

This Week with the Ghostriders



SPECIAL EDITION—SAT 11TH SEP 2010

Exciting News for the Ghostriders

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This is a special edition of the newsletter to bring you all some very exciting news. A few weeks I mentioned that I had been having discussions with one of Australia's largest bicycle dealers and that I hoped to bring you good news in the near future. I am pleased to now inform you that we have now entered into a relationship with **GOLDCROSS CYCLES** which will bring a lot of benefits to you all.

GOLDCROSS is part of the **ULTRA CHEAP AUTO** business group and currently runs 11 megastores in Victoria, with plans to open approximately 100 stores across Australia in the near future. They supply a huge range of bikes, clothing, spare parts, accessories and can also provide all your bike servicing and repair needs. I recently discovered just how great their service is when I purchased a new FUJI Nevada Mountain bike from them. Before purchasing I spent some time on the net, checking out prices around Australia and overseas. I found that the price I was offered was significantly less than I could have bought it anywhere else in the world!

After lengthy discussions with the General Manager of Goldcross Cycles they have agreed to support our riders with the following offer. In return for prominent display of their logo on our web site and in the weekly newsletter, Goldcross will offer all our riders

- (a) A discount of at least 10% off all bikes, parts and services (apart from items already on promotion)
- (b) A free dynamic bike fit on any new bikes purchased.
- (c) Advance notification of upcoming sales and special offers (to avoid the rush)
- (d) Provision of free bike maintenance courses at selected stores for our members (4 to 6 people required).

I think this is a fantastic outcome for our riders, not only for those in the Eastern suburbs, but also those in the northern suburbs, Bendigo, NSW and Queensland. In Melbourne there are Goldcross stores in Fountain Gate, Knox City, Richmond, Chirnside Park, Cranbourne, Camberwell, Chadstone, Epping, Hoppers Crossing, Moonee Ponds and Waurn Ponds. Hopefully all our Victorian readers will find a store in easy driving distance. With the peak bike buying season just around the corner this is the perfect chance to secure a great deal, not only on a new bike, but also on all your cycling clothing. If you have not yet visited a Goldcross store, you will certainly find it a pleasant experience.

In order to claim the discount you will **need to carry a suitable Ghost rider member card**. Some of you will already have one of the cards that I distributed a few years ago. For all those newer members who don't have a card, if you drop me a line I will print and laminate one for you. Other members have also used these member cards to negotiate discounts with other suppliers as well.

This will definitely be the last correspondence I will have time to send you before I leave for South America, so I will take the opportunity to wish you all a safe and enjoyable cycling springtime and trust that you will take the opportunity to join in our scheduled rides over the next few weeks. I will be thinking of you all on Lungbuster Day—Sat Sep 25th.

Adios

Dennis



Ghostrider Program for September and October (keep for reference)

During our absence in South America the Ghostrider program of activities will continue as usual. Any questions relating to the Ghostriders should be addressed to our reigning King of the Trail **Jon Bate**. His phone number is **5968 4841**.

Some of our upcoming rides over the next couple of months are detailed below.

Sun Sep 12th—Warburton to Narbethong Ride

This will start at the Cement Creek car park. This is located about half way up the tourist road from Warburton to the Donna Buang summit. There are plenty of available parking spaces. The ride will commence at 9.30 am sharp. **Steve Warburton** will be the acting convenor. Any questions relating to this ride should be addressed to him (Ph **5968 5618**). Any riders wishing to expend more energy could start at the base of Donna Buang and ride up to Cement Creek before the main ride starts.

Saturday Sep 25th—Annual Donna Buang Lungbuster

Of course this is our biggest ride of the year and I would encourage all our riders to be involved, either as a rider or as a volunteer helper. We need people to assist

with starting/timekeeping, photography, catering and luggage transport. For those who are not familiar with the Lungbuster we run a staggered start from the Launching Place Pub car park. The earliest starters will be leaving from 8.00 am and others will be leaving at 10 minute intervals with the fastest group leaving last. The aim is to get most riders arriving at the summit at about the same time.

Andrew Dunne will once again be looking after the organization for this ride and he has set up a special web site for everyone's information. This is www.ard65.com/lungbuster2010

You should all check out that website to acquaint yourself with the arrangements that Andrew has put in place. The big question is "will Juri Dekter be able to maintain his unblemished record of setting the quickest time?"

Sunday Oct 3rd—Bayside Bike Paths to Docklands (10 am start)

This is a repeat of the popular ride that was conducted a few weeks ago. It starts at the beach end of South Rd. You meet at the car park where the big "obelisk" is. (It is actually a war memorial). The ride then

follows the bike paths along the bay through Brighton, Elwood, St Kilda and Port Melbourne to Docklands Precinct where you will have lunch under the remnants of a big Ferris wheel. The entire ride is very flat and therefore suitable to just about all riders. Best suited to hybrids or mountain bikes, although road bikes would probably be OK as it is almost all sealed.

Jon Bate will be the convenor of this ride. A great opportunity to bring along a friend or partner.

Sunday October 17th—Big Bay Ride—7.00 am start from Frankston

This is the one day of the year when the cyclists outnumber the car drivers. An ideal opportunity to show everyone just how many riders there are in Melbourne. While 20,000 or more riders will be participating in the "Around the Bay in a Day" ride we will be running our own (free) version whereby we start at Frankston and ride down to Portsea and return.

We will be meeting in Frankston at 7.00 am near the Subway store (opposite Macdonalds). The ride then follows the same route as the main ride so all you have to do is follow the masses. Where the main groups stop at Sorrento to catch the ferry, we continue down to Portsea for a quiet lunch before climbing back on the bike for the return ride. This is a challenging ride and definitely NOT for beginners.



Established just 20 years ago from humble beginnings, Garmin has now grown to become the foremost manufacturer and innovator in the field of navigation and GPS units.

We are proud to recognise Garmin as a supporter of our Overseas Adventure Challenges and recommend their products to our readers.

For more information refer to www.garminoutdoor.com.au

Tuesday Oct 26th—Upper Yarra Dam Ride 9.30 am start at Launching Place.

This is a scenic ride along undulating roads to Upper Yarra Dam and back again. It starts at the Launching Place Pub car park at 9.30 am and follows a mixture of back roads to Warburton East and then the main road to the Upper Yarra Dam. It will be a good opportunity to see if any of the rain has found its way into our catchments.

This ride is best suited to road bikes and is not suitable for beginners. I hope to be back in time to participate in this ride and give you some news about our South American adventure.

Thursday Afternoon Warburton Trail Rides

These will continue as usual with our main group starting at Woori Yallock at 12 noon, then meeting up with the secondary group at COGS at 1.00 pm. Any questions about these rides should be addressed to **Jon Bate**.

Tuesday Morning Fitness Group

This group will also continue as usual in my absence with walks starting from the bottom of my driveway at 10 am each Tuesday. On the FIRST Tuesday of each month we leave the walking shoes behind and climb on the mountain bikes for a short but challenging bike ride to Gembrook and back again. The mountain bike rides also start at my place at 10 am. Any questions about these events should be addressed to **Mal Bowmaker** (Ph **5968 4922**).

WARBY GHOSTRIDERS

ANNUAL MOUNT DONNA BUANG LUNGBUSTER

MOUNTAIN GOAT MAYHEM

Saturday 25th September 2010



Staggered start from 8.00 am
Rail Trail car park
(next to Launching Place Pub)



My Ghostrider Apprenticeship

By Dave McMorran

Editor's Note: This week I am very pleased to be able to introduce a new guest writer. David McMorran (aka Ghostrider number 92) has been riding with us for the past few months and has impressed us all with his keen attitude and his lively sense of humour. In his first article he tells us something of his introduction to our group of misfits.

It started with a kick. I never thought it would come to this. Apologies to Hot Chocolate but that does go well with cycling and skiing.

My kick start in cycling came in 2008. The company for which I work, CSC as in Team CSC pro-cycling, announced they were ending the cycling sponsorship so I had one last chance to get some pro-cycling riding gear really cheap. I have a picture of Stuart O'Grady in matching gear. All I had to do was one of the Around The Bay options. That meant 50km on the bike which was about 30km more than I'd ever done before and that was long ago.



After too many years of not enough exercise, I had no idea what it would take to ride 50km. So it was time to get the old bike out and go for a spin - an epic journey of 1.5km and I was exhausted. But that hill that starts all my rides from home still gives the heart and lungs a rude awakening. Following ad-

"My first thought was these people are nuts, they ride in the rain. And then I thought these people are nuts, they ride up hills, big hills. And then I thought I'm nuts, I'd better join in."

vice from work colleagues, I swapped the chunky tyres on my mountain bike for some slicks. Not knowing whether or not they would be doing more than just this one ride, I got cheapies which I later regretted.

From there, I was hooked. 50km wasn't enough and I vowed immediately to do the 100km in 2009. While chatting to Linda about this, she mentioned the Ghostriders. After checking the web site, my first thought was these people are nuts, they ride in the

rain. And then I thought these people are nuts, they ride up hills, big hills. And then I thought I'm nuts, I'd better

join in.

I thank all the Ghostriders for making my rides with the group so enjoyable

and thanks for the advice and assistance I've had but I recognise I still have plenty to learn. And thanks for the patience through a few incidents with those cheap tyres. I now have a pair of armadillos so hopefully that problem won't surface again for a while. And a big thank you to Dennis for his marvelous work in organizing the Ghostrider adventures.

The rules say it takes four rides to become a Ghostrider, though I feel I can't do the yellow jersey justice until I've done a lungbuster or triple Toolangi or both, ridden in really bad weather at least once, and own at least two bikes. All these are getting closer.

I never thought it would come to this. I find myself contemplating riding up a mountain, a real mountain. OK, it's not l'Alpe d'Huez but to me, it's not far from it. Can I make it? Do I want a did-not-finish beside my name or a did-not-start?

The final decision might be made on the Acheron Way next weekend.



From the Warby Archives Early Ghostriders on the East Gippsland Rail Trail—2004.

From left Dennis Dawson, Mal Doswell, Duncan Mayall, Richard Dodd (now living in Queensland) This picture was taken at the highest point in the Colquhoun Forest between Bruthen and Nowa Nowa at a place called the Siberia Crossing. Richard was a keen participant in our 2006 Great China Ride and also our 2009 Danube Ride.