



January 2003

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Bicycle Wagga Wagga
PO Box 5789
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Bicycle Wagga Wagga Membership Is Now Due

Membership Year

Membership is now aligned with the calendar year. If you haven't already renewed your membership it is now time to do so.

Renewals

The fees have not changed since BWW was formed. The fee for a Family membership is \$10, and Adult membership costs \$5 and a Child under 16 membership is \$1.

Don't forget, one of your membership benefits is a 10% discount on parts and accessories at the three Wagga Wagga specialist bike shops. Also, your BWW membership entitles you to a 10% discount at Mountain Designs. Therefore your membership cost can be easily recouped with a purchase or two. This makes your membership very affordable.

If you haven't renewed your membership you will find a Membership Form with this newsletter. Please complete the form and forward it together with your payment to the Secretary/Treasurer, PO Box 5789, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650 at your earliest convenience.

2003 Somerville

Calendars

Some calendars produced by Phil Somerville, the resident cartoonist in the Australian Cyclist, were ordered for sale at the Expo. Unfortunately these didn't arrive until after the Expo and consequently were not sold.

The calendars retail at \$16.50 however Gillian Helyar has been selling the calendars for \$12 to cover costs. Many have already been sold but there is a limited number left. If you would like to see one please contact Gillian on 02 6921 1651.

Return to Talbingo

Those BWW members that ventured back to Talbingo for the Christmas Party had a great time. As well as some riding there was some serious socialising and everyone enjoyed themselves although one of the dancers may need surgery. The card players were quietly going about their

business and everyone found something to keep themselves amused. If you couldn't attend then you should make certain that you make this year's.

BWW Jerseys

Netti have been unable to produce our jerseys due to a machinery problem however this is expected to be rectified in the very near future.

As the orders have not yet been placed you still have the opportunity to get in before these close. Please contact Ray Stenhouse on 02 6921 4552 as soon as possible after 27/1/2003 if you have not already placed an order.

Bus to The RTA Big Ride

If you are intending going to this year's RTA Big Ride from Warragamba to Cootamundra and wish to use the bus then please advise Ray Stenhouse on 02 6921 4552 as soon as possible after 27/1/2003.

BNSW has agreed to co-hire the bus and trailer. This will assist in keeping the costs down as it did last year. If you intend to use the bus, or know of other people that may be interested please let Ray know.

Ride Calendar

Graeme Buchan has prepared a calendar of rides for 2003. BWW rides together with other rides that may interest members are listed which will help you program your cycling events for the year.

As always, we are looking for something different to offer our members. If you have some ideas for rides please do not hesitate to contact Graeme so that these may be added to the calendar or programmed for a future date. Graeme can be contacted on 02 6922 6806.

Wangaratta BUG – 8th/9th/10th March

The Wangaratta BUG has extended an invitation to our members to join them in a combined BUG weekend of fun cycling in the picturesque North East region of Victoria. Last year's event was greatly enjoyed by our members that attended and all would recommended this weekend.

This is a long weekend in Victoria and there are rides

planned for each day. On Saturday there is a 50km ride followed that evening with a Spit roast dinner that is included in the fee.

On the Sunday the cyclists make their way to Myrtleford by car for a 60km ride along the Rail Trail to Bright and return.

To finish, on Monday there is a gentle ride to Eldorado and return. this is approximately 40km long and starts early enough to allow you to complete the ride before heading home without being in too much of a rush.

The cost of the weekend is \$35 per adult and \$18 per child under 12 years. You have to register and pay before 17th February. For further details or a registration form please contact Alan Watson on 03 5721 5073 or Jim Doyle on 03 5721 5193.

You have to arrange your own accommodation and as the rides will be held over the Victorian long weekend it will be at a premium.

Regular Sunday Rides

These will continue to be 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 with a coffee shop finish.

Mid-week Rides

Lisa Glastonbury has conducted some mid-week rides commencing in Bike Week last year. This year Lisa hopes to build on the start made and develop these rides even further.

If you are keen to join others for a regular ride, on Wednesdays, please contact Lisa on 6926 2354.

Mountain Biker's

Mountain bike rides are conducted on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month, also Wednesday evenings .

Rides vary in length & times

Best to contact Martin on 69318926 for details

Please consider attending some of the weekend rides on the 2003 calendar as many are suitable to both road riders & MTB. Such as the ANZAC weekend at Cabramurra with excellent offroad trails.

Contact David 69262354

Bikeways Plan **Review**

Wagga Wagga City Council is seeking comments on the review of our City Bikeways, we need your opinion of our existing Bikeways and on future direction. We have enclosed a survey sheet for your participation, please Fax. to Pres. Graeme 69226807 or post to PO. Box 5789 Wagga Wagga 2650

The facts:

November 1997 - Wagga Wagga City Council (WWCC) adopted a Bikeways Plan. Since that time representatives of BWW have met with Council to discuss Bikeways issues.

July 1998 – WWCC budget for completion of Stages 1-5 of the Bikeways Plan was about \$2,4000,000.

June 2000 - The latest Bikeways brochure was released and essentially details the work completed to date on the Bikeways Plan. This gives Wagga about 23kms of off-road track, all shared with walkers. About of this 2km is paved, about 17kms has granite surface, and about 4kms is graded dirt. There are also about 12kms of on-road routes using shared car parking lanes or shoulders. In addition, there are several kilometers of “encouragement routes” with logos/signs only.

September 2000 – WWCC advised that about \$600,000 had been spent on construction of Bikeways, with \$300,000 coming from gasworks money and \$300,000 granted from RTA. It estimated that about \$10,000 would be available annually for maintenance of the Bikeway system.

October 2000 – BWW conducted an audit of the condition of the constructed Bikeways and submitted it to WWCC. BWW was advised in May 2001 that the cost of completion of jobs on this list would be over \$78,000.

December 2002 – WWCC advised that it has spent \$700,000 - \$750,000 on Bikeways construction to date, and that there had been no allocation of funds to continue works on the Plan in 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 budgets. It is now seeking information from the community on the level of satisfaction with the works completed, and opinions on the need for Council to “increase expenditure” on Bikeways.

Conclusions:

WWCC has constructed less than one third of the adopted Bikeways Plan (based on 1998 cost estimates), and about 40% of the money spent has been from RTA.

The total amount spent on Bikeways by WWCC may be as little as \$300,000 (advice given in Sept 2000)

Since June 2000, when the latest brochure was released, virtually

no progress has been made on the Bikeways Plan.

The \$78,000+ estimate to complete jobs detailed by BWW (on recently constructed works) indicates that WWCC has either not constructed those Bikeways adequately or has not allocated sufficient funds (\$10,000 per annum) to maintain the network (or both these scenarios)

Compared to annual expenditure on infrastructure for cars, the \$ spent on bicycle encouragement and facilities is miniscule, and with good construction the cost of maintenance should be minimal.

What now?

If you believe Wagga Wagga needs better facilities for bicycles, PLEASE complete the questionnaire on the reverse of the membership form NOW and send it NOW to Bicycle Wagga Wagga. We need to have information to take to Council and need some people to help with activities to encourage the completion of works detailed in the Plan that WWCC agreed to in 1997.

Open Meeting

Bicycle Wagga Wagga will have an open meeting to analyze ,review & discuss the results of your surveys on February 5th, 7.30pm Bolton Park . Please send survey in prior & please come along to further discuss the future with the decision makers from council.

Lake Albert Pathway

A Public Meeting was held on Jan 7 to discuss relevant issues pertaining to the development around the foreshore of Lake Albert between Apex Pk and the Boat Club. BWW representatives attended and voiced the hope that the present bike/foot path be extended around the perimeter of the Lake, and any developments should allow for this. There was a very positive audience response to this.

A Working Party has been set up to consider options for a solution to this but BWW has not received information on progress, or an invitation to participate.

Bicycle NSW

We currently have available a draft copy of the RTA Bicycle Guidelines which Bicycle NSW has requested we make comment on , if you wish to view/study these documents please call Graeme on 69226806

We also have available from BNSW guidelines for Ride Leaders.

Weekend Rides

You will notice no doubt that the rides calendar for 2003 is busy ? We are hoping this year to conduct many more rides than in the past in an endeavor to attract a wider cycling audience , with fewer people participating in each ride however we have a variety of rides each month to choose from , if you are interested in a particular ride please contact the relevant person ASAP as accommodation on some rides is limited

Apology

If this Newsletter appears a little disjointed please accept our apologies as our excellent Secretary (Ray) is off cycling in Tasmania ,having completed most of the publication before leaving has left the remainder to be completed by Gillian & Graeme

President

I appeal to one and all to take some time to fill out the survey & attend our "open meeting" .

We must show council the need for upgrading & maintaining bikeways in the city if Wagga Wagga, I feel we are now sliding backwards in the cycleways program ,NOW is the time to act.

Graeme Buchan.

Safe cycling!