

# This Week with the Ghostriders



THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GHOSTRIDERS

## What's News ?

### Annual Awards Night Sat Feb 13th 2010 Important Information

Our most important social event of the year is the Annual Awards Night and Dinner. This year the event will be held on Sat 13th Feb. As I mentioned in the last newsletter I am thrilled to announce that this year's Award's Dinner will be held at the Emerald Country Club.

This is not only a very beautiful location but it also means that we will have the entire function centre to ourselves. There will be plenty of room and opportunity to mingle during the evening. You can arrive at any time after 6.00 pm and enjoy a drink or a wander around the surrounding gardens and extensive facilities. The main part of the evening will start at 7.00 pm.

The cost will be \$35 per head plus drinks at bar

prices. Of this cost, \$27.50 is for the meal and the remaining \$7.50 to cover cost of the venue. I think this represents excellent value for money.

The dinner will consist of starting nibbles, followed by two choices of main course and two choices of dessert, plus teas and coffees. **There will also be a special option for those who follow a vegetarian diet or have other special dietary requirements. If you fall into this category it is essential that you let me know right away so that I can pass the information on to the chef. Special meals can only be provided for those who have made this arrangement in advance.**

Since I have to pay in advance it is imperative that you check your name on the list below. If your name is on the list and you don't come on the night you will still have to pay.

Places have been booked

for the following people  
Dennis Dawson (2)  
Lisa Barstow  
John Bird (2)  
Linda House  
Glenda Wise  
Jon Bate (2)  
Geoff James (2)  
Bernie Peeler (2)  
Phil Jones  
Kevin Henley  
Marysia Murray  
Noel Wolstencroft (2)  
Peter Warren (1)  
Andrew Dunne (2)  
Mike Litchfield (2)  
Mal Bowmaker (2)  
Chris Mackay  
Lothar Rockmann (2)  
Bob Lewis  
Connie Dekter (2)  
Tom Partel (2)  
Werner Kotnic  
Gael Driessen (2)  
Paul Barnard (2)  
Russell Lloyd (2)  
Bob Andrews  
Viv Sandler (3)  
Marg Jones  
Jim Craig (2)  
Kevin Bird (2)  
Total 49 places.

**It is still not too late to reserve a place although bookings must close no later than 5th February.**  
Just contact me ASAP and

Monday Feb 1st 2010

#### Contact Details

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

you will be included. For those who are new to the group the Annual Awards Evening is open to all Ghostriders, partners, friends and family—in fact anyone interested in cycling. It is a chance to share a meal together and also recognise achievements within the group. I would like to encourage you all to attend.

If you have not been to the Emerald Country Club it is reached via Lakeside Drive, Emerald (not to be confused with Emerald Lake Rd). There is a very large car park and a huge attached golf course. The venue is usually used for weddings and other special functions. More info can be found on their web site [http://www.emeraldgolf.com.au/tmpt\\_intro.htm](http://www.emeraldgolf.com.au/tmpt_intro.htm)

## Coming Rides & Other News

### Thursday 4th Feb—Warby Trail Ride

Start at Woori Yallock at 12 noon or COGS at 1.00 pm or Woori Yallock at 1.40 pm. Since this is the first Thursday of the month our plan will be to continue all the way up to Warburton for lunch.

### Sunday Feb 7th—Toolangi Hill Climb

This ride is one of our favourites and provides an excellent venue for improving your hill climbing. You can choose to do the climb once or twice (or even thrice if you are really keen). The ride will start at Healesville at 10.00 am sharp. We meet in the park

behind the Coles Supermarket. There is plenty of car parking available. This ride is best suited for road bikes or hybrids and is not for beginners.

After the ride we will be heading off to the Beechworth Bakery for coffee and lunch.

### Saturday 13th Feb—Annual Awards Dinner Emerald Country Club

See above for full details.

### Thursday 11th Feb—Warby Trail Ride

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

### Saturday Feb 20th Pakenham to Drouin and Back

This ride will begin at Pakenham at 9.00 am and follow the back roads through to Drouin and back again. If the weather is kind we will probably extend the ride to Warragul (another 9 km or so further along).

As the ride is entirely on sealed road surfaces it is

best for road bikes or hybrids. It would not be suitable for beginners. The first section is predominantly flat but there are a few climbs further along.

### Did you Hear This One ?

A pedestrian stepped off the curb and into the road without looking one day and promptly gets knocked flat by a passing cyclist.

"You were really lucky there," said the cyclist.

"What on earth are you talking about! That really hurt!" said the pedestrian, still on the pavement, rubbing his head.  
"Well, usually I drive a bus!" the cyclist replied.



## Australia Day Ride—Jan 26th 2010

It has been our recent custom to spend Australia Day on a ride down to Melbourne, following the intricate network of bike paths that criss-cross all over the metropolis like a web created by a drunken spider. Although I thoroughly enjoy this ride, for one as directionally challenged as me, it constitutes the ultimate navigational nightmare. When Jon Bate indicated that he would be away in Adelaide for the weekend we immediately lost our most experienced bike path navigator.

In spite of my fears of becoming lost in the Pan's labyrinth of never ending bike paths I set off with high hopes for a pleasant ride. At least the weather was looking promising—a predicted top temperature of 30C and generally fine conditions.

Soon after arriving at Upper FTG I was joined by Lothar and several others. Geoff rode up and informed us that he had already ridden 30 or so km from his home, meaning that he would be near 150 km before the day was over. That's keen!

Geoff had also discovered an Australian flag on the path and looked for ways to attach it to his bike.

Peter Booth was also present for the day, fresh from his epic 2100km, 3 week, unsupported ride through the Australian hinterlands. This guy is a cycling legend.

At the appointed starting time we all headed off in high spirits under an overcast sky and still conditions. A couple of our riders had not ridden this path before and were keen to explore its hidden treasures. On our way to Knox City we passed Brian Cooper riding with his family and a little further on met up with "Big Al" and his wife on their tandem.

After an hour of riding (and somewhat surprisingly) no false turns, we reached the watering hole at Jells Park. The place was packed with cyclists enjoying their first caffeine of the day. We spent a relaxing 30 mins chatting and drinking before pitting ourselves for the biggest challenge of the day—the climb up the Waverly Rd Hill. When I went to get my bike I discovered that a giant bird with dysentery must have

been perched in the tree directly overhead. It had added a prominent new white feature to my bike seat.

Lothar thought he knew a route which would help us avoid the big hill and proceeded to lead us all on a convoluted route which eventually led us to an even bigger and longer climb. We were all struggling to find our granny gear—that is except for Geoff who had already streaked ahead to the summit. Gravity is certainly not the friend of the larger rider.

Fortunately once we were over the climb and once we had worked out where we actually were, the rest of the ride went without a hitch. The clouds had cleared but there was still a gentle cool breeze to keep the temperature ideal for this type of ride.

Although it had only been a year since we had last ridden this way it was amazing just how many major changes had taken place along the way. After a few circuits of the velodrome we were soon scooting along the suspended path under the Monash Freeway, finally arriving South Bank at about 12.45 pm.

The place certainly had a buzz about it. Buskers were busily demonstrating their talents and the numerous eateries were doing a roaring trade. We were settled down and setting in to devouring enough food to

fuel us for the long ride back to FTG.

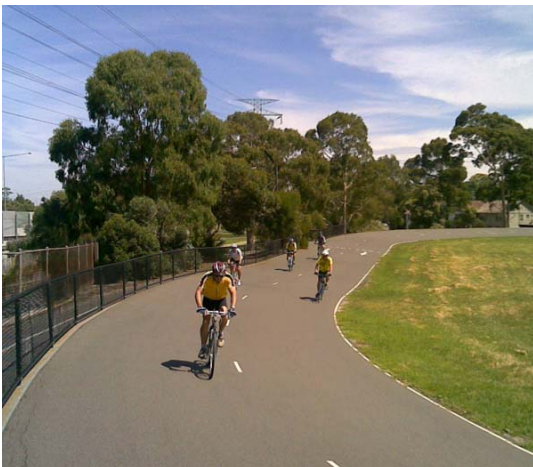
The city was full of Australia Day activities. We could have chosen from many different free entertainment forms but chose to stop and watch a woodchopping event for a few minutes.

The only mishap for the day occurred when Geoff and Bob rode a little too close together, locking handlebars and tumbling to the ground. Fortunately no permanent harm was done and we were soon on our way again. The incident did demonstrate how useful the walky talkies have been to keep in contact.

As the day drew on our backsides started to remind us that we had been 5 hours in the saddle. A stop at FTG gave us the opportunity to top up with some drinks and ice cream before the final leg.

Back at Upper Gully the speedo indicated that we had ridden just on 95 km and I think we were all glad that we did not have to ride up the hill to Belgrave.

Thanks to all those who participated in this ride and helped to ensure it was such an enjoyable day.



Some of our riders try out the velodrome—Australia Day 2010

### PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

If you are a business owner you are invited to promote your business or services via this newsletter. It is the ideal way to let others know what you do and also support the Ghostriders at the same time.

The cost is very reasonable and all proceeds go towards keeping the Ghostriders functioning. At the current time I am paying all expenses out of my own pocket and I would certainly appreciate some support from others in the group.

Feel free to phone me on 5968 3307 to discuss options.