

This Week with the Ghostriders



THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GHOSTRIDERS

What's News ?

It seems like the spell of cold and wet weather shows no sign of abating at any time soon. Although no one can argue that we don't need the rain, I suspect that most of our riders are secretly yearning for the warmer days of springtime that, hopefully, are not too far away.

Last Thursday I made the decision to cancel the regular Thursday afternoon ride. This was done for a number of reasons, the main ones being for the health and safety of our riders and also for due consideration to the state of the Warby Trail.

Newer riders may be interested to know what our normal policy is as regard to cancellation of planned rides. Although this is never done lightly there are some situations where this is the necessary course of action. In summer the Warburton Trail is officially closed on days of total fire ban and we obviously must support this and also cancel rides on all days of extreme fire danger. Our group is highly recognised on the trail and it is essential

that our riders are always observed to set the best possible example for observing trail and local CFA guidelines. Obviously it is critical that we also take into account the health and safety of our riders and not encourage them to put themselves into a dangerous situation.

On a related topic, early last year it was pointed out to me that the Warburton Trail is only open to the public in **daylight hours** and for that reason we withdrew recognition for evening rides. Anyone participating in these rides does so in breach of trail guidelines and is not doing it as a Ghost rider activity. In the event of a serious accident occurring, the participants could be in a very difficult legal situation.

Last Thursday we were warned that excessive rain and high winds would make for the worst weather conditions since that infamous hailstorm that occurred earlier this year. In addition, the continuing high rainfall in the Yarra Valley has resulted in sections of the trail becoming waterlogged and easily dam-

aged by bicycle wheels. For these reasons the ride was cancelled.

Such cancellations usually only effect a very small number of our rides and every effort is made to notify our riders in advance. I apologise for any confusion that may have arisen as I am just as keen as everyone else to get back out on the trail.

Unless conditions are appalling, this Thursday's ride will proceed as scheduled and I would like to encourage riders to leave Woori Yallock at 11 am in order to ride the full length of the trail to Maroondah Hwy to see the progress being made on the new overpass.

Last Saturday our **South America Team** completed their final training exercise before their departure to Peru. This also gave us a chance to try out the new GPS unit provided by Garmin for the trip. It was so encouraging to see the results of 12 months of preparation. Everyone is now very keen to get going at last.

Next **Sunday Aug 21st** you can celebrate the end of the interminable election campaign by

Monday Aug 16th 2010

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joining us on the **Poowong Circuit Ride**. This very scenic ride begins in Lang Lang at 10 am and takes in some glorious Gippsland landscapes. Many of our newer riders have not experienced this ride and I would encourage you all to join us for a most enjoyable ride.

After leaving Lang Lang we follow the road through Nyora and up to the little town of Poowong where we will stop for a coffee and something to eat. We then head North towards Drouin before the final leg back to Lang Lang.

The total distance is 75 km with a few rolling hills that make it a moderate ride. Best suited to road bikes or hybrids. It is not for beginners .

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.

Upcoming Rides & Activities

Tues Aug 17th—Tuesday Fitness Group

Walk starts at 10 am sharp. Everyone welcome.

Thurs Aug 19th—Warby Trail Ride

Start at Woori Yallock at 12 noon or COGS at 1.00 pm or Woori Yallock at 1.40 pm. Why not start with me at 11 am from Woori Yallock and ride all the way down to Maroondah Hwy ?

Sun Aug 22nd—Poowong Circuit 10.00 am start

This is a long time favourite ride through delightful Gippsland rolling hills. The ride starts at Lang Lang and is approximately 75 km in length. Rated moderate, best for road bikes.

Tues Aug 24th—Tuesday Fitness Group

Walk starts at 10 am sharp. Every-

one welcome.

Thurs Aug 26th—Warby Trail Ride

Start at Woori Yallock at 12 noon or COGS at 1.00 pm or Woori Yallock at 1.40 pm.

Tues Aug 31st—Tuesday Fitness Group

Walk starts at 10 am sharp.

Thurs Sep 2nd—Warby Trail Ride (First Ride of Springtime)

Start at Woori Yallock at 12 noon or COGS at 1.00 pm or Woori Yallock at 1.40 pm.

Sat Sep 4th—Special Weekend Ride—Details to be Announced

This will be our first weekend ride for Springtime, so we want it to be a celebration of the end of winter. Details are not finalised yet so watch out for updates.

Tues Sep 7th—Tuesday Fitness Group—Mountain Bike Ride

This is a short (30 km) but challenging mountain bike ride taking in some local hills. We begin at my place at 10 am and ride through the forests to Gembrook and back again. Mountain bikes required.

Thurs Sep 9th Warby Trail Ride

Start at Woori Yallock at 12 noon or COGS at 1.00 pm or Woori Yallock at 1.40 pm.

September/October 2010

Our team of Ghostriders heads to South America to undertake a challenging cycling/trekking trip in the Andes. This will be longest and most ambitious trip we have thus attempted. Not only will we find out whether our training has been sufficient but also whether or not all the Spanish lessons have been a waste of time.

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).



Other Ghost rider News

Fairy Green Book Launch

All of our riders would know just how much work **Glenda Wise** has put into the artwork for the series of Fairy Green books and merchandise. Glenda would like to now invite all Ghostriders, partners and friends to the official book release on Sunday Aug 29th. You can see more information in the notice at the foot of this page.

2010 Annual Lungbuster Volunteers Required

The Annual Donna Buang Lungbuster is our biggest ride of the year. It is always scheduled to coincide with the AFL Grand Final on the last Saturday in September. **Andrew Dunne** has generously offered to look after the organising of the 2010 Lungbuster but he needs volunteers to assist with the various other tasks that need doing on the day.

Some of the "positions vacant" are drivers, caterers, time-keeper/starter, photographer. If you are able to assist in any way please contact Andrew as soon as possible. His phone numbers are 5940 1098 or 0409 331 995 or email ardunne@gmail.com

This ride is also something of a

"coming of age" for many of our riders. You cannot consider yourself a real cyclist until you have completed your first Lungbuster. Riders start from a staggered start with the slowest riders starting first and others leaving at 10 minute intervals. The aim is to try to get all riders reaching the summit at about the same time. The record for the fastest time is held by our own **Juri Dekter**.

At the base of this page is a rare photo from the Warby Archives showing the 2003 Lungbuster with a total contingent of 3 riders taking part. None of us were adequately prepared for the conditions and my old 5 speed red rattler road bike skidded all over the road on the way down. Nevertheless it did start something of a tradition. The 2010 Lungbuster will be our Ninth Lungbuster—I wonder which of our riders has participated in the most.....

Odd Spot

A murder trial at Manitoba in February 1978 was well advanced, when one juror revealed that he was completely deaf and did not have the remotest clue what was happening.

The judge, Mr Justice Solomon, asked him if he had heard any evidence at all and, when there was no reply, dismissed him.

The excitement which this caused was only equalled when a second juror revealed that he spoke not a single word of English. A fluent French speaker, he exhibited great surprise when told, after two days, that he was hearing a murder trial.

The trial was abandoned when a third juror said that he suffered from both conditions, being simultaneously unversed in English and nearly as deaf as the first juror.

The judge ordered a retrial.

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And who said a tan always looks good ???



From the Warby Archives

The picture below was taken on 11th Oct 2003 and shows Crasher Lewis, Ross Bury and myself on an early "Lungbuster Ride". Note the deep snow on the summit and the ancient road bike that I was riding. It's a wonder that any of us survived the experience.

