



July 2003

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Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 9th August. With the departure of the Helyars and some of the senior committee members wishing to step down from their positions there is ample opportunity for those people wanting to contribute their skills, time and efforts into furthering the interests of fellow cyclists.

The venue is yet to be set but will shortly be published in the regular column in *The Riverina Leader* and on the website.

Bikeways Action Group

Bicycle Wagga Wagga, as well as promoting enjoyment of cycling, has a charter to press for the development of cycling facilities and infrastructure by the Wagga Wagga City Council.

To this end a small group has been meeting for several months to chart ways of reigniting WWCC's interest in the completion of the Bikeplan developed in 1997 and other related matters.

The ***Bikeways Action Group*** (BAG) sees its ***aims*** as:

- To lobby for and obtain the commitment, and action, of WWCC to maintain and develop the bikeways network and cycle facilities of Wagga Wagga
- To promote cycling as a viable transport and recreational option for the people of Wagga Wagga.

To get the attention of WWCC and help to set the agenda the **BAG** has developed the following ***action plan***:

- Raise the profile of cycling and cycling issues through the media, using opportunities such as: thumbs up/thumbs down articles, letters to the editor etc on items related to cycling issues;

- Promote the use of the BWW "Hazard Report" form to report hazards to WWCC for attention;
- Attending WWCC meetings on the 4th Monday of the month at 7.00pm to be a visible presence of cyclists and their interest in what WWCC is doing;
- Maintaining BWW's representation on the WWCC Bikeways Steering Committee to try to get some greater input to WWCC works planning;
- The BWW web site has been updated and moved to a new address - www.bww.org.au - check it out! This will make it more accessible and relevant to members and others. New items such as local Ride Guides and BWW's ride calendar are now available. The site is now being updated regularly, nearly on a daily basis, and your submission of items for use on it is invited.

We will be requesting that links to the website be included in WWCC's site and also the Wagga Tourism site. Other suitable links will also be explored.

The Ride Guides will be offered to the Tourist Centre and Bike Shops as these are developed.

- It is proposed to develop a "Political Candidates Survey" regarding cycling issues for use in the next local government elections. The results will be offered to the media for reporting and used to keep the elected councillors honest.
- Monitor WWCC planning activities and offer constructive input whenever possible. WWCC will soon be exhibiting its draft "Strategic Plan for Wagga Wagga" and a review of the "Open Space Policy" for the Local Environment Plan. Submissions on these documents are proposed.
- Promote new opportunities for people to enjoy cycling, such as the mid week rides being run by the Glastonburys.

Our ***priorities for work*** on the bikeways network include:

- Maintain the current network, including pavement markings and signs - only \$10,000 is included in

the WWCC budget for 2003/04 for bikeways maintenance!

- Upgrade the existing network to a sealed, low maintenance surface on all bikeways, eg concrete or asphalt;
- Complete the bikeways plan, especially the missing links, eg Lake Albert circuit;
- Include cycle friendly features in the design of all new roads and intersections/roundabouts.

To get WWCC's attention and a better bikeways network and facilities for cyclists in Wagga Wagga we need your help and support - many hands will make it easier work. **You can help by:**

- keeping an eye out for opportunities to highlight cycling issues to the media and to WWCC in personal letters and submissions
- attending the WWCC meetings as an identifiable cyclist. The next meeting is 28th July.
- meeting with us on the Monday night following the WWCC meetings. The next meeting is 4th August.
- representing BWW on the WWCC Bikeways Strategy Committee (3-4 meetings a year on Tuesday afternoons).
- committing to help develop the candidates' survey.
- committing to help develop BWW submissions on WWCC's exhibited policies and plans. Make a submission supporting cycling to the WWCC Social Plan "Your place – Your say" which is currently being requested.
- sharing the work of keeping the BWW website up to date.
- developing new Ride Guides or especially the maps to go with these.
- coming up with more ideas and actions to promote the development of the bikeways and cycling.

If we each do a little then soon the whole will be done and who knows what we can achieve!

If you would like to be part of the **Bikeways Action Group** contact:

Gordon Moore
Ph 6921 4444
Mob 0428 694 335
gordon@haz.com.au

Greg Fell
Ph 6922 3474 (ah)
gfell1@vtown.com.au

Alliance Program

Through the Alliance Program, discounts are available at Mountain Designs stores. Generally there is a 10% discount available however Mountain Designs occasionally have special sales where Alliance Program members get even better bargains.

Notification of these special sales has been distributed to members that have e-mail. However as not every BWW member has e-mail some members have not been notified and consequently have missed the sale.

Local MD manager, Kerissa Heritage, has suggested that anyone who wants to receive notification can join the Alliance Program as an individual. This way you will receive a personal invitation to avail yourself of the opportunities that the sale presents.

If you wish to do this, please drop into the MD shop in Baylis Street to exchange your BWW Alliance card for your very own.

BWW Jerseys

We have been advised that the jersey order should be delivered on July 18th. Watch out for all those cyclists sporting their brand new Netti jerseys.

There are a limited number of jerseys available. If you missed the order and want to know what is available please contact Ray Stenhouse on 02 6921 4552.

Visibility Campaign

With the generous support of the RTA BWW conducted a visibility campaign

in June. There were advertisements in The Riverina Leader and The Daily Advertiser as well as on the radio stations 2WG and StarFM.

There will be a follow up campaign later this month. Keep your eyes out for this.

The best way to encourage other cyclists to do think about what they wear so that they are more visible to other road users is by setting an example. Please lead by example and wear clothing that is brightly coloured while riding. This can make a huge difference to a your visibility as can the use of light coloured clothing during hours of low light and darkness. The use of reflective material on your clothing and your bike will make you very conspicuous. This will decrease the likelihood of you being accidentally hit because you were not seen.

Don't forget that the use of a steady or flashing white front light, a steady or flashing red rear light and a red rear reflector are legal requirements if you ride your bike in hours of darkness or bad weather. Remember - Be seen, be smart, be safe.

Been There, Done That

Since the last newsletter members have enjoyed a number of cycling delights. In April a small but energetic group journeyed to Corryong for rides during the Man from Snowy River Festival.

Ben and Barb put together a series of local rides during Easter that attracted interstate visitors as well as locals. The rides were enjoyable and the plan is to make the Easter Rides a bigger and better event next year.

In early May Les Sobey organised the Dartmouth for Dinner ride out of Albury. This ride was aimed at the stronger experienced cyclist and was enjoyed by all that participated. Ray will tell you that the bee-sting from the

bakery on Saturday was far better than the free bee-sting he got on Sunday.

In mid May the village of Pleasant Hills received a weekend visit from a bunch of cyclists. These cyclists brought the rain that was very much appreciated by the locals even if it did take the shine of riding for a while.

The Mini Urban Rally the weekend after was again a huge success. The fog lifted just after the briefing as the teams departed on their quests to gain maximum points. Everyone adhered to Rule 1 which was Have Fun.

The Henry Lawson Festival in June saw a bunch of keen cyclists ride to Grenfell for the activities there. Some rode from Wagga Wagga and others rode from Parkes to meet with the vehicle bound members for some out of the ordinary activities. A couple of new bikes attracted some attention. A report on the ride to Grenfell and the weekend's activities can be found on the revamped webpage www.bww.org.au

Regular Sunday Rides

These will continue to be held each Sunday commencing at 2:00pm from Wagga Beach. The route and difficulty is decided on by the riders who turn up, but are generally about 1.5-2 hours in duration with a coffee shop finish.

Mid-week Rides

Coffee Grinds is a series of social Wednesday morning rides of about 30km. While normal organisers David and Lisa Glastonbury will be packing their Bike Fridays and will be away from Wagga Wagga shortly regular participant Craig Alexander will ensure these rides continue in their absence.

The rides commence at **9:00am** and depart from **Barefoot on Norman**, on the corner of Coleman and Norman Streets. You can contact **Craig** on **02 6928 4522**.

To Yack and Back 30th August

A classic 100km Audax ride in the foothills of Victoria's Alps. A mixture of flat, undulating and hilly terrain with some great descents on quiet country roads around **Rutherglen**.

Contact **Steve Henderson** on **02 6032 9797** or e-mail stevehen@iprimus.com.au.

Junee Ride 31st August

This annual ride is being organised by Greg fell. The outbound route goes via Overdale and is approximately 44km. The return journey is shorter by about 6km along the Bomen Road.

Departure time is set at 10:00am from the Wagga Beach. There will be a support vehicle available and there is the option to ride to Junee and return by train if the fitness level is down a bit.

Please contact **Greg** on **6922 3474** for further details.

City to Lake 14th September

For the past few years the annual fun run has seen the inclusion of a Wheelies Section that allowed people on bikes and other wheeled machines to participate in this event. This will give those cyclists whose bikes have been lying idle in the shed the opportunity to wipe off the cobwebs, dust off the saddle, pump some air into the tyres, and get the legs moving as a warm up for Bike Week.

It's not a race, just a relaxed ride out to the Lake. This is an opportunity to show the community how many bike riders there are which might just help our cause when it comes to trying to get Council to take cyclists seriously.

Bike Week 20th – 28th September

This year's Bike Week activities are yet to be finalised. As always there will be a number of cycling activities added to our normal weekly ones. Once again, keep your eye on the regular column in *The Riverina Leader* and on the website for further details as we get closer to the date.

Warby Wander 27th / 28th September

This is a ride aimed at the more experienced cyclist. It departs from Albury and it travels through the North Eastern region of Victoria. Ride organiser, Les Sobey, is in the final stages of preparation finalising accommodation and other arrangements. Baggage will be carried but there is no sag wagon. You must register for this ride with **Les Sobey** on **02 6041 5460**.

Long Weekend 4th/5th/6th September

The Brown Boy's Bicycle bash is slated for this weekend. The ride is in the very early stages of development but mark the calendar anyway. Further details will be published in the regular column in *The Riverina Leader* and on the website.

You can contact **Graeme Buchan** on **02 6922 6896** for information on this ride.

Canola Canter 12th October

The Canola Canter will be held on 12th October. The ride will be run as an Audax event, with three routes available on the day. Distances will be 50, 100 and 200km.

Audax rides are non-competitive long distance bicycle rides called "randonees". The challenge of Audax is not in racing, but in riding at your own pace to finish within the time limit. Audax participants often work together by riding in groups. Riders will carry a "Brevet" card, which is stamped at checkpoints. The organisers will provide route maps and some light refreshments at checkpoints. No private support is allowed outside checkpoints, i.e. no cars following riders at any time.

The maximum allowed times for Audax Road Ride distances are based on maintaining a minimum average speed of 15km/h. The 50km riders have 3hrs and 20min, the 100km riders 6hrs and 40mins and the 200km riders 13hrs 20min to complete the distance.

The 50km route will head out along the Old Narrandera Road past Euberta to Millwood before returning to the Wagga Beach. The 100km ride will do a circuit which includes Millwood, Coolamon and Marrar and then back to Wagga. The 200km route will include the 100km circuit followed by another circuit out to Wantabadgery, Junee and back to Wagga.

For further details contact **Ray Stenhouse** on **02 6921 4552** ah.

Eldorado Gold MTB 12th October

There's gold in them thar hills and plenty of good mountain bike riding, like riding along fire trails but it's not technical. This is a pleasant bush pedal for the fat tyred brigade. It's a 100km Audax dirt ride in Victoria's North Eastern region near Eldorado. Contact **Chris Rogers** on **03 5726 9412** or e-mail richierogers@aol.com

Charity Rides

Royal Flying Doctor Service 75th Anniversary Ride

Our member, Dianne Fielding, together with Vicki Campbell of Launceston will cycle from Cloncurry, site of the original Flying Doctor base, to Dubbo, where a base was recently opened in 1999. Di and Vicki left Cloncurry on 10th June and hope to arrive in Dubbo seven weeks later. They expect to cover 4,000km on both sealed and dirt roads.

According to Di, the aim of the ride is to raise funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and to increase awareness of their work. But those of us that know Di well realise it's an excuse to get away from work and ride the bike.

For details of the ride or to see how to make a donation see the website: www.users.bigpond.net.au/downunder

Bike for Bibles Ride

These rides began in 1984 and raise funds for the Bible Society's literacy programs around the world. This year's project is providing New Reader Scriptures for literacy work in India.

Greg Fell will be joining the "Murrumbidgee and Upper Murray" Ride from 28th September to 6th October 2003. The challenge is 900km in 9 days with the route being Yass-Cootamundra-Ganmain-Lockhart-Albury (rest day)-Tintaldra-Tumbarumba-Adaminaby-Cooma.

The first part will be good going but the last few days could be more than just undulating! If you would like to support **Greg** and the project then get in touch with him on **6922 3474**. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

To find out more about Bike for Bibles check out www.bibles2theworld.com.

Mont 24hr MTB Race – 11th / 12th October

This is a 24-hour mountain bike challenge in the Kowen Forest near Canberra. Last year several teams from this area went to the national capital and had a ball. For further details or to register an interest in joining a team contact **Neil Russell** on **0418 972 373**.

Around the Bay 19th October

A challenging 210km ride that circumnavigates Port Phillip Bay that has proved popular with some of our members in the past. For further details see Bicycle Victoria's webpage www.bv.com.au

Wanted

Brett Murchie is looking for a tag-along. If you happen to have one which is no longer being used, and want to make Brett an offer he couldn't refuse please call him on **6931 4433**.

Not Wanted

A tow-bar mounted bike rack has been donated to Bicycle Wagga Wagga. This rack has seen little use and is capable of carrying three bikes.

The committee has decided to sell the rack to the best offer. If you are interested arrange to inspect the rack and have your offer to **Ray Stenhouse** on **6921 4552** before **21st August**.

Safe cycling!