

## **MUDGEE MADNESS**

The T&DCC Inc descended on Mudgee on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October and set up camp, mainly at the Ingenia Caravan Park, and with a few at the Riverside Caravan Park.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>. The first ride was a short ride, (about 40 klms) around Mudgee on the Sunday, to the Model Train Park where members could ride the trains before returning. The weather was kind early, but unfortunately turned nasty and everyone was soaked by the time they got back to camp. Robyn and Warwick had arrived to find a lot of wet, but happy, riders.

Monday 9<sup>th</sup>. The main group set off to Cudgegong River Park on the upper reaches from Burrendong Dam, (about 75 Klms), where they were met by the Tetley Three. Refreshments were truly enjoyed by all, before their return. They were also blessed with 2 punctures. A second group, led by Doug, set off for a shorter ride towards the Yarrabin Rd. turnoff. Unfortunately, they met with disaster when Debbie, (of kayaking fame), had the hanger holding her rear derailleur snap. Jill rang poor Trevor, who was suffering from a bad cold, and he came and rescued Debbie's bike. We had been standing out in the sun for some time and decided to return after a shortened 20 odd klms. The Tetley Three provided scones, jam and cream for Happy Hour. Danny was late, complaining that we started early, but then found out that the second hand on his watch had fallen off and jammed the hands up, due to the rough gravel road on the ride. A fun day, but not without incident.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>. We all decided to ride to Gulgong together because Peter had suggested that it was only 58 Klms of undulating flatness. There was also the promise of a great Pie Shop for lunch. When we arrived at the Pie Shop there was only a few pies left but we did not miss out. Some made a quick look at the Museum with the promise to return. Back on the bikes and up the undulating flatness to finally register 68 Klms. Kee turned up like a bad penny that evening without Mandy. He was carrying 9 pieces of KFC and he heated up a few on the BBQ, leaving the rest for the next day's lunch (Yummy).

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>. The ride was set down for the masochists among us. About 90 Klms out towards the dam and beyond before coming around in a circle and back to Mudgee. Nigel had ridden it before and declined to ride it again. No one went! Peter had made up another ride around the outskirts of Mudgee which ended up at about 50 klms with some rocky gravel to contend with. Coffee was taken at the Mudgee Bakery and Café before returning to camp. Kee brought a rice cooker from home and made a dish of rice and KFC for dinner. (Yummy).

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>. The Main group set out for Munghorn Gap on the Wollar Road, about 60 Klms. The Tetley Three were to meet the Munghorn heroes plus the Cooyal Pub "stay backs" at the Cooyal Pub. The Munghorn heroes were, Nigel, Rolf, Hans, Heinz, Rick, Linda, Viv and Mike Osbourne. Some of us, who had ridden out there on the last holiday and experienced the fierce winds, were reluctant due to the winds that were blowing again. Eveline organised a short around-town ride which incorporated a coffee shop as well. Doug, Dianne and George left in the PM to join up with the Coasters on Friday. In the afternoon Robyn cooked up her usual scones but added mixed berries and white chocolate to the recipe, along with the obligatory jam and cream. Thursday night we had an excellent meal at the Oriental Hotel, organised by Robyn and enjoyed by most. The real Debbie showed herself, by ordering a very large slice of Lemon Meringue Pie and cream for dessert. To be fair, she did share, after seeing the size of the portion. Kee did not order fried chicken.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. Most in attendance were unaware that it was Black Friday and started out in blissful ignorance. The main group were heading out to Lue, a very undulating ride of 60 Klms, mostly flat with lots of undulations. I had organised a shorter ride of 25 Klms, including a coffee stop. What could go wrong? Those in the main group, led by Peter, who didn't relish the undulating flatness of the full ride, were supposed to stop at a little church on the hill, as was the Tetley Three, but the only ones to stop at the church were Peter, (Ride Manager), Hans and Kee, (the sweep). After many phone calls all were reunited at the church. At the same time, I led a group of six on the shorter ride and we met up with the

main party out of town, but riding in a different direction. No sooner had we passed each other, than Eveline's bike suffered a terminal failure. Just as Debbie's bike, earlier in the week, snapped a hanger holding the rear derailleur, Eveline had suffered the same fate. Ralph then took the brunt of Black Friday, by riding back to camp, partially unloading the four-wheel drive, and driving back out to where we were waiting to pick up Eveline and the offending bike. I am now a total failure as a Ride Manager having started out with six and returning with four, having lost a third of my compliment. A sober, at the start, but happy group gathered for our last Happy Hour together. Speeches were made, gifts were exchanged, and thanks given.

A special thanks to Peter Holt for putting up with us, riding most of the rides in their entirety without complaint, providing us with a laugh and being the best of company throughout.

Thanks to the Tetley Three, Yvonne Fuller, Crisay Boehringer and Jenny Duffus for their dedication as tea, coffee, cold water, scones and pikelet providers to the masses. Thanks to David for the diesel.

Thanks to George Rhedey for his skills with the drone, taking film of our adventures and making himself available to retrieve riders overcome by the relentless undulating flatness of it all.

Thanks to Trevor Bust for leaving his sick-bed to retrieve Debbie's bike and Keith on the Monday.

Thanks to all our guests, Keith Hornery, Jenny Duffus, Crisay Boehringer, George Rhedey, Cheryl Boi Yvonne Fuller and Chelsea for making our holiday more enjoyable.

Thanks to our tenters: Keefat, Dianne, George and Sasha, Viv and Mike.

Van and Tent: Rolf, Azi and Marshall.

Caravaners: Westley and Crisay, Lyn and Linda, David, Yvonne and Chelsea, Ian and Doug, Karen and Keith, Chris and Cheryl, Lyn and Rick, Eveline and Ralph, Debbie and Keith, Carol, Nigel.

Motor Homers: Kerry and Jenny, Robyn And Warwick.

Cabin Dwellers: Peter, Danny, Heinz, Trevor and Jill, Hans and Jenny.

The next holiday will be in March 2018 around Myrtleford Vic.

*Disclaimer: The distances mentioned here are not accurate, they never were! The word undulating is a fiction dreamed up by Peter Holt to describe bloody great hills and short down-hills. The word flat is also a fiction. The only truth to be found here is that everyone had a great time and that the rides were both enjoyable and picturesque with people who enjoy each other's company.*