



Cycling Times

The B.B.T.A Newsletter

Reg. By Australia Post #

Number 115 February—March 2004

BBTA Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday 8 March @ 7.30pm.

At this meeting the Committee will report on the management of the club over the past year. Members will have the opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

Then the Committee for 2004-05 will be elected. Committee members are called upon to dedicate sometimes

significant amounts of time to their responsibilities so that the club as a whole can operate for the benefit of all members. Committee positions are as follows:

President

General leadership of the club and organises and motivates the committee

Vice President

Assists the president, organises publicity and generally steps in when required

Rides Co-Ordinator

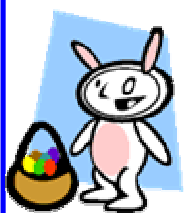
Arranges the rides calendar through planning meetings and emailing potential leaders

Treasurer

Manages the money and makes sure that the annual accounts are accurate and informative. Also manages the membership list.

Secretary

Arranges the mailing of the newsletter, collects the mail. Prepares correspondence and minutes of the committee meetings.



Easter Weekend: Grafton wilderness

This Easter come join us on a four-day ride that has everything you'd expect on a wilderness tour: magnificent scenery, little traffic, and uncrowded campsites.

The ride was a great success in 2002. Be prepared, however, to carry food for two consecutive nights and to cycle on well-maintained gravel roads for some of the way.

On day 1 we leave Grafton and head out along the Old Grafton Road. Camping for this night will be beside the Boyd River. The distance for day 1 is about 60km with

about half of the day on dirt.

Day 2 is on dirt all the way as we continue along the Old Grafton Road to our next campsite at the Mann River Nature Reserve (distance is about 65km). The reserve has water, toilets, and a great swimming hole.

Day 3 is tough: only a few hundred metres after leaving camp we are greeted by a 10km climb on a mainly sealed road up to the Gwydir plateau. From here we begin our trek back towards Grafton. Soon after Washpool we are rewarded with an 18km downhill, and then we head on to our evening destination at the Mann River caravan park at Jackadgerly (distance=95km). The caravan park has all the necessary

"civilised" amenities (including a shop).

On day 4, we travel along the Gwydir Hwy to Grafton, where we should arrive by late morning or lunch, after 47km.

So come along, be a little adventurous, and take a cycle on the wild side. Details about the starting point, and where to leave vehicles, is still being negotiated. Contact Gavin on 33660041 for further information.

Rating: Hard/Foothills-ranges.
Need to be self-sufficient.

Inside this Issue:

President's report
2

Rides Coordinator's
Corner 2/3

Patagonia Experience 4

Welcome to our New Members!

Rick ABRAHAM

Patricia DAVIES

Mark GRULKE

Nancy ADCOCK & Nic
WILLIAMS

Kaylee FOWLER & Kyle
REICHSTEIN

Pamela HACKETT

Ron CHAY

Renate GEARY

Stephen JACKSON &
Family; Marjorie, Alexander
& Suzanna

Report from the President

Elizabeth Catchpole



Happy New Year everyone! Here's hoping we all have a safe and enjoyable year cycling.

It's been really good to see such a large turnout at the recent social nights. The fun and friendship part of our motto is very evident to see. The warm welcome and goodwill shown to new members is excellent.

On a sad note, Bruce Primrose one of our members lost his battle with cancer and died just before Christmas. He was a pleasure to have along on a ride, always ready for another challenge. His eulogy even

made mention of all these incredible distances he used to cover.

Quite a few important dates for your diary coming up. First of all on the 9th of February we have first rides planning night of the year. Think about what kind of rides you enjoy and make sure there's at least one like that on the next calendar, if not, why not put one on. Next date, the 8th March is the club's AGM come along and have your say.

BQ has moved Bike Week from October to March with Ride to Work Day falling on the 24th and the Great

Brisbane Bike Ride on Sunday the 28th. These are fabulous opportunities to show what a great club we are and what fun cycling is. The last couple of years we've been the second biggest team. I believe this year just has to be our turn! So please make an effort to be there. If you have a club jersey (any vintage) wear it, if not anything blue, green or yellow is good. Plan to stay for our after-ride BYO picnic.

I receive quite a few interesting emails in my role as president one I'd like to share with you. Chris Wilcox, a West Australian living in the UK, found an interesting website he

Rides Coordinator's Corner

Tom Mylne



My usual thanks to the many people who have offered to lead rides and tours. There will be plenty of opportunities in February and

March for those who want to live up to the name of the club and go touring. Furthermore, you will see that tours are being planned already for dates as far ahead as July. I would be happy to hear from anyone else who is planning a tour, so that I can add your tour to the "Advance Planning" section of the calendar immediately.

This is perhaps the moment to remind those of you who use the WWW that BBTA Calendars can be, and often are, updated during their life. The web version of the Calendar is always up-to-date and always current, and a separate document itemises any changes that have been made since the printed version of the Calendar was distributed.

Achievement rides

My first experience of administering the BBTA Cycling Achievement Awards was less than satisfactory, due in part to my lack of experience,

but also in part to the different expectations that members have of the scheme. The awards system has been developing over the years, and must now cater for a much larger and more diverse membership and a wider range of ride offerings than when it was introduced. As a result, the committee has decided to make some changes to the way the scheme is administered, and a formal set of rules and procedures has been adopted. You will find these elsewhere in the newsletter.

One addition has been made to the award levels: an award for achieving 80 kilometres. Otherwise the award levels are unchanged.

New Saturday Arvo Ride

The first "new" Saturday Arvo ride took place on January 3rd with about twenty riders turning out. Rather to my disappointment, the coffee shop was still closed for the Christmas break, but the ride provided some "entertainment" in its own right – two flat tyres and one rider cut off by a car turning into a driveway. The next week saw a smaller number turning up for an incident-free ride followed by our first coffee at Coffee Matters. Numbers were up again in

week three and coffee was a jovial affair. The inaugural ride leaders have been showing a certain amount of initiative with respect to the route, but I am sure it will settle down in due course. It was intended that the new route should offer a number of variations for those who want a bit more distance or a bit more hill-climbing. Why not come along and try it out.

I have had queries from a number of members about various aspects of rides management. Here are some answers.

What time do BBTA rides start?

Some ride leaders ask me to specify that their rides will start at the advertised time "sharp". I have introduced a new icon (sorry) to mark this. Most ride leaders are fairly flexible about starting times, but I suggest that it would always be courteous to arrive at least ten minutes before the nominated starting time to allow for getting ready and signing on.

How fast will the ride be?

Please remember that some BBTA rides will be too fast for some BBTA members or guests. Ride leaders are

Ride Coordinator's Corner (continued)

asked to nominate what pace they are aiming for, using the codes S, M, F etc. so that prospective riders can make an assessment about whether they will feel comfortable on the ride. Some ride leaders also specify target average speeds ("speedo averages" - not overall trip averages) in their descriptions. If in doubt, contact the ride leader beforehand.

Can rides be cancelled?

The short answer is: Yes or No. It all depends on the phone icon. There are two ways of organising BBTA rides. One way (with the phone icon) is that the leader specifies that he/she wants prospective riders to phone (or email) beforehand to register for the ride; the leader then takes responsibility for keeping these riders informed about changes to - or cancellation of - the ride. The other way (without the phone icon) is that the leader does not want riders to register beforehand; riders can simply turn up on the day. The *quid pro*

quo is that the leader must either lead the ride (rain, hail or shine) or find an alternative leader to lead the ride.

Should I ring the ride leader beforehand?

If the ride is marked with the phone icon, you may be greeted rather coldly if you turn up without having rung (or emailed) the ride leader beforehand, especially if the leader has made a booking for a restaurant meal or similar. If there is no phone icon, there is no need to ring, but the option is there, if you want to find out more about the ride.

Great Brisbane Bike Ride

Don't forget the Great Brisbane Bike Ride on March 28. Get your entry form from a bike shop or the web (they should be available about the end of February) and make sure that you mention that you are in the

BBTA team. Contact Elizabeth for further details

Planet Radio

On 29th November I was interviewed on Planet Radio (88fm) about cycle touring. According to their website www.planetradio.com.au, Planet Radio is Australia's Environmental Radio based in Brisbane, Australia. They have a bicycle-oriented session from 12.00 to 1.00 each Saturday during which - to my surprise - they read from the BBTA Calendar, to tell their listeners what rides we have on that weekend. Their interest in cycling is environmental (lack of pollution) which is not quite the same as, but not incompatible with, our stated aim of fun, fitness and friendship. You might like to listen in some Saturday.

Hazards of riding in NZ

I had a short email from Gael



ACHIEVEMENT RIDES

The BBTA Cycling Achievement Award series ran into a few difficulties last year due mainly to my inexperience in the ride coordinator role. One or two important ride sheets were lost in transit, and several rides which were indeed "achievements" for those who completed them were not counted because they were not marked as achievement rides on the Calendar. Both of these difficulties will be overcome by the new administrative system mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter.

Imperial Century medallions were, or should have been, presented to Rosie EDEN, Gerard GALVIN, Mark GUEST, David HORTON, Peter KERSWILL, Kevin McMILLAN, Kerry NEIGHBOUR, Rodney NICHOLSON, Barry NOR-TON, James TRIMMER, Peter WATSON, James WOODMAN and Andy WOODMAN. My apologies to those who attended the Christmas Party but did not receive their medals during the award ceremony there.

Achievement award certificates were, or should have been, presented to the following:

Level 4:

Gerard GALVIN and Peter WATSON

Level 2:

Rosie EDEN, Mark GUEST, Kevin McMILLAN, Kerry NEIGHBOUR, Rodney NICHOLSON

Level 1:

Alan ABSOLOM, Kristene ABSOLOM, Garth AUSTIN, Daryl BOWES, David BRETT, Elizabeth CATCHPOLE, Graeme DARROCH, Terry DE JONGE, Mark DEMUTH, Kurt DOERR, Peter GARDENER, David GREEN, Paul GUBESCH, Kate GUBESCH, Alister HOPE, Janet HOWELLS, Peter KERSWILL, Maurice McCALLUM, Sharryn McCONKEY, Corinne McMILLAN, Jacqui MOORE, Ralf NEUMANN, Jim PHILP, Maurice QUIRKE, Allen SCOTT, Ginny SCOTT, Allan THOMSON, James TRIMMER, Geoffrey UNWIN, Wim VERBA-



My Patagonia Experience

by Tina Stathakis

Tina Stathakis is a new member of BBTA who had the opportunity for a 3 week adventure in Patagonia as a result of her role as medical adviser to the Brink Expedition, and part of the team on the ground in Brisbane. Although Tina did not get to cycle as much as she wanted to (because meeting up with the team in remote places, and when they were behind schedule, proved rather difficult), she reports the trip as being a great experience and can't wait to rejoin the team on the road at some future time.

How many times does a girl get invited to take a bicycle to the other end of the globe, to ride in a desert in remote Patagonia with 2 adventurous friends? Never mind that I'd only been camping once before, and

launch an adventure-based educational curriculum that can be taught in schools up to year 10.



At Torres Del Paine National Park

in the world, and on the banks of the bluest glacier lake I'd ever seen. Patagonia is a desert of small shrubs, and is well known for its winds. The wind is constant and fierce, averaging about 40-60km on a good day. When it blows from the glaciers, its icy cold and unrelenting.

Patagonia is a tough place for cycle-touring. The roads are not meant for cars, let alone bicycles. In fact, there were very few paved roads where we were – they were mostly rutted gravel roads. The road stretched for miles and miles between places, and there were lots of undulating hills.



Ben in 80km per hour headwind Tierra del Fuego



Tina and Kendon at El Cala-

never been cycle touring before - only a minor detail.

These two adventurous friends are Brisbane boys, Ben and Kendon Glass, and the founders of the Brink Expedition. The Brink Expedition is a not-for-profit, adventure-driven environmental organisation. It involves cycling across the world (sailing also), meeting communities,

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Kendon on bush track—

and iting mote eas that ecologi- hot spots. The mary purpose to

The Brink Team began cycling in Caracas, Venezuela, and has already cycled through the majority of South America. They have had the most incredible journey, and have succeeded, despite the threats of extreme danger in Venezuela, civil unrest in Bolivia, and despite debilitating illness in the Amazon. They are currently in Ushuaia, preparing to sail across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe, where they will cycle across Europe and the Middle East in 2004. Their journey ends in Sydney on Australia Day 2006.

We met in El Calafate, a small town in Patagonia, South Argentina. This is the Mecca for adventure in South America. It is situated between the snow-capped peaks of the Andes, amongst the most beautiful glaciers

2003 Christmas Party
Lucky Door Prize
For the second year running we had a "Lucky Door Prize" as part of the Christmas Party celebrations. Many thanks to the generosity of the following sponsors:

Shayne Hendren from Velo at the Grange was very generous this year with his donation of the great touring rack, 2 pairs of cycling gloves and a Speedo.

Rod Nicholas from Riders Cyclery at Morningside for a great Cateye Speedo.



Brisbane Bicycle Touring Association Inc.

Cycling Achievement Awards

1. Preamble

The BBTA Cycling Achievement Awards allow members to gain recognition for their cycling achievements in a non-competitive yet official way. Awards are obtained by completing a specified number of **BBTA Achievement Rides** over specified distances in a single calendar year.

2. Categories of Achievement Award

Achievement Certificates may be awarded for the following levels of achievement:

Level 1 Award: 50 km*; (* or more)	100 km* +
Level 2 Award: 100 km* + 50 km*;	160 km* +
Level 3 Award: 160 km* + 100 km*;	200 km* +
Level 4 Award: 160 km* + 100 km* + 80 km*.	200 km* +

Awards may also be made for:

Imperial Half-Century: 80km*
(Certificate);

Imperial Century: 160km* (Medallion)

BBTA Achievement Rides are graded in terms of distance only. There is no requirement that the rides be of a certain degree of difficulty or that they be completed in a limited time, other than that each must be completed in a single day.

A rider may be awarded only one Achievement Certificate in any one year, but the award of a Certificate at a particular level does not preclude the award of a Certificate at the same level to the same rider in a subsequent year.

An Imperial Century Medallion may be awarded in addition to an Achievement Certificate. The award of a Medallion does not preclude the award of a Medallion to the same rider in a subsequent year.

3. Achievement Ride

To count as a **BBTA Achievement Ride**, a ride must be a day-ride:

- Led by a BBTA member, and
- Listed on a BBTA Calendar published in the *Cycling Times*,
- For any date in the months of January to November in the year of the award.

That is, **any** ride on the BBTA Calendar counts as a **BBTA Achievement Ride** for a rider who chooses to regard the ride as such (but not for other riders on the ride).

Note that contrary to some previous practice:

- Rides organised by other clubs or organisations (such as, and including, Audax) do **not** count as **BBTA Achievement Rides**.
- **Any** advertised ride counts as a **BBTA Achievement Ride**, so long as the rider informs the leader (before the ride commences) of her/his intention to treat the ride as an achievement ride. Rides will no longer be marked on the calendar as "Achievement Rides".

4. Eligibility for Achievement Awards

A rider is eligible for a **BBTA Cycling Achievement Award** or if he or she:

- Was a financial member of the BBTA at the time that each **BBTA Achievement Ride** is undertaken, and
- Submits a duly completed **brevet form** to the Rides Coordinator before close of business on the last day of November in the year of the award.

An Achievement Awards presentation will be held at the annual BBTA Christmas Party in December.

5. What the Rider must do

A rider who seeks the award of a **BBTA Achievement Certificate** or a **BBTA Imperial Century Medallion** must:

- Obtain and manage a **brevet form** (available in the February *Cycling Times*, at BBTA meetings, and on the BBTA website).
- For each ride selected as a **BBTA Achievement Ride**:
 1. Take the **brevet form** to the ride;
 2. Inform the ride leader before the ride starts that the rider intends to record the ride as a (personal) **BBTA Achievement Ride**;
 3. Ensure that the following information is recorded on the brevet form (a) the date, (b) the name of the **BBTA Achievement Ride**, and (c) the signature of the leader of that ride (or of another suitable person if the rider is the leader), certifying that the rider has completed the distance specified.
- Submit the completed brevet form (showing the combination of **BBTA Achievement Rides** for which an award is sought) to the Rides Coordinator before the close of business on the last day of November in the year of the award.

*Contrary to previous practice, ride leaders are **not** responsible for ensuring that a rider's achievement is recorded. The rider seeking the award must keep the necessary records him/herself.*

6. What Ride Leaders must do

Ride leaders are not responsible for keeping records specifically relating to Achievement Awards. (But leaders are of course expected to forward the ride register to the Rides Coordinator as normal.) Ride leaders should:

- Acknowledge a rider's stated intention to treat the ride as



Brisbane Bicycle Touring Association Inc.

Cycling Achievement Awards

Brevet Form for _____ (year)

Name of rider _____ Contact phone or email _____

To: BBTA Rides Coordinator

During this calendar year I have completed the following rides listed on the BBTA Calendar:

Nomi- nal Dis- tance	Date	Name of Ride	Actual Dis- tance	Signature of Ride Leader
50 km (or more)				
80 km (or more)				
100 km (or more)				
160 km (or more)				
200 km (or more)				

I would therefore like to be recognised for the following Achievement:

- Imperial Half-Century: 80km* (Certificate); (* or more)
- Level 1 Achievement: 100 km* plus 50 km* (Certificate);
- Level 2 Achievement: 160 km* plus 100 km* plus 50 km* (Certificate);
- Level 3 Achievement: 200 km* plus 160 km* plus 100 km* (Certificate);
- Level 4 Achievement: 200 km* plus 160 km* plus 100 km* plus 50 km* (Certificate);
- Imperial Century: 160km* (Medallion; may be awarded in addition to a certificate).

Signed (by rider) _____

SPARE SPOKES

One of our members, Dave Harley, is keen to speak to anyone with interest or experience with Audax bikes. He has an older touring Condor bike and is looking into buying a new bike later this year, probably an English bike. Two he is considering are from Thorn (the Thorn Audax 853)

<http://www.sjscycles.com/thornbrochure.asp> and Condor (either Fratello or Etape) <http://www.condorcycles.com/flash/index.html>. Any helpful comments on these or other bikes would be appreciated, as would be comments on any bikes from the larger manufacturers that might be more easily/cheaply available in Oz. David's email address is D.Harley@sph.uq.edu.au.

After many years of plugging away by BQ for better cyclist access through the **Normanby 5 Ways**, and seeing significant projects in the area compromise access, BQ was pleased to be advised in December that the Premier has announced funding for the project. This will result in better cycling access to the city and south from Brisbane's north, and new routes available for weekend cruises! Good effort, BQ.

Geoff Unwin, a long time member of BBTA—and someone who is generous with his time assisting riders on rides if they have diffi-

BBTA Winter Tour 2004

This year the BBTA will be heading north in winter with an unsupported tour of Cairns and the Atherton Tableland, beginning on Saturday 26 June and finishing on Saturday 3 July.

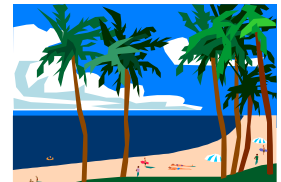
As the tour is so far from Brisbane and at the beginning of Queensland and Victorian school holidays it is essential that people book early re flights (and accommodation if staying in Cairns longer than the tour time). Getting to and from Cairns is each person's own responsibility, although if we get a group organised early something may be able to be arranged with one of the airlines.

The tour starts with a day ride around Cairns to wherever we'll be camping, possibly Yorkeys Knob, about 20km out of Cairns. Then on Sunday it'll be up the range to Kuranda and on to Mareeba. After that we will cycle through places such as Atherton, Lake Tinaroo, Yungaburra, Malanda, Herberton, Ravenshoe, Millaa Millaa and down the range to Innisfail, Babinda, Bellenden Ker and Gordonvale before heading back into Cairns. Distances for the trip will range be-

tween 45 and 65km, with a downhill day of around 90km. This will be a hilly tour, with Ravenshoe at over 900m and Cairns at sea level! So prepare yourself.

Accommodation will be dominated by camping at caravan parks/national parks. Some will cook their own meals or there will most likely be places to eat out or buy food each night. There will be an up-front payment for the tour, to cover some basic camping costs and an administration fee. More details will be provided in the next newsletter and to those who book in early. Your place on the tour will not be confirmed until the payment is made.

If you are interested in this unsupported tour contact Peter Brennan by e-mail pd.brennan@bigpond.com or call 5476 6310 if you are not online. To join the tour you must be a financial member of the BBTA and numbers will be limited.



**Bicycle
Queen-**

Cycle Queensland

In 2004 Cycle Queensland will travel from Miriam Vale to Kilkivan from 4 to

12 September. The brochures are available now. Call us if you want one sent out.

Media and Marketing Coordinator needed

BQ is currently looking for a full or part time Media and Marketing

Coordinator to work for a fixed term developing Cycle Queensland 2004 to

its full potential. If you or anyone you know is interested please contact

BQ for more details. Experience is required. BQ received funding from

Queensland Events Regional Development Program for this position.

Bicycle Queensland Everyday Cycling Every Day

BQ provides the following services to members:

- Australian Cyclist magazine and Queensland Cyclist Newsletter 6 times a year
- Insurance: third party & third party property cover when cycling
- Legal advice in the event of an incident
- Representation at state and local government level
- Discounts on BQ events & at participating bike shops

HOW TO PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The Treasurer would like to remind you that membership fees will be due on 31 March. **Why not get in early and pay them now?** The fees are the same as last year—\$25 for individual membership and \$35 for family membership (please list all members for our records). Fees cover the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005.

Method One — send a cheque to The Treasurer, BBTA, PO Box 286, Ashgrove, Qld, 4060

Method Two — pay at a bank or via the internet into the following account:

Bank of Queensland

Account Name: Brisbane Bicycle Touring Association Inc

BSB: 124 030

Account No: 9013 3701

May be opened for Postal Inspection

Cycling Times is the Newsletter of the Brisbane Bicycle Touring Association Inc. It is published every two months.

Take a look at our rides calendar and highlights of the newsletter on: <http://www.bbta-au.org> Stories about rides, events or anything related to the BBTA or cycling in general are always needed. Please help us make your newsletter interesting and fun by contributing. Copy in the form of emails, written or verbal material and photos attached are great. Any material for the newsletter or website is always welcome.

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BBTA CYCLING TIMES

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