

Bicycle Wagga Wagga – Ride Report

landra Castle Weekend

10-11 May 2008 – Kerrie Burkett (Ride Leader)

What a magical weekend, great company, great weather and great destination, thank you to everyone who attended the rides in and around Young on the 10th and 11th May 2008.

There were 23 people who took part in the tour of 'landra Castle' held at midday on a delightful Autumn Saturday. Nineteen of us rode from Young via Monteagle where we stopped to regroup. Debbie from Cootamundra who has not been able to ride for the past twelve months due to injury, even took the opportunity to road test her new three wheeled recumbent, riding the 12km from Monteagle village to landra. Up and down the moderate hills, we wound our way through the picturesque countryside, until the turrets of landra loomed large in the foreground. Having arrived a little early some riders chose to ride on and take in the scenery in the direction of Greenethorpe, while the rest of us basked in the sun until the manager's wife conducted the tour.

Four folk arrived by car just for the tour, David Glastonbury and Geoff Marks were unable to ride but gave beneficial car support. Bill and Pat Teal also drove over from Cootamundra bringing the Coota; BUG contingent to eight. The castle put on a stunning performance and surprised many people with her immense sprawling grandeur and history. We then sat in the magnificent grounds and were well fed by De from Cowra who provided a more than adequate freshly packed lunch.

After roaming the grounds and historic stables, we set off via the Henry Lawson Highway back to Young. The roads and conditions in and around Young lend themselves to excellent biking and Saturday afternoon was no exception. We arrived back in the beer garden of the Great Eastern Hotel at around 3.30pm having ridden 86km or an extra 16km for those having taken in the Greenethorpe sights. We then prepared to freshen up for a great night of dining and socialising.

Sunday morning brought us another magnificent day as we set off from the Young Railway Station towards Boorowa. Unfortunately Eric Armstrong had morning bike troubles and became a passenger in one of the support vehicles, sitting back to admire the scenery. Cheryl Armstrong did not ride on Sunday but took the chance to travel back to Greenethorpe and catch up with her mum for Mother's Day.

The trip out on the Boorowa road, past Apps Lane led us to the historical village of Murringo which was once the old stomping ground of Johnny Meyer, alias 'Johnny Murringo'. So both he and his son Patrick were able to share a few family memories.

We all arrived in Boorowa in one piece except for Shane Burkett who left some skin on an old rickety bridge 4km before the town. Having almost crossed the bridge, Shane's front wheel hit an old bolt which locked the wheel into a crevice, suddenly sending him over the handle bars followed by the bike. A magnificent 360 degree tumble caused him to land on his shoulder, but survive to ride another day, but unfortunately not that day. His beloved Cervelo frame had cracked and he was forced to jump into one of the cars on the way home.

Lunch was a sumptuous roast dinner and dessert at the historical Boorowa Hotel before heading back into Young via the Moppity Road. This was a delightful afternoon ride, mostly downhill, until we approached the last 25km where we climbed three reasonably substantial hills, the first one will stay in my mind as a definite challenge but with lots of down hill to follow. All riders rode safely back into Young at around 3.30pm having completed 100km and finished the day with a cold drink and much conversation about the weekend's events.

Thank you to the hospitality of Young and District for providing an outstanding weekend of riding and confirming yet again, that cycling is the only way to go!