

## MYRTLEFORD MANIA

In the weeks prior to the club's holiday in Myrtleford there was a lot of discussion about who was going on the holiday, but because everyone was responsible for their own booking, no notice was taken about who might turn up. To our amazement, 44 travellers arrived over the week. We had 38 riders, 4 support persons, 2 surprise visitors from the past, and our most loyal camp dog, Chelsea.

Before arriving, Kerry & Jenny (Duffus) blew up their transmission near Castle Hill and were towed back to Gosford for repairs before continuing to Myrtleford. I got lost in Wodonga and David did the same thing and backed his caravan into a building trying to get out of a tight spot, damaging his roof.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> "happy hour" went well but, was convened out in the open as there was a caravan club using the camp kitchen. It was decided to start early Sunday as the weather was supposed to be hot. We discovered that the camp dog, Chelsea, doesn't like motorcyclists much and was prone to bark at them. What a clever girl.

Sunday 8.00AM we started towards Bright, 31 happy riders with a howling gale behind us. About 5 Klms out we came upon a very sorry sight. Chris & Irene were staying at the Happy Valley Hotel and their car was parked close to the rail-trail. A tree, due to be cut down a week later, had fallen on it, damaging the roof. (It was later assessed as a write-off). In true T&DCC tradition they continued with the ride. We arrived in Bright in record time due to the wind. Off to the Bakery for "Beestings" and coffee before a quick look around town. The consensus was to ride back as soon as possible because the wind had only got stronger and it looked like rain. The trip back was awful, some rain and a lot of wind directly in our faces. Sixty klms successfully covered. Happy hour was in the camp kitchen because we used our weight of numbers to take over.

Monday 7.00AM Kee was found wandering around in the mist having arrived overnight. Thankfully he brought the lovely Mandy with him to keep him in control. The other thing that was apparent was that there was no wind. At 9.00AM 29 riders set off for Everton Station in beautiful weather. Lunch was provided by Yvonne Fuller, Linda Fairman (English visitor), and Cheryl Boi. Riders collected apples and peaches along the trail and arrived back happy. 55 Klms successfully covered. I was unable to arrange the bus and trailer to Beechworth on Thursday with our usual transport but was able to get a lift with a guy called Nigel. Some of our number discovered that they could use the council pool for free after 3.30PM and that was used extensively during the week. All happy at happy hour with 11 riders going on the bus to Beechworth and 29 going to the Happy Valley Hotel on Thursday night.

Tuesday 9.00AM and we set off for Buffalo Lake on another beautiful day with 33 riders. Lunch was again provided by the lovely ladies beside the lake with some riding on over the dam and up further to extend the klms. It was hot but only 2 of our number swam, Richard Fairman (English visitor) and Chelsea. Richard was happy, but Chelsea was ecstatic. Then returning the same way whilst dodging timber trucks. 54Klms successfully completed by some. Some others found a use for Keith Hornery by phoning him to come out to the lake to pick them up, no names. (Robyn and Debbie). Happy hour with Kerry & Jenny (Duffus) arriving to swell the numbers, their car all fixed.

Wednesday 9.00AM this was the normal rest-day, but the members were not to be denied. John Daley offered 2 rides to the Eldorado Goldfields and 31 riders agreed to go. They rode to Everton Station then on to Tarrawingee where they split, some on to Londregan and all arriving at Eldorado for lunch. The lovely ladies did their thing again and then the riders returned to Myrtleford. 61Klms completed, heroes all. Happy hour and preparations for Beechworth were finalised. The bus could now only take 8 riders at a time and some were kind enough to take the second bus, with still only 11 going on the bus. Still at happy hour and who should appear but, Wayne & Jenny Evans. They were just passing through, staying at the park, and noticed us drinking.

Thursday 8.00AM 9 riders set off for Beechworth using Taylor's Gap and the horror hill straight to the town. Some others took their car to Everton Station and rode up and the rest were waiting for the bus. Not 11 anymore though. Beggars came around and had me ripping out hair trying to work out who would go on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> bus. The bus finally took 17 cyclists to Beechworth. I was on the 2<sup>nd</sup> bus leaving at 10.00AM and we passed the 8 o'clock starters still on the horror hill. Into Beechworth and the excellent Bakery for "beestings" etc. Then back down the rail trail to Myrtleford. 42Klms for some & shorter and harder for the heroic 9 that left early. Then to The Happy Valley Hotel for a wonderful meal where some actually had sweets on top of their huge meals. Almost forgot, Kerry, Azi and Jenny Duffus were spotted riding back from the pub without legal illumination.

Friday 9.30AM at Wangaratta, we met at the park and rode out to Milawa for cheese, wine and gifts. 29 riders set off on a short 30Klms. When we arrived at Milawa word got around that the lovely ladies were at the Cheese Factory with cakes and coffee. Richard Fairman had a drone and took some aerial shots and then we made our way back to Wang to pick up the vehicles. A sad time as we left Lyn, Linda and Azi. While we were doing our ride Paul Murray and Marshall were riding from Myrtleford to Wang. via Beechworth (the excellent Bakery & "beestings" and other places to catch the train to Sydney at 10.00PM. The problem was that they had to be at the station by 6.00PM to box up the bikes.

Saturday, whenever, the rest of our number left but Lyn & Rick, Jenny & Kerry as well as Kee and Mandy were intending to ride to Bright. I believe that Kerry Funk has a lot to crow about as she arrived extremely late but rode every ride that the rest rode before leaving. Heinz Doerr can also claim some kudos. He kept on disappearing to Bright before or after rides (60 klms) and did other extras during the week, while we were sleeping, in the pool, happy houring, shopping or generally loafing around. Heinz one day rode from Myrtleford to Beechworth, then back, then out to Bright and back, 156km.

I hope that you had a good time. Special thanks to the lovely ladies, Yvonne, Jenny Duffus, Linda Fairman and Cheryl Boi. Thanks to Keith Hornery for being there when we needed him. Thanks to John Daley for leading the rides. The biggest thanks to Peter Holt for initially mapping out the rides and providing all the information required for the week.

Warwick