

# Bicycle Bits

Newsletter of the North West Recreational Cycling Group

Newsletter No. 8  
18 April 2004



## March Meet

In total over thirty riders took part in the March ride from Gunn's Plains ably put together by Roger Lee. One small group, lead by Derek Otley, rode from Devonport (40kms), joined the group ride (22km) and then set off home to Devonport making a round trip of over 100km, not bad for a recreational rider!

As a warm up other groups chose to set off from Riana (16km) with Adrian or Ulverstone (16km) with Faye while at least four others swam for an hour in the Burnie pool and Jan Guest even managed to come second in a five kilometre running race before joining us! . The less energetic drove to the hall before taking part in one of the three optional rides

The most popular ride was a short flat ride of 16km along the valley to the Caves and Hop Farm while those with sufficient gears and the desire for some huff and puff road up the steep hill to Preston Motton and returned via the Leven River road (22km) A few activity seekers chose to complete a figure of eight course by putting the two circuits together giving them a nice 40km ride for the two hours before returning to the hall for lunch.

### Old bikes

Several pre-loved bikes have been loaned or given to the group so that any one turning up "only here as a driver" or who assures us that they would ride "if only I had a bike" can get actively involved. A couple of old helmets would help make our collection complete



## April Meet

When surveyed one of the things that recreational cyclists in our region felt that they needed was the opportunity to take part in longer escorted rides. To that end the April meet will take on a different format and we will meet at Andy's Bakery in Westbury at 10.am on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April and ride along the old highway to Deloraine (16km) before following the back road via Weegana to Kimberly and then on to Railton (60km) or Devonport (80km). Riders will need to organise transport to the start or finish of the ride but there will be a Sag Wagon following the ride to help those in need.

We are very aware that this ride is happening on ANZAC day and suggest that those taking part in the ride pay their respects at the early morning service before enjoying the freedom afforded to us by those who gave their lives for us.

*It is important to note that as with all rides of this ad hoc group of recreational cyclists there is no insurance cover and those joining in do so entirely at their*

### The future!

In June the outstanding administrative support, which we have been receiving from Sport and Recreation, is scheduled to end on the premise that we will by then be self-supporting. Before that date we will need to draw up a draft constitution and identify potential office bearers, all things that active bike riders are jumping out of their skin to do! Any offers or worthwhile suggestions ("My mate will do it" is not a worthwhile suggestion!) to Joan please.

### Good luck!

Three of our regular participants, Karon Faulkner, Lyn and Derek Otley are heading off shortly to ride west to east across the Nullarbor. We look forward to hearing of their adventures.... when they have returned long enough to be able to sit down!

### The Great Tasmanian Bike ride

This Bicycle Victoria (BV) event is on again in Tassie next year (5<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> Feb.). Rumour has it that it is to be on the West Coast but that can be confirmed on their web site later this month ([www.bv.com.au](http://www.bv.com.au)). For many of us currently active with the NW Rec cycling group these BV rides have been our introduction to the world of cycle touring. With all your gear transported from camp to camp, meals provided and good technical support available it is ideal for all of us to consider taking part in or to act as support volunteers.

Any articles for inclusion in the next newsletter can be sent to PO BOX 647  
or emailed to [Joan.Wylie@development.tas.gov.au](mailto:Joan.Wylie@development.tas.gov.au)