



NEWSLETTER NO. 3

JANUARY 2009

Welcome to the January newsletter which comes to you with about fifty days to go to the start of the Ride. I hope you all had a happy holiday and are looking forward to a bicycling New Year.

This edition is packed with lots of information about arrangements for the Ride and a pointer to the website pages where you will find a checklist of how to prepare your bike and what to pack.

REGISTER NOW

The closing date for Stage One is Friday February 20th and it is almost full so if you really want to take part in Stage One, which is also the Ride to Conference for Rotary District 9810, you should download a form today and send it in. The closing date for all other stages is one month prior to the start of that stage. Alis Alexander, our hard working Administrative Assistant at Bike Ride Central, is waiting to receive your forms and any monies owing on Stage 1 should be paid now!

HAVE YOU GOT FORM?

The form referred to is the Medical/Clothing/Bike form which you can download from the website on the "JOIN" page. All riders and volunteers must submit a medical form which will be taken on the event in case there is an emergency or medicines are needed. We also need to know clothing sizes for everyone as you will receive casual polo shirts and ride jerseys. The casual polo shirts have now been ordered and the Ride jerseys are almost ready to be ordered. It will also help our mobile mechanics from Shimano if they have an idea of the types of bikes being used on the Ride.

WEBSITE UPDATING

GABR Committee chairman Dick White has been working with the website content manager Not At All Strange to update many of the daily maps which you can see on the website. These maps are powered by Google and you can move them around, enlarge or reduce them and, through the brilliance of street view, actually see what a section of road looks like. This has helped the route planners and map makers plot each day's journey very accurately especially in the more remote places. To see the map for each day go to the website home page, click on which Stage you want in the centre of the page and this will show you a map of that Stage on the right hand side. Below that map is some text and at the end of the text click on More Info....and then click on the day you want to see. Also added to the website are all the sponsors who are now supporting the Ride.

THESE PEOPLE WILL BE RUNNING YOUR LIFE

The rogues gallery below shows you the Stage Managers for the Ride.



Rob Henry
Stage One



Tony Hennessy
Stage Two



David Brown
Stage Three



Denis Green
Stage Four



Des Lawson
Stage Five



Geoff Kennedy
Stages Six & Seven



Dick Wilson
Stage Eight



Ken Brand
Stage Nine

WHAT ARE THE STAGE MANAGERS UP TO?

The Stage Managers have been out and about checking their roads and working with local Rotary Clubs around Australia on arrangements for feeding and accommodating the riders.

David Brown (Stage 3) is trying to finish the route from Melbourne to Sydney but the Sydney end of it keeps changing which causes much consternation! David has drawn Drivers' Maps for each day of the ride that have such information as Rotary clubs on route, start times, lunch times, who we are meeting and end of day finish times .

For Stage 5, two members of Des Lawson's Rotary club have driven the Brisbane to Townsville Stage to check the roads and the standard of accommodation and Des and his team in Brisbane are planning a major function when the Ride arrives there.

Geoff Kennedy is Ride Manager for the whole event as well as looking after Stages 6 and 7 so a lot of the work he is doing for the overall route is incorporated in to his Stage Manager role. Geoff is also handling all accommodation and researching facilities at known camp spots with assistance from Rotarians, Visitor Information Centres and tourism operators .

Dick Wilson, (Stage 8) headed out to the WA border early in the New Year, spending two nights in Ceduna and then driving down to Port Lincoln to attend their Rotary meeting and talk about The Ride. On the return trip Dick and his team checked out Arno Bay, Whyalla and Pt. Augusta.

Ken Brand (Stage 9) has offered to be a volunteer on the Darwin to Perth Stage and then drive from Adelaide to Melbourne on the final survey of his stage before he takes over as the Stage Manager on September 27. Ken should be well prepared after 47 days on the road!

RIDE TO LAUNCH

The Ride to Launch Committee in Melbourne has organised the following rides:

Southern Ride-R1	Street Ride commencing at Mornington	60km	start 8:30am
Southern Ride-R2	Street Ride commencing at Mordialloc	25km	start 9:30am
Northern Ride-R3	Street Ride from Bell St - Darebin Arts Centre	25km	start 9:30am
Northern Ride-R4	Bike Path along Maribyrnong, from Cross Keys Reserve Strathmore –	25km	start 9:30am
Eastern Ride-R5	Bike path along Gardeners Creek, from Glen Iris	12km	start 9:30am
Western Ride-R6	Werribee via Williamstown & Footscray	35km	start 9:30am
Western Ride-R7	Altona via Williamstown & Footscray	15km	start 10:00am

TRAINING RIDE IN MELBOURNE

Rob Henry is organising a training ride at 8.00 am on Sunday 15th February commencing at Ferntree Gully Rail Station Car Park (Melway ref 74 C3) to Jells Park with a coffee stop at Knox City on the return leg.

For further details about the Rides to Launch or the Training Ride contact Rob Henry on 0417 570 417 or e-mail treborwh@bigpond.com

HELPFUL HINTS

Accommodation will consist of hotels, motels, cabins in caravan parks and some home hosting by Rotary Clubs. Camping out will only be used in Stages 6, 7 and 8. Overnight locations may vary to avoid sites with minimal facilities.

Luggage should be kept to a minimum and sports bags are easier to stow than large suitcases

Special dietary requirements e-mail them to Alis Alexander on alisalexander@arhf.org.au.

The Weather may be cold in the mornings in Tasmania and Western Australia. For Stages 6, 7, and 8 you will need a sleeping bag which should have a minus rating. No swags please as they are too bulky – just a bag and a rolled up mat

Ride Policy Safety is paramount but enjoyment and achievement are essential. Briefings for riders and support crew will be held at the start of each Stage. Transporting of riders will take place subject to safety and traffic authorities' requirements.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For Background information on Stages 1 and 2 plus general Rider Information on the whole event go the website and look for the NEWS page where you can download the information.

SPONSORS FORM

For those keeping a track on sponsorship money or being sponsored on a per kilometre basis there is a form on the website in the Fundraising page

MEDIA PROMOTION

Regional Mediaworks which is a Macquarie Southern Cross Media Company is the media partner for the Ride. It covers 140 commercial radio stations, Southern Cross/ TEN television in Regional Queensland, NSW and Victoria, Southern Cross Television in Tasmania and Darwin plus Imparja in Central Australia. Regional Mediaworks will be supporting the Ride across radio and television leading up to the start and news coverage on radio and television during the event. Have a look at their website www.regionalmediaworks.com.au.

SPONSORSHIP

In addition to Regional Mediaworks we have signed up with the following new sponsors :

- Anaconda – all the camping and outside gear
- Expanda Brand – Display signs
- Fisherman's Friend – lozenges!
- Jim Aitken Enterprises – BBQ trailer
- Westrac – funding
- Events Tasmania – funding
- SPM Project marketing - funding
- Not At All Strange – Website design and content management

Terry Davies, Corporate Donations Manager at Australian Rotary Health is currently working on more sponsorships.

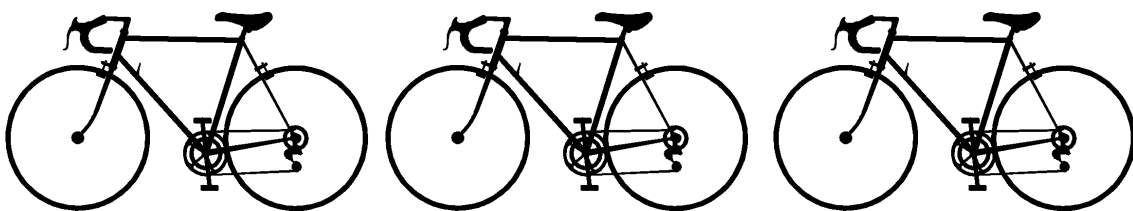
THE LAST WORD

As memories of the holidays are replaced by the reality of the approaching start date, the pace is hotting up for the Ride Team. Arranging catering for the whole Ride, sign writing the support vehicles, checking on accommodation bookings, manufacturing the polos and ride jerseys, liaising with Rotary Clubs around the country and lining up equipment for the Remote stages are just a few of the matters being looked after as we head to the start line

Now is the time to send in your registrations and payments for Stages 1 and 2 and to have a look at all the background information on the website.

To all those people around Australia who are working on this project a huge Thank You from all of us at Australian Rotary Health. Through your endeavours and assistance we know the Great Australian Bike Ride will be a memorable event

JOHN FLOWER
Event Manager



Australian Rotary Health

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