
Wilderness Bike Ride Association and **S**Nowy **O**rbost **B**icycle **S**ociety (SNOBS) Newsletter
Edition No. 10 February 2007

“Errinundra – Snowy 2007”

News from the Event Manager

Organisation for the ride is now really starting to get into gear. Our team leaders have started to meet to plan volunteer roles, meeting dates and plans to drive the route. If you have registered as a volunteer I'll be contacting you soon about your role on the ride.

Entries for the ride are coming steadily in with a third of the available places now booked. Orbost Scouts are coming on the ride to provide a “luxury tent” option for those willing to pay to have a tent and sleeping mat provided AND put up and pulled down for them each day. The limited number of places are disappearing fast for this option so get in early if you want to pamper yourself.

The fires this summer have not affected the planned route for the ride: we are keenly promoting this on the website as most news East Gippsland has received over the past month or two has all concerned fires smoke and ash, putting many people off visiting the area.

The week before the ride is a busy one with collecting and packing equipment, assembling the ENORMOUS piles of paper that tell everyone what to do (...I think...) and mopping my brow. If any one has a few hours to spare in that week let me know, and I will organize a task list and roster the jobs that need doing.

It is a great privilege to be at the centre of such a spectacular effort by so many people. The fact that we are able to run this event is a great credit to our area. Many thanks to all of you who put in to keeping our event and organization running!

On a different note, the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is co-ordinating a group to get behind a bike path between Orbost and Marlo, and they appear to have some \$\$\$ to put towards the project. If you are interested in being on this group contact me and I will forward your details on to DSE.

Liz Mitchell

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Unfortunately there is no report from the C.O.M. in this edition as our esteemed president is "tied up" with the local fires.

This is probably an appropriate time to thank those who have been involved in the fire-fighting in any capacity. It is reassuring to know there are so many dedicated people working hard to protect us. (ed.)

CHRISTMAS RIDE TO CONRAN

On Sunday December 17 a dozen members of SNOBS took part in the last group ride for 2006. At 10.00 am they met at the Marlo Pub to pedal the 25km out to East Cape at Conran. Cycling conditions were ideal - no wind ; a light cloud covering and not too many pesky flies. Anne Johnson drove the back-up vehicle carrying the picnic gear.

The group started out along the tarred road until the Marlo Plains Conran Road was reached. The gravel road reduced the traffic hazard and the cyclists could take in the peaceful countryside. With the group were several first - time riders who have just moved to Marlo from Dinner Plain and they were keen to see this different farming and coastal scenery.

At Sailors' Grave, Anne had prepared the barbecue and picnic table and the riders enjoyed a barbecue lunch (with a resident kookaburra who tried to make off with one of the bikes) and a rest before returning to Marlo via the tar.

Anne has a rest after all that hard driving.



Debbie plays mother.

ORBOST SPORTS KINGDOM
 93 NICHOLSON STREET
 ORBOST VIC 3888
 0351541416

To the Secretary
 Wilderness Bike Ride Association

Over the next few weeks you may notice some serious changes going on at 93 Nicholson Street.

This week Peter & Lorraine Coulton have ventured into their well deserved retirement and we have taken over the existing site.

In the next couple of weeks we will re-open as "Orbost Sports Kingdom" with a new look-store and all new stock.

We will be stocking all your sporting and bicycle needs as well as bicycle repairs & spares and trophy engraving. We will also have AFL footy jumpers and socks and children's footy boots.

We hope that as locals you may be able to come to us for your sporting needs or perhaps allow us the opportunity to quote or tender against your existing suppliers.

We look forward to your business in 2007

Rick & Lisa McCLuskey

ORBOST SPORTS KINGDOM
 Opening Soon
 93 Nicholson Street

For all your sporting needs as well as bicycle spares and full repairs and trophy engraving

BADMOB Ride To Blond Bay

Despite predictions of extreme hot weather, the Bairnsdale and District Mountain Bike Riders had a great ride at Blond Bay on the weekend. A strong south easterly wind kept the temperature down and added to the riding challenge. Most of the riders arrived at Blond Bay by car, opting to participate only in the ride around the reserve rather than tackle the return ride to Bairnsdale. Mobs of kangaroos accompanied the riders, whilst huge flocks of black swans and other assorted wildlife were sighted on the ride around the reserve. The lunch break was in an idyllic setting right on the lake. Riders enjoyed both the scenery and the rest, although no one opted for a swim with a stiff breeze and whitecaps on the lake waters. A couple of the riders were sure that they knew a short cut which involved climbing a steep sandhill and following wombat trails through the tea tree and Banksia. A lot of energy was expended discovering why these were only wombat trails and not human ones before a decision to back track was forced upon the group by the disappearance of what only the most optimistic could call a track into the waters of the lake! Riders were challenged by the sandy conditions and the going was slow with several of the riders taking unexpected rests on the sandy tracks as their bikes came across softer spots and ground to a sudden halt, unceremoniously upending the riders. Luckily the sand, whilst making riding more difficult also softened any falls with the only the riders pride being hurt. All riders arrived back at the meeting point unscathed and enthusiastic about future rides.

Jeff Steedman



Riders Responsibility

Riders are responsible for

- Choosing a ride within their capacity
- Ensuring they are medically fit for that level of ride
- Signing in and out of each ride at start and finish, or prior to finish if riders decide to leave ride
- Making sure they and their bike are in an appropriate state for each ride. If unsure they should consult with Ride Leader
- Carrying a puncture repair kit, water, snack food and clothing appropriate to weather
- Informing the ride leader of any relevant medical condition that they have
- Obeying all road rules

Riders under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Riders between 12 and 16 may come at the discretion of the ride leader after making face to face contact with the child's parent /guardian prior to or at the start of the ride.



RIDE CALENDAR

***** Please check start times and dates for all rides as they may have changed since the last issue. *****

Sunday February 25th. Marlo ride and walk. Leader Dave Palmer.

For a little variety, SNOBS has decided to include a ride and walk activity. Meet at Wolseley St car park at 9:00 and ride out to Marlo. Leave bikes at a member's home and continue with a walk along the foreshore to Motts Beach and return. Ride back to Orbost. Approx 30km ride on tar + 7km walk. Bring lunch.

Sunday March 4th. BADMOB. Leader Jeff Steedman.

Depart from the Wy Yung Pub at 10.00 am. Ride out onto silt jetties, followed by a look at Eagle Point. After a short ride to Paynesville on the new bike track, riders will join the ferry ride across to Raymond Island. Take a tour along the island's quieter tracks, perhaps spotting koalas, before ending up with a ferry ride back to Paynesville where time will be taken for a latte or cool drink. Then the return ride to our starting point at the Wy Yung Pub where we will finish the day with refreshments. The ride is around 70k and will take about 5.5 hours including breaks. It is suitable for the reasonably fit. Easy, although soft tracks ensure that either mountain bikes or hybrids would be necessary. Riders will need to bring lunch and at least two litres of drinking water, water is available along the course. Participants should contact Jeff Steedman on 51531932

Wednesday March 7th. Evening ride. Leader Keith Law.

Meet Wolseley St car park 5:30 pm. Up Bonang, along Scout Camp to Knob Track to Yalmy and Jarrahmond. 18 km on gravel forest roads. One steep. long hill.

Sunday March 18th. Young's Creek ride and walk. Leader Marlene Robb.

Meet Wolseley St car park 9:00am. Ride along forest roads South Boundary, Break Neck and Storers Track to the falls. Walk the 4km to the old reservoir having lunch at the picnic area back at Young's Creek. Return via the Bonang Road on the tar. Ride 30km. Optional walk.

Sunday April 1st. Leader Greg Norman.

Cabbage Tree Palms - Leaving from Marlo Hotel car park 10am. Marlo to Cabbage Tree Palms via Marlo Plains Road, Conran to Cabbage Tree Ck Road, then turning left into Marlo/Cabbage Tree Ck Road. Have lunch under the palms. Return to Marlo on the Marlo/Cabbage Tree Ck Road. Distance is approx 48 kms (21km sealed surface, 27km unsealed surface)

Sunday April 22nd. BADMOB. Leader Jeff Steedman.

Moormung Flora Reserve. Remnants of Low Land forest, Heathy woodland and Grassy woodland, stands of Red Gum, Banksia, White Stringybark, But But and Mountain Grey Gum. This little known area is a real treasure. Enthusiastic observers can expect to see mobs of Kangaroos and Wallabies and large numbers and variety of bird life. The ride out to the reserve is around 15k, with one quarter of that on dirt tracks, the rest on well sealed roads. Wide tyred mountain bikes are required for the sandy tracks in the reserve proper. Exploration of the reserve approx 15 k before the return to Wy Yung. Riders will need to meet at the WY Yung Pub at 10.00 am, the ride will take around 5 hours and water and lunch must be taken. There is no potable water source on the reserve. Easy. Participants should contact Jeff Steedman on 5153193

Saturday May 19th, Sunday, May 20th. Buchan weekend. Leader Keith Law

With Friends of Eastgippsland Rail Trail. Saturday: Orbost to Buchan, Sunday Buchan to Orbost via owa Nowa and rail trail - Ring Keith 03 5154 1232 for more details. Stay overnight with Buchan Valley Log Cabins hosts: Peter and Rosie White P.O.Box 37 Buchan Victoria 3885 Phone 03 5155

9494 Email: enquiries@buchanlogcabins.com.au ; Cost approx \$40 per person share \$80 double.

Restaurant facilities will be available for the Saturday evening. Start 9:00am Forest Park.

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Following this schedule BADMOB will ride on every third Sunday of the month and SNOBS on every first Sunday. This is so participants will know when to expect a ride and to make it easier with scheduling.