

# This Week with the Ghostriders



THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GHOSTRIDERS

## What's News

I have just completed a very hectic few days of cycling and planning for the Ghostriders. On Tuesday morning we conducted our monthly mountain bike ride to Gembrook and back. This ride is clearly developing a loyal following and, when the conditions are as perfect as they were this week, it really is a delightful (and also moderately challenging) ride. These rides are normally held on the first Tuesday of each month and I would encourage all riders with some flexibility in their working hours to join in the fun.

On Tuesday evening we held our Annual planning meeting for the next 12 months. The entire ride calendar was dissected in detail and a new schedule of rides planned for 2011. While some old rides were dropped, we were also keen to revive some of the popular rides from the past. One example of such a ride will be the Walhalla Forest ride. Some brand new rides will also be introduced which I am sure will prove to be a great deal of fun. We will also be running a couple of rides specifically designed for partners and friends to join in. These rides will

be of an easy standard that will be ideal for inviting newcomers and non cycling partners to participate in.

I believe that we all have a responsibility to invite, nurture and teach newer riders so that they can begin their own cycling odysseys. We have tried some of these rides in the past and I have been a little disappointed when some of our more experienced riders said they would not attend because the ride was not "challenging enough" for them. I think this attitude is rather selfish and hints that some are too elitist to welcome newcomers. Right from the very start of the Ghostriders our underlying philosophy has been to support and encourage new riders and I hope that this never changes.

On Wednesday morning five riders participated in a most educational recy ride around the Belgrave to Lysterfield area. The purpose of this ride was to test the route of the ride scheduled for Sat Dec 4th. In the process we all discovered a host of bike paths that we had

no idea existed. Thanks to those who shared this ride with me.

Finally on Thursday we had our first designated **Twilight ride** of the summer season. It was encouraging to see so many come out to share the late afternoon ride, including two new riders and another rider who is not able to make our normal Thursday rides. After the ride eight of us stayed behind to share a fantastic meal at the Launching Place Pub. The only drawback were the hordes of flying ants that we encountered on the final section back to Woori Yallock.

Our next scheduled weekend ride is **Big Kev's Ride on Sun 21st November**. Anyone planning to attend this ride and BBQ was asked to RSVP no later than Sat 13th Nov. I am pleased to say that we have had acceptances from 14 riders so it looks like being a great ride. Thanks again to Kev for acting as convenor and for his hospitality on this day.

### Feedback Requested

In the previous newsletter I requested that all those who are interested in the future of our group to give me feedback on a number of items. Thanks to those who have already taken the

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time and effort to send me their ideas, but I would love to hear from a lot more of you. On the second page of this newsletter I have again included some questions which I would welcome input on. If you have any other ideas or suggestions, this is your opportunity to speak forth.

### Do You Want a 2011 Ghostrider Calendar ??

For the past few years I have been producing an **Annual Ghostrider calendar**. This is a full colour, laminated wall calendar showing all planned rides for the entire year. It also shows all public and school holidays. I need to decide whether or not to produce a calendar for 2011. This inevitably involves a lot of time, effort (and cost) and I will only proceed if there is enough interest beforehand. I am therefore requesting that all those wishing to have a 2011 calendar let me know before the end of November. If there is insufficient interest I will let the calendar lapse.

## Upcoming Rides & Activities

### Tues Nov 16th—Tuesday Fitness Group

Bushwalk starts at 10 am in Emerald. Everyone welcome. Walks last for approx 1 hour.

### Thurs Nov 18th - Warby Trail Ride

Ride starts at Woori Yallock at 12 noon.

### Sun 21st Nov—Big Kev's Ride and BBQ (RSVP required from all riders by Sat 13th Nov).

For all those who have booked in, the ride will start at Kevin's house in Diamond Creek at 10.00 am sharp. It is best suited to road bikes as it is all on sealed roads.

### Tues 23th Nov—Tuesday Fitness Group

Bushwalk starts at 10 am in Emerald. Everyone welcome. Walks last

for approx 1 hour.

### Thurs 25th Nov—Warby Trail Ride

Ride starts at Woori Yallock at 12 noon.

### Tues 30th Nov—Tuesday Fitness Group

Bushwalk starts at 10 am in Emerald. Everyone welcome. Walks last for approx 1 hour.

### Thurs 2nd Dec—Warby Trail Ride

Ride starts at Woori Yallock at 12 noon.

### Sat 4th Dec—Belgrave to Lysterfield Loop (NEW)

This is a brand new ride which takes in a collection of bike paths and dirt tracks. The ride will start next to the Cameo

Theatre in Belgrave at 9.00 am sharp. Mountain bikes required. This is a reasonably challenging ride with a fair degree of climbing. Not suited for beginners. All those planning to attend are asked to RSVP beforehand to our email address.

This is a new type of ride for our group and I am sure you will find it most interesting. Watch out for more details.

### Tuesday Morning Fitness Group

Each Tuesday you are invited to join us for a brisk and scenic walk around the tracks of Emerald. Each walk starts at 10 am and is finished soon after 11 am. On the first Tuesday of each month we have a bike ride, instead of a walk. For more details give me a call on 5968 3307.

Everyone is invited to participate.

### Regular Thursday Ride Details

Each Thursday we conduct rides along the Warburton Trail. Visitors are always welcome to join us. There are several alternative start times and meeting points to choose from.

**11.10 am Early Group**—Meet at Woori Yallock and ride the full distance down to Lilydale before meeting the second group at COGS at 1.00 pm

**12 noon Main Group**—meet at Woori Yallock and ride to COGS at Mt Evelyn to start the return ride at 1.00 pm

**1.00 pm COGS Group** leave and ride as a combined group to Woori Yallock where we usually arrive at about 1.40 pm.

**1.50 pm Woori Yallock** all riders re-group for the ride to Milgrove where we stop for lunch before the ride back to your chosen start point.

*In this way all riders can choose a starting time and ride distance to suit their level of bike fitness. On the leg between COGS and Milgrove we expect all riders to stay together as much as possible (ie no bolting).*

# This Week with the Ghostriders



## I Need Your Feedback

Now that another year has almost past I need some feedback from our riders regarding the way our group operates.

If any of you have suggestions or comments about any aspect of the Ghostriders, now would be a perfect opportunity to put them forth.

Some aspects that I would particularly be interested in getting feedback on:

1. The Thursday rides—Is Thursday still the best day for our rides? What about the start time? Should we include more variation to our rides?

2. Weekend Rides. Is our current frequency of rides OK? Would

you be willing to act as convenor for any future rides? What is the main reason you don't participate in such rides?

3. Assistance with Running the Ghostriders. Would you be willing to assist with the running of the group in any capacity? Do you have any skills that you would like to share?

4. Annual Awards Night. Should we continue to run the Awards Night? Would you be willing to help with the job of choosing a venue and organising the event? Any other comments.

5. Extended weekend rides (eg Wangaratta to Bright) If we have a two day Wangaratta ride next year, will you be

coming? If not, what is the main reason you will not be joining in? Are there any other extended rides that you think we should try instead?

6. Overseas Adventures. Well over 100 people have now completed 1 or more of our 9 previous group trips. These have taken us to walk or ride in some of the most amazing places on our planet. Would you be interested in finding out more about possible future trips? If not, what is the main reason that would hold you back? Do you have any suggestions for future trips?

Any other general comments?

*I am asking all those interested in the future of our group to spend a few minutes of your time to ensure that your opinions are provided. Send your replies via email to [ghostriders@netspace.net.au](mailto:ghostriders@netspace.net.au)*

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## Final Images from South America

*This week we complete the series of images from our most recent trip*



One of the plaques for Evita on the wall of the Duarte family mausoleum—Recoleta Cemetery, Buenos Aires



Closer shot showing the dilapidated state of some of the coffins inside the mausoleums at the Recoleta Cemetery. Almost looks like the inhabitants are ready to break free.



Another decaying coffin in the Recoleta Cemetery. This would be an interesting place to spend a night or two. Then again, maybe not.



One of the hauntingly beautiful streets in Colonia Del Sacramento (Uruguay). This was most of the most tranquil places I have ever had the pleasure of spending time in. Maybe one day we will return to do a ride in this region.

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Another beautiful street in Colonia del Sacramento (Uruguay). Not a single traffic light to spoil this lovely town.



One of the trademarks of Colonia is the wonderful assortment of old cars—some in use and others (like this one) just left to “mellow” in the sunshine.



Gathered at 5,000 metres ready for one of our most memorable cycling days.



The main central plaza of Cusco (Peru). Almost every week there is a festival of some sort or another and this day was no exception. Hundreds of brightly clothed groups proudly marched around the square while thousands of interested onlookers watched and cheered them on.



Uh oh, trouble with the bottom bracket on the first cycling day—alongside the Urubamba River, Ollantaytambo, Peru. (It was soon fixed)



I don't think this bus was made for these roads—trying to coax our bus over a stony culvert on a little used road near Ollantaytambo.



Amazing stark area at about 4500 metres. You can see the road that we followed for the next couple of hours, snaking away into the distance.



A side trip to Africa ? Not really, in fact this was our campsite for Day one of the Inca Trail trek. Each tent was encased in a straw hut to protect it from the wind. Would you believe that this camp even had a sauna ???