

This Week with the Ghostriders



THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GHOSTRIDERS

What's News ?

On last Monday's Labour Day Holiday a group of Ghostriders went down to Newport to complete a new ride around the South West-ern suburbs of Melbourne.

For most of us it was a foray into completely unfamiliar territory. As I am usually directionally challenged at the best of times, I was completely mystified within the first few minutes, but it turned out to be a fascinating journey of exploration. The amount of development in this area is certainly amazing.

Although the weather threatened to put a dampener on the ride, to our relief it held off, allowing us to complete almost all the ride high and dry. On the other hand hills certainly weren't an issue as the entire area is pan flat, allowing us to maintain a high speed throughout the ride.

Next Saturday (20th March) we will be holding another designated "Social Ride". When we were holding our planning meeting last year there was a strong desire to set aside a number of rides each year specifically to help new riders get started.

I believe that a very key role of our group must always be to encourage new and inexperienced riders to discover just how much fun cycling can be. May we never become a group of elitists that exists just to satisfy our own selfish needs. In the past I have been a little disappointed when some have said that they won't join in a social ride because it is "too slow" for them. I actually look on it as a responsibility for every experienced rider to help others to derive the same benefits that they have done.

Next Saturday's ride will start at **UPPER FERNTREE GULLY Railway Station car park at 9.30 am** and will follow the bike paths down

to Jells Park where we will stop for coffee/lunch before the ride back. The ride is entirely on bike paths and is almost all flat making it ideal for new riders.

So this is your chance to invite your non cycling partners, friends or workmates along. I would encourage you to take this opportunity to introduce someone to riding.

Wangaratta to Bright Rail Trail Weekend—16th to 18th April 2010

As most of you would already be aware the week-end of 16th to 18th April has been set aside for the Annual Ride along the Wangaratta to Bright Rail Trail. When I asked for expressions of interest a couple of months ago, a significant number of you indicated your intention to participate in this extended ride.

In Wangaratta we usually stay at the **Warby Lodge**

Monday Mar 15th 2010

Contact Details

- Contact Person: Dennis Dawson
- Email: ghostriders@netspace.net.au
- Web: www.warbyghostriders.com
- Mail Address: PO Box 196, Emerald, Vic 3782
- Phone: 5968 3307
- Mobile: 0419 106 324

Motor Inn (Ph 5721 8433). You will all need to make bookings for **Fri 16th April.**

Our preferred motel in Bright is the **The High Country Motor Inn**. I have asked them to reserve a half dozen rooms for us for **Sat 17th April** but everyone will need to confirm their booking by ringing the motel directly on **5755 1244**. **I would advise you to do this immediately as they will not hold those rooms for us for very long.** When you make your booking you need to let them know that you are part of the Ghostriders booking.

Coming Rides & Other News

Thursday March 18th Regular Warby Trail Ride, starting from Woori Yallock at 12 noon, COGS at 1.00 pm or Woori Yallock at 1.40 pm.

Saturday March 20th Designated Social Ride Upper FTG to Jells Park and Back 9.30 am start

This is your opportunity to bring along your partner or mate to get them started on the road to cycling. The ride will be conducted at a pace suitable for casual riders and beginners. We also need all our regular riders to come

along and support those who are just starting. We will be starting from Upper FTG Station car park—but watch for parking restrictions and choose a suitable parking space.

Thursday March 25th Regular Warby Trail Ride starting from Woori Yallock at 12 noon, COGS at 1.00 pm or Woori Yallock at 1.40 pm.

Sunday March 28th Gippsland Ride (NEW) 9.00 am start in Drouin

This is a brand new road ride, starting and finishing in Drouin.

Along the way we will be passing through Korrumburra, Bena and Poowong. The total distance is about 90 km and the ride is rated as challenging. Road bikes preferred. Meet at Drouin Railway Station car park.

April 16th to 18th Wangaratta To Bright Rail Trail (see above)

Join in the fun when we ride one of the best rail trails in Australia. It's sealed all the way so you can bring any type of bike. You will need to book your accommodation without delay (see above for more details).

Other News

Glenda Wise is currently in Queensland to attend the court case relating to the estate of her late brother. This matter has been a tremendous strain for her over the past year and we all hope for a just outcome.

A group of Ghostriders is currently taking part in an extended cycling holiday in New Zealand. I am sure that everyone wishes them a safe and adventurous trip.

This Week with the Ghostriders



A True Ride Story—Mar 11th In Which Crasher Makes a Killing

The warm autumn sun was shining down brightly as we arrived at the Milgrove Bakery for lunch. With the temperature comfortably lodged in the mid twenties and the sky cloudless from horizon to horizon, it was truly one of those days that was just made for perfect cycling.

As our riders dismounted and headed into the bakery for their usual load of coffee and cakes, Crasher came roaring to a stop with a maniacal look of triumph on his face. At first I thought he must have set some sort of new personal best time for the ride from Mt Evelyn to Milgrove or maybe he was just having another of his drug induced hallucinations where he pictures himself standing on the top podium on the Champs Elysees receiving the ulti-

mate accolade.

It turned out that neither of these scenarios were accurate. The real cause of his excitement was that he had found an expensive looking piece of electronic equipment on the trail. Coloured fluorescent purple and with a large coloured display panel, I thought that it must have been dropped from a passing UFO. Others in the group who are obviously more technically aware than myself insisted that it was the latest model iPhone and that it was probably worth a great deal of money.

We took turns examining the mystery object but the complete absence of buttons left us at a loss as to how to turn it on or retrieve any information

from it. Crasher went on to say that it had been ringing every few minutes but he had not known what to do to answer it. Surely with such a plethora of so called “IT experts” in our midst someone would be able to solve the mystery. It can’t just be 12 year olds who can work these devices.

When it rang again I decided to give it a closer inspection. When I held it to the sun I made out some faint initials carved into the case—could they be “L.B.” ??? Of course they could. I was sure that Crasher had found Lara Bingle’s missing phone and suggested that a healthy reward would probably be awaiting its return.

When I finally figured out how to access the phone’s contents, Steve immediately wanted to know if there were any photos stored in it. Frankly the thought of finding some incriminating pictures of

Brendan Fevola under the shower was enough to make me gag. I suggested instead that we redial the last person called to see if they could help us locate the famous owner and thus claim the huge reward.

The next few minutes were spent arranging a meeting place where the handover could take place. Crasher stuffed the purple phone in his jersey and rode off searching for Lara and his massive reward. If she was really grateful she might even give him her old Aston Martin.

When I caught up with Crasher the next day I learnt that he had indeed found the owner and, yes, there had been a reward. It was not an Aston Martin, not even a new road bike, not even a few hundred dollars. The grateful owner had handed over four bottles of beer! The only problem is that everyone who knows Crasher knows that he does not drink.

Sometimes the world is just so unfair.

Picture Gallery from Labour Day Ride—Mon March 8th



Large Roman aquaduct somewhere along the ride. I would to say where but I was lost at the time.

Gathered in Werribee, waiting for showers to pass over. Fortunately the rain did not persist for very long and we were soon on our way again.



Crossing a large bridge about 10 km from Newport

