

# This Week with the Ghostriders



THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GHOSTRIDERS

## What's News ?

According to the calendar summer has now officially ended in Australia and autumn has begun. This means that the next couple of months should provide us with some of the best conditions for cycling of the entire year.

Our biggest event of the season is our annual pilgrimage to Wangaratta to ride the magnificent Wang to Bright Rail Trail. If you have not yet ridden this trail then you don't know what you are missing. It features archetypal Australian countryside and has an excellent sealed surface for riding. In the next section I have included the contact details for our preferred motels, but you will need to contact them without delay to confirm your bookings.

Also in April we had planned to conduct a ride around the Buxton Loop. This was origi-

nally planned for Monday 5th April but it will probably be moved forward to Sunday 4th April. Our problem is that I do not have a convenor for this ride and unless someone volunteers to take on this role, the ride will have to be cancelled. If any of the readers are familiar with the route and would be willing to take on the responsibility for conducting the ride I need them to contact me as soon as possible. For numerous practical and safety reasons it is vital that no ride take place without a designated convenor.

I would also like to encourage you all to join us on this coming **Monday 8th March** for our Labour Day Ride. This is a brand new ride which will be conducted entirely on bike paths (most of them sealed). It will take us into an area of Melbourne that most of us are entirely unfamiliar with.

Since the ride will be conducted at a moderate pace only, you can be assured

that no one will be left behind. We will also make sure that we find some of the best coffee shops along the way.

We will be starting from **The Strand Car Park** in Newport. There is plenty of free parking available here. Aim to arrive early so that we can be under way by 9.00 am sharp. I anticipate that the ride will be finished by mid afternoon.

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

As most of you would already be aware the weekend 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 8th 2010

### Contact Details

- Contact Person: Dennis Dawson
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**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.

I would encourage all our riders to participate in this fantastic ride and social function.

## Coming Rides & Other News

### Monday March 8th (Labour Day) - Altona Bike Paths Ride (NEW)

This is a new ride proposed by Bill Vandendool. We will start at the Strand Car Park in Newport 9.00 am sharp. We will then follow sealed bike paths to Werribee, Point Cook and Altona. The ride is basically flat and about 90 km in total. Rated Easy/moderate. Suitable for most types of bikes.

**Thursday March 11th  
Regular Warby Trail Ride,** starting from Woori Yallock at 12 noon, COGS at 1.00 pm or Woori Yallock at 1.40

pm.

**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 Group Social Ride (Details to be announced)

This will be 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. Watch out for more details.

### Sunday March 28th Gippsland Ride (NEW)

We will be trialing a new ride around the Warragul area. Watch out for further details when available.

### 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

**Andrew Dunne** has now dispensed with the knee splint and has progressed to a brace. He is making steady progress, although it will obviously be some time before he can resume his cycling. At the current time he is still mastering the complex art of walking.



## Some Cycling Humour

**A cyclist was stopped by customs.** "What's in the bags?", asked the officer, pointing to his panniers. "Sand," said the cyclist. "let me take a look", said the cop. The Cyclist did as he was told, emptied the bags, and proving they contained nothing but sand, refilled the bags, and continued across the border. A week later, the same thing happened, and continued every week for a year, until one day the cyclist with the sand bags failed to appear.

A few months later, the cop saw the cyclist living it up downtown. "You sure had us foxed", said the cop. "We knew you were smuggling something across the border. I won't say a word - but what was it you were smuggling? .... "Bicycles!" the rider replied.

**A tired cyclist stuck his thumb out for a lift:** After 3 hours, hadn't got anyone to stop. Finally, a guy in a sports car pulled over and offered him a ride. But the bike wouldn't fit in the car. The driver got some rope out of the trunk and tied it to his bumper. He tied the other end to the bike and told the rider: "If I go too fast, ring your bell and I'll slow down."

Everything went well until another sports car blew past them. The driver forgot all about the cyclist and put his foot down. A short distance down the road, they hammered through a speed trap. The cop with the radar gun and radioed ahead that he had 2 sports cars heading his way at over 150 mph. He then relayed, "and you're not going to

*believe this, but there's a cyclist behind them ringing his bell to pass!"*

**"Where's your bicycle Vicar"** I said, (because it was the first time I had seen him walking in 10 years!). "Don't know, I think it might have been stolen, but I will get it back on Sunday" he replied. "At my next sermon I will go through

*the ten commandments. When I get to 'thou shalt not steal' God will sort it out, I've got faith"*  
The following week, sure enough he was riding the bike again. So I asked him if the ten commandments thing had worked as planned: "I got as far as thou shall not commit adultery.....then I suddenly remembered where I left the bike.."



This would be one way of ensuring peloton discipline on the Thursday ride

## Overseas Adventure Challenges What's Next ????

Over the past few weeks I have been busy looking at options for possible future overseas adventure challenges. I am pleased to say that a few options are now starting to take shape.

Some of the possibilities I have been exploring are briefly outlined below.

### 1. Another Trek in the Nepal Himalaya

This is actually not a cycling trip but a trek (similar to the one we did in 2009). The area I am looking at is the Everest Region. The trip would last for 16 to 18 days and cost approx \$3000 plus air fares.

### 2. A Return to Tiger Leaping Gorge

This would be a similar ride to the ones we completed in 2006 and 2007. It takes place in Yunnan Province of China in some of the most spectacular scenery you could ever imagine. If you want a challenging ride surrounded by towering snow capped peaks this is for you. Approx 18 days, cost approx \$2200 plus air fares.

### 3. The Shangri La Ride (NEW)

This is a new ride under development into a region seldom reached by westerners. The ride takes place on the Tibetan border and visits incredible wilderness areas. It would involve a couple of nights under canvas. Approx 18 days, cost approx \$2200 plus air fares. Challenging.

### 4. Return to Europe to Complete the Danube Ride

This would see us follow the Danube from Ulm in Germany all the way through to Vienna. It is a longer ride than the one recently completed but the grading is easy, making it ideal for the casual cyclist. After the ride you can head off to anywhere else in Europe at a very modest cost. Approx 20 days, approx cost \$3600 plus air fares.

### 5. Japan Cycle

I am still waiting on more information about this but I suspect that the cost will be a little high.

The prices quoted include just about everything you need, including bikes, accommodation, most meals, guides, etc, etc. There are very few additional charges. Over the next few weeks I will be holding some information nights for anyone wanting more informa-

tion.

In all cases the trips are specially designed for us. They are only open to Ghostriders, partners and friends. They will not be advertised for the general public and in every case the price has been discounted for us. Almost 100 people have now participated in one of our previous trips.

If you would like to express your interest in any of the above trips you should email or ring me without delay. Numbers are limited to approx 15 places and once those places are filled it will be too late to join.

If have any questions ring me on 5968 3307.

**Remember that every great adventure starts with a dream.**

**PS It is still not too late to be a part of our Peru Adventure later this year.**