

Toukley & District Cycle Club Inc.

Date: 15/11/20 to 21/11/20...Ride Manager: Peter Holt

Ride Description: Canberra Club Holiday

Rider's Name

- 1.. Peter Holt
- 2.. Warwick Barwell
- 3.. Robyn Barwell
- 4.. Anne Daley
- 5.. John Daley
- 6.. Estelle Everett
- 7.. Debbie Arcus
- 8.. Keith Arnott
- 9.. Lyn Stevenson
10. Richard Stevenson
11. Hugh Sykes
12. Nicolette Gregory
13. Azi Thorpe
14. John Roberts
15. Eveline Creswell
16. Ralph Creswell
17. Merrilyn McHarg
18. Graeme Mee
19. Jenny Chaston

Rider's Name

20. Graeme Chaston
 21. Kee Leo
 22. Danny O'Shea
 23. Paul Murray
 24. Nigel Smith
- The Tetley Tea Support Group**
- Jenny Duffus & the green machine.
- Mandy Leo
- Eunice Roberts
- Brenda Thomas

The Rides

Approx. Klm

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Sunday: Round the Lake | 58 Klms |
| Monday: Belconnen | 55 Klms |
| Tuesday: Woden | 62 Klms |
| Wednesday: Gungahlin | 76 Klms |
| Thursday: Tuggeranong | 63 Klms |
| Friday: City Bridge Return | 35 Klms |

The Story

Peter, Keith, Debbie, and Jenny arrived on Thursday and went to check out the rides for the rest of us who arrived, mainly, on Saturday. The advance T&DCC staff went to a lot of trouble and arranged those members that had booked in the Riverside Park to be moved into the Crestview Tourist Park so that we could all be together. Brilliant!

Saturday: Peter laid out the week's rides at "Happy Hour" in the newly refurbished camp kitchen. In fact, the whole park was new to us after our last visit with a variety of different style cabins available and tidy, clean amenities. Early to bed after the drive, looking forward to tomorrow.

Sunday: A cool morning, after a cold night. We rode into Canberra and did a figure of 8 ride around the lake using the City Bridge to break up the 2 circuits. We had our 1st puncture on the way in and encountered a lot of riders, joggers, and walkers on the journey. It appeared that we were in the middle of most of Canberra's weekend sporting events. The Terrific Toukley Tetley Tea Team met us at the National Carillon, after we completed 75% of the journey, and we feasted on the fabulous fare. Back through Fyshwick to Queanbeyan via steep Donald Road and the even steeper driveway into the camp. At "Happy Hour" the nasty Sweep spoke of "things seen at the back" and politely asked the riders to take more care and respect the Canberra drivers.

Monday: Another cool morning after a very cold night. Off to Belconnen under cloudy skies. Peter was kind and re-arranged the usual ride so that we missed a big hill and a dangerous intersection outside The War Memorial. In doing so we took a few wrong turns and saw some parts of the City that were new to us, all good. Lunch in John Knight Memorial Park thanks to T.T.T.T Team. They out-did themselves! Then, down a huge series of hills, (extremely exciting), to the lake and back home along the Canberra Avenue corridor. Riders were very well behaved, marking corners, not riding through solid red lights, and keeping 2 abreast or single file. They were suitably thanked at "Happy Hour" and continued to ride that way for the rest of the week.

Tuesday: Out to Phillip and the Woden Town Centre under cloudy skies again. Lunch was in Eddison Park. This place has confounded the T&DCC on the last 2 visits, but this time, all of us had a beautiful spread in a great park with the T.T.T.T. Team in the sun. We were told that Thursday was Rick's cream slice day, but it made a surprise appearance on Tuesday. Last time we rode to Woden we ended up in 2 groups, unable to find one another and had a meagre lunch in separate areas. We returned along the Monaro Highway and my favourite, Lanyon Drive. We saw about 20 kangaroos in a paddock beside our road. Some big hills encountered.

Wednesday: A rest day for the T.T.T.T. Team and our loveable Leader. The keen riders went to Gungahlin under sunny skies via everywhere and returned happy and ready for 'Happy Hour'. I cannot regale you with the ride details as some of us went to Cotter Dam via Mt. Stromlo. Then on to Tidbinbilla Deep Space Research Station, (they would not let us in), before enjoying Gibraltar Falls and then onto Lanyon Homestead for lunch. I would highly recommend the Café as the service, food, and atmosphere was incredibly good, although not a patch on our usual T.T.T.T. fare. Back to the camp in a dusty "green Machine", sorry Jenny.

Thursday: A cloudy day again, but it did heat up later. Out to Tuggeranong, the correct way, via Isabella Drive. (I got lost for a few hours last time after taking this same route while everybody else took the Monaro Highway). We left the main road and took bike paths touching Monash and Greenway and Weston Creek before turning back to have lunch at Yarralumla, near the Station Stop Café. Weston Park, manned by the T.T.T.T. Team with the usual tantalising, terrific, gourmet buffet, and some more of Rick's cream slice. Back to camp, up that long hill that is Donald Road and into the even steeper driveway of the Tourist Park.

Thursday P.M: The usual Farewell Dinner was held at the Queanbeyan Leagues Club. We had 24 guests who drank, ate some exceptionally large meals, and discussed the week's activities before driving back to the camp.

Friday: A hot day was predicted, (32 degrees C), and so our thoughtful Leader decided to reduce the length of our ride. We rode out of Queanbeyan to the north and rode down the long hill beside the Canberra Airport. We had our 2nd puncture, created by our Malaysian rider, (no name provided) who decided to ride over some large rocks left on the cycleway by trucks carrying blue metal instead of riding around them. We were thankful though, as the lengthy stop put us at the National Carillon at the expected time. The wonderful, Terrific, Toukley, Tetley Tea Team were on hand to ply us with the promised "dregs" and leftovers. But to our amazement they had purchased new cakes, cream cakes, fruit cake and fruit as well as coffee and tea. We rode back over the Commonwealth Avenue Bridge through the wetlands bike-path through Fyshwick and back along the Canberra Avenue path. A quick ride home before the day really heated up.

What did we learn?

1. Canberra drivers do not indicate well but are very courteous to bike riders.
2. The Tetley Tea Ladies are terrific!
3. We are all getting older but are still able to ride Canberra.
4. Happy Hour continues to be essential. Booze, snacks, chatter, and the honourable leader's description for tomorrow's ride.
5. The next holiday is in Cowra at a date to be fixed.
6. That cranky old grey-haired sweep is never happy!