

# This Week with the Ghostriders



THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GHOSTRIDERS

## What's News

Last Tuesday we conducted our Annual Melbourne Cup Day Ride. I must admit that the initial weather conditions were not promising, resulting in a number of riders cancelling on the morning of the ride. This was also the first ride that we had our new system in place whereby all riders intending to take part in a ride are requested to email the convenor beforehand. Since we knew how many were going to turn up, the ride was able to proceed. The only alteration we made was to change the destination from Gembrook to Drouin. As it turned out the rain held off for all but 5 minutes of the ride and we all made it back to the cars nice and dry.

Our next scheduled weekend ride is **Big Kev's Ride**, planned for Sun 21st November. I have already received a number of replies from riders intending to take part in this ride. If you have not yet replied we need your replies by **next Saturday 13th November**. Can you please also indicate whether or not you will be staying for Kev's BBQ after the ride? Send your email replies to [ghostriders@netspace.net.au](mailto:ghostriders@netspace.net.au)

## 2011 Ghost rider Calendar ??

For the past few years I have been producing an **Annual Ghost rider 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 am now about to decide whether or not to produce a calendar for 2011. To produce the calendar each year involves a lot of time, effort (and money) 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.

## 2011 Rides Planning Meeting Tues Nov 9th 7.00 pm RSVP please

With the end of 2010 almost upon us it is now time to plan our schedule of rides for 2011. If there are any readers who would like to have input into this process I would like to invite you to join me on **Tues Nov 9th at 7.00pm**. The purpose of the meeting will be to determine

our Ride Calendar for next year. If you would like to attend this (hopefully short) meeting could you please reply by email to [ghostriders@netspace.net.au](mailto:ghostriders@netspace.net.au)?

If you have any new rides that you would like to suggest, this is also your chance to put your opinions forward.

Now that we are rapidly approaching the end of 2010, I can look back over the range of rides we conducted during the past 12 months and I think we can honestly say that there was something for everyone. This will also be our aim in 2011. I would never want our group to become so elitist that only seasoned riders can participate and enjoy our rides. Nothing gives me greater joy than in seeing a new rider get started on the path to cycling enjoyment. I have always believed that we have a responsibility to encourage, nurture and teach such new riders so that they can get as much from their riding as we have.

## 2011 European Ride Status

Most of our readers would already be aware that the Ghostriders will be returning to Europe in Aug/Sep of 2011 to complete a longer version of the

## Monday Nov 8th 2010

### Ghost rider Contact Details

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ride we did in 2009. Although the trip is longer, the current healthy state of the \$AUD actually means that the cost has reduced!

The first group booked out very quickly, however I have now had several others expressing an interest in this ride and wishing to be placed on a "standby list". There is a possibility that, if enough others are interested in participating in such a ride, we may be able to form a second group. If you have always wanted to experience the magic and history of Europe from a bike seat, then this is just the chance you have been waiting for.

If any readers would like more information and would be interested in helping to form a second group, they should contact me without delay.

**Note that the Warby Trail ride for Thursday 11th Nov is a TWILIGHT RIDE, starting from Woori Yallock at 3 pm (not 12 noon).**

## Upcoming Rides & Activities

### Tues Nov 9th (tomorrow) —Tues Fitness Group

Today's activity will be a mountain bike ride today to replace the missed ride on Nov 2nd. Meet at my place at 10 am sharp. A great workout. Lunch at the Gembrook Bakery. Allow about 2.5 to 3 hours.

### Tues Nov 9th—2011 Rides Planning Meeting 7.00 pm

See above for details. RSVP if you are planning to attend.

### Thurs Nov 11th—Warby Trail Ride—TWILIGHT RIDE.

This is the first of our designated twilight rides where we delay the start of the ride by three hours so that we finish in twilight. All riders are invited to share a meal at the Launching Place Pub on the return leg. You might even like to invite your partner along to join us for dinner.

The ride will start at Woori Yallock at 3 pm then ride to COGS (arriving about 4pm). We then turn back to Millgrove and finally back to Woori Yallock.

If you are planning to share a meal at the pub you would be advised to contact them to make sure they can fit us in as they are sometimes quite busy. We should be back at Woori Yallock by 7.30 pm or thereabouts.

### Tues Nov 16th—Tuesday Fitness Group

Bushwalk starts at 10 am in Emerald.

### Thurs Nov 18th - Warby Trail Ride

Ride starts at Woori Yallock at 12 noon.

### Advance Notice—Sun 21st Nov—Big Kev's Ride (RSVP required from all riders)

Kevin invites all Ghostriders and friends to join him on a hilly ride around Diamond Creek. If you are planning on attending this ride you need to RSVP so that he knows how many to cater for. Send your replies to [ghostriders@netspace.net.au](mailto:ghostriders@netspace.net.au). To assist with arrangements you are requested to reply no later than Sat 13th November.

### 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 Millgrove 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 Millgrove 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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## Some More Images from South America

*This week we continue the images from our 2010 South America Challenge*



Part of the beautiful central plaza of Arequipa (Peru). This is the second largest city in Peru and in my opinion it was quite lovely. It is often referred to as the "White City" because most of the main buildings are constructed of white volcanic rock from the nearby volcanoes.



At night Arequipa takes on a fantastic atmosphere with most buildings softly illuminated by tasteful sepia lighting. There are no harsh neon signs or over illuminated places here.



These two images show some of the starkly beautiful landscapes you can find in Northern Chile. The entire area is pockmarked by numerous towering volcanoes, making it look like a scene from another planet. There is no sign of vegetation or any other form of life anywhere to be seen. Certainly this must be some of the most dramatic terrain you can find anywhere on earth. Although they might look like paintings, they are actually my photographs.

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This photo was taken from my hotel window in central Buenos Aires. The large obelisk was constructed in 1936 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the city. It is the most prominent feature of the city. The large street is the Avenida 9 de Julio (meaning 9th of July) and is named after Argentina's Independence Day. It has over 20 lanes of traffic and runs directly north-south through the city. There are certainly few roads on earth that are this wide.



The famous Casa Rosada—the official office of the President of Argentina. It's most famous occupants were Juan and Eva (Evita) Peron. Evita used to address her adoring followers from the central balcony. The name casa rosada means “pink house” in Spanish—you can see why.



One of the rooms inside the Casa Rosada. It looks pretty impressive in the photo, and it probably was in it's heyday. However if you look at the place closely it is in need of some major renovations—a bit like Buckingham Palace in London.



The imposing dining room in the Casa Rosada. I guess some pretty famous people have sat down to eat here over the years. If only the walls could talk.



View along one of the walkways in the Recoleta Cemetery. This is the final resting place for thousands of the rich and famous people of the city. The bodies are not buried but are displayed above ground in huge elaborate mausoleums. Many of these have never been maintained and have become nothing but sad, crumbling edifices. Inside you can still see the rotting coffins and remains of flowers and gifts left to honor the dead. It is one of the most macabre places I have ever been in my life—even stranger than the Pashupatinath Temple of Kathmandu where the bodies of the Hindus are publicly cremated. You can't help but leave with the feeling that, no matter how much money you have, none of us can stay here forever.



The Duarte family mausoleum where Evita's body was finally interred. After Evita's death in 1952 Juan Peron spent a fortune on having it preserved. His plan was to build a huge monument in Buenos Aires where her body would be on permanent display. Three years later the task was still incomplete when a military coup sent Peron to exile in Spain. Evita's body was smuggled to Milan and buried under a false name. In 1971 the location of her body was discovered and the corpse was moved to Spain where it was looked after by Peron's third wife. When Peron returned to power in 1973 her body was brought back to Argentina. Juan only lasted a few months before dying. Juan and Evita's bodies were displayed side by side before Evita was finally laid to rest in her family grave. The crypt is now heavily fortified and the body deeply hidden behind trapdoors and underground pathways to prevent possible future grave robbers. Some claim it could withstand a nuclear blast. Strange but true.