

Ann’s comments were; hills, hills, hills and more hills - but I made it and enjoyed it.

Ann and Tony talk about two hills in particular; Bust-Me-Gall and Break-Me-Neck, so read on and you will learn about how these hills got their names.



Bust-Me-Gall & Break-Me-Neck

Australia has some quirky place names but Tasmania has the pick of the. For example, there's Bust-Me-Gall Hill & Break-Me-Neck Hill, which are situated on the road from Hobart to Orford. Early east coast settlers and travellers, with their bullock drays laden with supplies, had difficulty in negotiating the two steep sections of road. The ascent of Bust-Me-Gall was so difficult that travellers often had to dismount from their horses or wagons in order to relieve the animals of some of their burden. The descent on the other side was just as steep and equally difficult to negotiate.

Legend has it that Break-Me-Neck was named after an exclamation uttered by a wagoner during his first experience of the hill. It is not surprising that after negotiating these two hills and the Gatehouse Marshes, the trip down the Prosser River Valley with its convict-built road was seen as, and accordingly named, Paradise Gorge



Tells its own story



ONE LONG CLIMB

A NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Our Albury member, Ann Eulenstein is organizing to bring a few cycling friends to Wangaratta on Saturday 13th April and would like to join us for a ride.

They'll be catching the train from Albury, arriving at Wangaratta approximately 7.30am, going for a coffee and then to Batchelor's Green to join the rest of the BUG for a ride to Milawa. They would have time to head back into Wangaratta, have lunch and intend catching the afternoon train back to Albury.

They would be happy for anyone to meet them when they arrive at Wangaratta and I'm sure that like myself there would be other members quite happy to do this.

Ann expressed that 40km would be a sufficient ride for her group and Milawa would be perfect - going out via the Oxley Rail Trail, morning tea at the Milawa Cheese Factory and return along Oxley Flats Road. Ann was happy with this suggestion.

There is also a suggestion that the Albury group are planning a weekend in Wangaratta – July 20th and we'll be informed of any definite plans nearer the time. I will make note of this on our Winter Rides Program.

Maureen



Recently Pat led us to Dookie and along the town's Rail Trail

Standing—. Robin, Eileen, Marjorie and Corrie

Seated—Pat, Julie, Gunter and Fran

Photographer—Maureen

WANGARATTA BUG COMMITTEE:

President— Tony Ransom, Vice President— Maureen Adcock, Secretary— Terry Kirby
Treasurer— Colin Andrews. Committee— Fran Kneebone, Adrian Redfern and David Spivey
Newsletter Editor- Julie McQuade, e-mail reports to: aj.jmmcquade@bigpond.com

Keep the reports coming as without YOUR input my job as newsletter editor would be very difficult—I need your help for our newsletter to be successful.

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and much more.

The following local bicycle shops shown below are proud supporters of the Wangaratta Bicycle User Group. You are encouraged to visit their stores, check out their extensive range of bicycles and accessories and seek qualified advice on your bicycle issues. Please support them through your purchases.



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