

This Week with the Ghostriders



THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GHOSTRIDERS

What's News ?

Two months of winter has now past and, if you really try hard, you can almost believe that springtime is just about here. Although this winter has probably been the wettest one we have had in the short history of the Ghostriders, it has been good to see the way that riders have continued to support our scheduled rides.

Last Thursday we had a very respectable turnout of riders on our regular Thursday afternoon ride. The Council has continued their upgrade work on large sections of the trail. Unlike the last time they attempted this a few years ago, this time they appear to have got it right and the finished product makes for safe and enjoyable riding. In this newsletter I have included a few photos to show some of the new surface between Mt Evelyn and Lilydale. I have also included a couple of shots showing the progress on the construction of the new road overpass at Maroondah Highway.

During the week I also had a very

exciting phone call from **Garmin Australia**, expressing their desire to support our forthcoming South America Adventure Challenge by providing GPS equipment for the trip. Since we will be travelling in places far off the beaten track I am sure this will prove very useful to our participants.

When my son travelled from Mexico down to Patagonia last year his Garmin Oregon GPS was his constant companion. I am sure that many of our readers are already aware of the wide range of excellent GPS units that they manufacture. They even have their own pro cycling team! Thanks again to a great company for their support.

This **Tuesday Aug 3rd** we introduce a new regular ride for anyone who wants an extra ride during the week. Initially the **Tuesday Mountain Bike Ride** will be held on the first Tuesday of each month, but this may be increased if the demand is there. The ride will be starting from my place at 10 am sharp and will follow the mountain trails to Cockatoo. If

the weather is fine we will continue all the way to Gembrook for a coffee at the Bakery. If it is no so good we will return back to Emerald. This ride is not long but it does have some steep sections which make it unsuitable for beginners.

I would welcome any of our riders who are free this Tuesday to come along and support this new ride. For more information just give me a call on 5968 3307.

On **Sunday Aug 8th** we will be returning to the Bay Region, this time to ride back towards Melbourne. This ride is called the **Bayside Bike Paths Ride** and starts from the car park near the end of South Rd. From there it follows the bayside bike paths to Port Melbourne and we then ride through to Docklands for lunch. This ride was first introduced last year and it was immediately voted an overwhelming success. I would encourage you all to mark this date in your diaries now.

I would also like to give a reminder about the **Annual Donna Buang Lungbuster** which is planned for Saturday September 25th. As all our riders

have not been finalised so what out for updates. Although this is a designated training walk for the Andes team, we invite everyone else to come along and enjoy a good workout.

Tues Aug 17th—Tuesday Fitness Group
Walk starts at 10 am sharp.

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.

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.

Monday Aug 2nd 2010

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would appreciate this is our biggest ride of the year and requires a lot of advance planning and preparation. Last year the Lungbuster was organised by Andrew Dunne and a team of volunteers. At the time of the 2010 Lungbuster I will be away in Peru fighting my own Lungbuster, so we need some new volunteers to assist Andrew.

If you are willing to lend a hand in any way, could you please contact me without delay? You do not have to be a cyclist as most of the tasks can be done from the comfort of your car.

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).

Upcoming Rides & Activities

Tues Aug 3rd—Tuesday Fitness Group—Mountain Bike Ride 10.00 am start

This week we will be conducting an energetic mountain bike ride rather than the normal walk. The ride will take between 1.5 and 2 hours depending on the weather. Starts at my place at 10 am.

Thurs Aug 5th —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, lunch will be at Warburton.

Sunday August 8th—Bayside Bike Paths Ride 9.30 am start

This ride was pioneered last year and we all agreed it was sensational. We start at the end of South Rd and follow the bayside bike paths to Docklands and back again. Lunch will be near the giant Ferris wheel (the famous one that

had to be pulled down three weeks after it opened). A flat ride suitable for just about all riders. You also get to experience Melbourne from a different perspective.

Tues Aug 10th —Tuesday Fitness Group.

Walk starts at 10 am sharp.

Thurs Aug 12th—Warby Trail Ride

Start at Woori Yallock at 12 noon or COGS at 1.00 pm or Woori Yallock at 1.40 pm. I would like to challenge our riders to start earlier than usual and ride down to Lilydale to see the progress of the overpass construction over Maroondah Hwy.

Sat Aug 14th—South America Team—Final Training Walk

This will be our final training walk before departure. Final details



Success is Overrated

Our society is so fixated on success I thought you might like to hear of some glorious failures—just to balance the ledger a little.

The Least Successful Saving

In 1974 Bramber Parish Council decided to go without street lighting for three days as a saving. Afterwards the parish treasurer was pleased to announce that, as a result, electricity to the value of 12 pounds had been saved. He added however that there was a 18 pounds bill for switching the electricity off and another 12 pounds for switching it on again. It had actually cost the council 18 pounds to spend three days in darkness.

The Most Inaccurate Value of Pi

Pi is a mathematical constant which is defined as the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. It is a never ending number and, for most calculations is taken to be approximately 3.1416. However, in 1897 the General Assembly of Indiana passed a bill ruling that the value of Pi was in fact 4. This ensured that all mathematical and engineer-

ing calculations in the State would be wrong. It would for example mean that a pendulum clock would gain about 15 minutes every hour!

The Least Successful Fire Engine

In 1973 a fire broke out at 2 Crips Rd in Henley. The occupants telephoned the local fire brigade only to find out that it was taking part in "Operation Greenfly", a simulated exercise to douse an imaginary fire on the village green.

The alarmed occupants next telephoned nearby Wallington Fire Station who said they would send a fire engine immediately. Half way down Bix Hill, the cab burst into flames and the firemen struggled out, choking on the fumes.

Although there were 400 gallons of water on board, this could not be used, since the suction pump was operated from the cab, which was now full of smoke.

At this point the local fire brigade, on its way back from

Operation Greenfly, drove past. They pulled to a halt and said they had very little water left, having just waterlogged the village green.

They did what they could, while the Wallington firemen sheepishly asked passing motorists if they had any fire extinguishers.

The fire at 2 Crisp Rd was put out by energetic locals throwing buckets of water.

The Least Successful Demolition

Margate Pier was declared dangerous in 1978 after violent gales had lashed the Kent coast. It was thought best to pull the Pier down before it collapsed.

In January 1979 the demolition team arrived and detonated an immense charge of gelignite. The explosion sent water hundreds of feet into the air, but left the pier's essential character unchanged. After a second "demolition" a rivet was found imbedded in the wall of the sea front pub and police insisted that all future attempts should be made at high tide. The result was that explosion number four took place at midnight and woke up all Margate's sea front.

The demolition team made six further attempts before a Margate councillor suggested that, in view of the large crowds they



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attracted, the unsuccessful explosions should be made a weekly tourist attraction.

After the fourteenth attempt, the demolition team was retired and a replacement company employed. After attempt number fifteen, the lifeboat house on the pier was seen to be at a slight angle.

The Least Successful Lion

In 1970 a lion escaped from a circus in Italy. Typically, it found a small boy and started to chase him. Less typically the small boy's mother turned on the lion and badly mauled it. The animal suffered severe head and skin wounds, and received treatment for shock.

Warby Trail Upgrades



Part of the new surface now laid between Lilydale and Mt Evelyn—it is wide, smooth and firmly packed. I would encourage all of our riders to try out this section of the trail.



Foundation works for the new overpass over Maroondah Highway. Picture taken on 29th July 2010.