

# THE CHAIN LETTER

Newsletter of the **CYCLE TOURING ASSOCIATION OF W.A. (INC.)**

September / October 2004

Issue 178

## Perspectives

### Albany to Perth 30th Anniversary Full Pannier Tour

*The exciting adventures of  
Week 2 of the great 30<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Tour.*

#### Day 9 Nannup to Augusta (91km)

##### Now This Is What I Call Touring (Lance and Patricia)

This day is remembered for being the first day of the tour that wasn't particularly hilly or windy. After the initial climb out of Nannup (a big thankyou to Tony for his "random act of kindness" removing a not-so-lucky 'roo from our path) there was a couple of great downhills and then kilometre after kilometre of flat, slightly downhill road nearly all the way to the turnoff onto the highway into Augusta.

The sky was blue and a light breeze blew - a

perfect day for stretching it out. We averaged 26kms per hour for the day - not bad for a tandem towing a load of 43 Kilos (don't forget that is for two). We spotted Karen, Rosie and Connie who had formed the self-titled "Woosy Pussy Peloton" and were making good time despite all their carry on.

The lunch stop under the Alexander Bridge on the banks of the Blackwood River was perfect. Although poor Stan realised he had left his camera sitting on a log 30kms back down the road. Thank goodness for Christine Duff who had joined us and had a vehicle available to go back and find the camera exactly where Stan had left it! Meanwhile, Kleber got the Trangia out and had the billy boiling just like a real tourist for a rather stressed Stan when he returned.

The last 10kms into Augusta seemed to take forever (after all it was a 90km day) but once in town, we were rewarded by a great latte at the cafe, some retail therapy at the local gift shop (another bear for the collection) and a beautiful camping ground to spend the night.

#### Day 10 Augusta to Hamelin Bay (24km)

##### The "Rest Day" You Have When You're Not Having a Rest Day (Rosie)

It was a mere 24km to our next stop in Hamelin Bay so we took advantage of ample time to make a leisurely start to our day en-

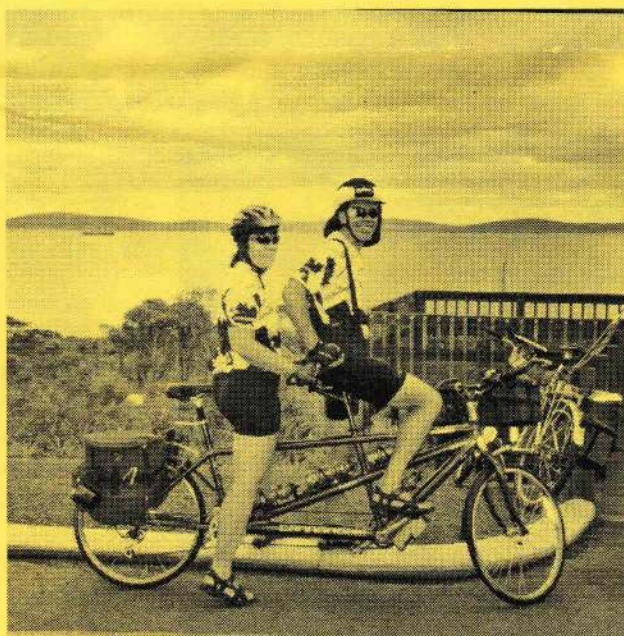
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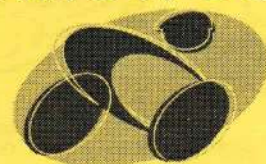
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**Important Reminder -  
upcoming AGM Ride on  
Saturday the 27th of  
November. All members are  
encouraged to attend!**

Please send all articles and pictures  
for the next newsletter to the Editor no  
later than November 10th



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## NEW MEMBERS

A hearty welcome is extended to new members who have joined since the last newsletter:

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# Tours and Weekends

## 'Avon a Good Time

October 30 - 31

For all those who love to tour, with a little luxury, this is the weekend for you. If you have just been on the 'On Your Bike' tour you will be fit and raring to go, so read on. The CTA has been fortunate again to procure a beautiful York holiday home, complete with gourmet kitchen and an outdoor spa, which while relaxing in provides spectacular views of the surrounding area.

Saturday:

The ride to York will be approx. 110km, so quite a long day. We will ride to York along backroads via Wundowie, Clackline and Spencers Brook. And then on arrival you can rest those weary limbs in the outdoor spa - ah Bliss!

Sunday:

The ride back will be approx. 80km, along the Great Southern Hwy, through Chidlow with a final hoon down Greenmount Hill.

Cost is \$20 per night for accommodation. Food can be purchased in York or carried en route. Kitchen facilities at the homestead include a cooker - oven with gas top, and microwave. There is also an outdoor BBQ.

Beds are limited, so book early as to not to miss out on a great weekend.

Booking and a deposit will be required by, October 23. For more details contact:

Organiser: Ann ☎ 9444 5160 (H)

## A Wide in the Country

October 2-4 Long Weekend

For those who can't make it to "On ya bike" but would still like to go for a bit of a ride in the country try this. Approx. 240 km, over 3 days, touring pace, fully unsupported. Meet at service station cnr Brookton Hwy and Canning Rd, Karagullen at 8:45 for a 9 am departure. A pannier based mini-tour taking in the Karagullen to Brookton to York to Midland route. The countryside should be at its verdant best with a good chance of fine spring weather. The only component of the forward plan is the following proposed destinations for each day, viz Saturday: Karagullen to Brookton (approx 95 km), Sunday: Brookton to York (approx 66 km), Monday: York to Midland (approx 77 km). It is expected that participants will travel as a loose group and make their own arrangements with regard to accommodation, meals, etc. as required at the time. Naturally you must deem yourself fit enough and have a bike in good mechanical condition. Those interested MUST contact Grant (9339 4248) so that a decision can be made regarding the viability of the tour. CTA members (or friend, relatives and associates thereof) only.

Proposer: Grant ☎ 9339 4248 (H)

## On Your Bike Southern Gateway Tour 2004.

9-17 October 2004.

The tour is FULLY BOOKED. The evening for the reunion dinner has now been confirmed as the 6th of November so mark this date in your diary now! Further details will be available during the tour.

Organiser:  
Allan

☎ 9885 8067

TheDuffs

Chris waiting  
on an ex-  
hausted Alan  
as all good  
wives should!!







### Breakfast in Augusta

(Continued from page 1)

joying breakfast by the inlet in Augusta bathing in the warmth of the first rays of sunshine coming over the horizon on a rather crisp morning.

Connie thoughtfully disappeared into town for a coffee leaving Kleber and Terry to fix a cable on her bike. Unfortunately she forgot to unlock her bike which was secured firmly to a tree making the task rather interesting! However, Kleber and Terry in their usual unflappable way had Connie's bike all fixed before Connie had even had the chance to say "Waiter, bring me another!".

The ride to Hamelin Bay was pleasant and uneventful with everybody dribbling into camp at their leisure, just in time to farewell a mob of noisy school kids who had fortunately just vacated the campsite. The afternoon was passed with relaxing strolls along the beach being closely supervised by several very large sting-rays who had come in close to shore for a close look at the newcomers. Apparently they are quite "tame" and will eat out of your hand. However, nobody volunteered to ascertain whether that was in fact true!

That evening we gathered around to prepare our meals and later settled into relaxed camaraderie enjoying in luxury of some outdoor tables and chars that were temporarily pilfered from nearby on-site cabins. As tomorrow would be a relatively easy day's riding and having temporarily forgotten about that hill we'd have to climb out of Hamelin Bay, nobody felt the pres-

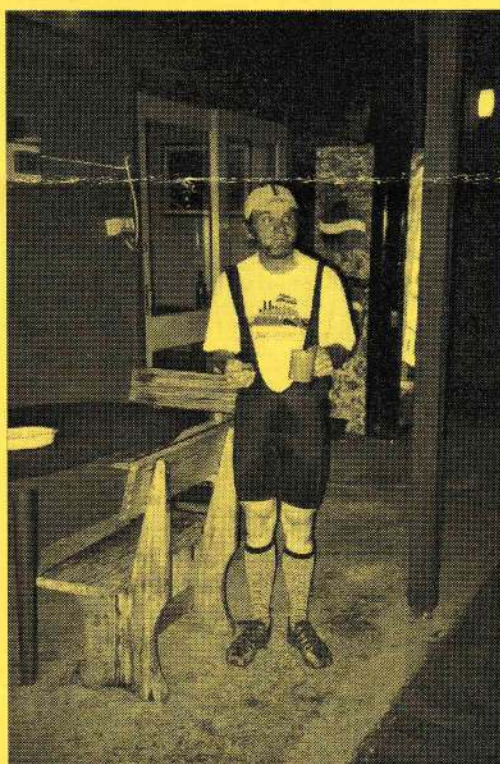
sure of needing to get to bed early and the mellow atmosphere carried on into the night,

### Day 11 Hamelin Bay to Margaret River (45km)

#### The Gravel Gunners (Devo)

If you had ever wondered if it is safe to ride a fully loaded bicycle on a seemingly endless corrugated gravel road...it is not safe! From Hamelin Bay to Margaret River I thought to ride with Rosie but with little unsealed road experience, Tigger and I were convinced (by a now obviously dubious character!) that we should have a go at **Boranup Drive**. Before

#### Devo ready to ride with Tigger



venturing ahead, I asked a vehicle driver exiting the unsealed road if it was rideable; "Yeah, no worries" he said. So Bruce Robinson (towing a BoB), John Woods, Terry and I proceeded ahead. We were searching for the lookout for a great panoramic view. Is it this way Bruce? Cycle up and up, get off the bike and push it up. "Sorry guys must be the one around the corner." (sigh) back to the bikes as John nearly loses control mounting his bike zoom - down he goes.

Before going around the corner I mentioned that I'd be more comfortable back on the sealed road when Bruce (our leader of this intrepid expedition) resonates sternly: "Devo, we have to stick together, safety in numbers, etc." Uh-oh...here we go; I hope it isn't far to the bitumen.

Riding fully loaded on gravelly, corrugated, unsealed roads can be very tricky. I have to concentrate on not falling off and moving forward. I cannot ride in a straight line and don't like motor vehicles approaching in the opposite direction. Tony Humphries is a good gravel gunner, he would have enjoyed this ride. I was just lucky to hang on. Oh here's a signage to the look-out. I take a snapshot with a disposable camera and 'motorcross' John extracts his new Trangia for a cuppa tea. "Don't despair Devo, when we hit bitumen, there's an ice-cream treat around the corner", Bruce mentions amiably. Jolly good, I could die for an ice-cream smoothing flat this rugged terrain. Oops (blow the whistle) something's happened to Tiger! Oh no, first it was Tony's (cancelled) post Easter mini tour and now this out in the middle of nowhere, repair is needed; never fear I get the tools out and John brings out the 'Loctite' - ticketyboo mate. As we soldier on, corrugations get choppy. This is not good, this is bad!!

Hark! I see bitumen and as I kneel to the ground to kiss the sealed road, Bruce takes a photo. Ahh, I can nearly taste that promised ice-cream and before I had recovered

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from the corrugations, Bruce and Terry had ...vanished. Where did they go John? He shrugged his shoulders. 'Motorcross' and I rode to Margaret River together where he enjoyed a big, big ice-cream and I headed for the only cycle mechanic shop in town.

It was an experience I shall endeavour not to forget as I write this story to remind myself never to ride this notorious shaky unsealed road again – ever!

Thanking John 'motorcross' Woods for the title of this story.

A very shaken and stirred Devo.

NB: We did invite Bruce to tell us "his side of the story" but he declined to comment!!

## Day 12 Margaret River to Dunsborough (55km)

### Fudge, Liquorice All Sorts and Chocolate...These Are a Few of My Favourite Things

(Ann W)

Today the ride was going to start with a difference – some off road riding! Last night Bruce had told us about a disused railway formation that was now a trail for cyclists, walkers, horse riders and whoever else. The trail started in Margaret River and went north about 13km to Cowaramup. Bruce also informed us that it was in good condition for all of us with touring bikes. Devo wasn't so sure about this (have yesterday's bone-rattling experienced with Bruce) and so he elected to go via the highway. The rest of the group were keen to take a chance! At the start Graham, an experienced off road cyclist, gave some tips for riding off road but didn't mention anything about riding out in front – Tony found out 13km later!

The railway formation follows adjacent to the main highway and Bruce ensured us that there would be plenty of opportunities to join the road if need be. However, we didn't need an escape route. The track was superb – a very gradual uphill and virtually straight (funny that...being an old railway!). Tony led the way, myself in close pursuit followed by "BigMark" – not sure who was following after that probably nobody knowing the pace you guys ride!!...Ed).

I rode with Tony and "Big Mark" for the rest of the day and so from now on I will refer to us three as "TAM". TAM peddled along at a good pace and arrived at the end of the trail with no-one else to be seen. They couldn't have got lost surely. Thanks Bruce for recommending the track as it was lovely to ride through the forest away from any traffic. Tony admitted he had made a big mistake in



going in front as he blew away the cobwebs – literally as I don't suppose the homeless spiders he left behind were too impressed either! That was the one bit of information that Graham had forgotten to advise at the start...accidentally on purpose – I wonder!

After waiting some time for the rest of the group, TAM decided to carry on into "Cow Town" as it is known by the locals and those that can't pronounce "Cowand\*\$(\*)\$". We visited the "Candy Cow" sweet store and sampled some delicious fudge delights. After stocking up on yummy supplies of fudge (and for me some real English Bassett's Liquorice Allsorts) it was off to the café for the obligatory caffeine fix of the morning. The rest of the group arrived in droves and we then found out that poor Connie had had another puncture and Rosie's mudguard had fallen victim to a wayward stick (a handy piece of work with a plastic coke bottle, some gaffa tape and a couple of band-aids soon fixed that). Basia had also fallen in love with a wee calf and nearly purchased it (there was some kind of farmers' pen with auction in progress at the end of the trail) but luckily for all of us (except perhaps the calf!) that was not to be.

After a very nice caffeine fix, TAM left for our next destination – the Chocolate Factory! It was a lovely ride through quiet roads and small undulations. There was yet more sampling to enjoy at the Chocolate Factory with "CHOCOLATE"! Yum! There were some interesting produce for sale too. Chocolate massage oil – we were told by the young lass behind the counter that it was edible too – now that is food for thought! Alas, no room in pannier for a bottle so I settled for a bar of white chocolate to help

wash down the nectar for the coming evening.

Our next stop was lunch at the Rivendell Winery which has a very nice scenic location and good wines too. However, Mark and Tony were more interested in challenging themselves to a game of draughts while waiting for lunch. Well the game went on and on and on and... I think two hours later Mark eventually won?! During that time we were joined by Ron and then Kleber and Terry. After the mammoth game between Mark and Tony, Kleber and Terry were challenged to a 'Father vs Son-in-Law' contest. While all this was going on we enjoyed a very delicious lunch with tasty soups and smorgasbords of cold meats, cheeses, salads and fruits.

As we left to pay for lunch Tony spotted a familiar looking 'Small Black Object' that was left at a previous location some days ago on tour. The object was duly handed to our tour leader to give back to the owner at some later stage when that "Kodak Moment" would require such equipment.

It was hard to get going after lunch but luckily the route was all downhill from here. Happs Winery, just before the big downhill into Dunsborough, was our next stop. The owners, Erl and Ross, have been on a couple of the 'On Your Bike Tours' and so it is always an obligatory stop when in the area. In fact Ron went "Uphill" to visit them on the following rest day! Happs wines are always rather agreeable and so after a few tastings and purchases we were all set to hoon down the hill to the YHA in Dunsborough.

On arrival I learned that the girls (Connie, Basia and Karen) had kindly saved me a spot in their dorm. However, I was left with the top





Above - Basia Birdwoman

Left - Connie whips her slave Ron into action with the punctured tube

Far Left - Kleber and Stan repair Connie's bike while she's off having a coffee!

bunk which really nerves me – I think I am getting vertigo in my ‘young’ age! After a few re-shuffles of participants I ended up in the dorm with Tony, Big Mark and Devo. Having been sharing a dorm with these guys all tour, was I happy? To get a bottom bunk passage – Yes! But not sure what the antics of Mark and Tony were going to entail later that night!

The Dunsborough YHA is situated in an idyllic place with the garden having beautiful views of the Geographe Bay and the garden literally ending at the beach...ideal for that sunset walk along the beach! It was also a lovely situation to be able to prepare dinner for the evening. For some of us so accustomed to cooking with our Trangia it was now easier to do so than using the high technology equipment like ovens and microwaves in the YHA kitchen! Another night of vegies and pasta delight! So preparations began....

Just at this time the YHA staff started playing music with Michael Jackson's party song "Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough" a great "bopy song" which suddenly gave me the urge to dance. So who could I dance with? I looked around and saw some guys in the kitchen and so I went to investigate. On arrival in the kitchen I saw before my eyes a very elegant looking bloke wandering around holding a tea-towel? "Would you like to dance?" I asked. "Why, yes" he replied, and so there we were (myself and this "bloke" – Kleber I think his name was) dancing around in the kitchen at YHA Dunsborough! Tea towels et al!

Thanks Kleber for a great day and dance and tour!

P.S. by Rosie

Ann forgot to mention the ruckus that went on in the dorm she shared with "the boys". Those of us who were just the other side of the wall heard all sorts of strange goings

on...very loud raspberry blowing...well we hoped it was just raspberry blowing and not the real thing, Ann's shrieks as she was being (presumably) tormented, the guffawing of "the boys" as they (presumably) tormented poor Ann and many more noises that I can't possibly begin to describe or hypothesize about what was going on in there!! Just when I was about to go in there with the wooden spoon to threaten them to keep quiet (it worked for my mother!), they settled down...presumably overcome by exhaustion and the effects of their earlier liquid indulgences!!

### Day 13 Dunsborough – Rest Day

#### Yoga, The Wind in My Hair, Red Wine & a Good Book...These Are a Few of MY Favourite Things (Basia)

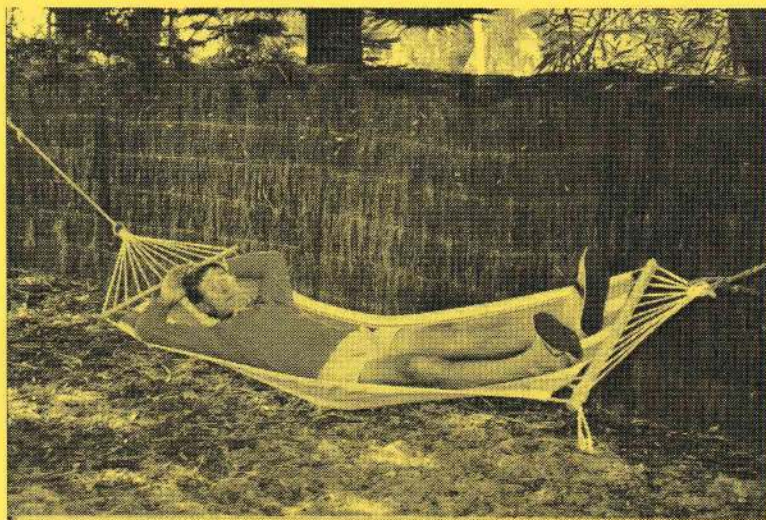
Two days before the 30th anniversary tour, just as I was starting to pack my panniers, my poor Otis developed a limp possibly after launching himself from the couch to forage for a treat (by the way, Otis is a dog). I then inadvertently drugged him with sedatives (but that's another story that my lawyer has advised me not to comment on). Consequently I missed the first three days of tribal bonding and it was with some trepidation of being the odd rider out that I met up with the wet and ragged crew at Shannon River, a delightful campsite down in the deep dark south. I had sold my soul to the good weather fairies and was able to bring the sunshine down along with Rosie's well-travelled towel which could tell it's own travel stories. These two assets helped me to be assimilated quickly into the mob.

Seven days later we wheeled into Dunsborough for a well earned rest day. Upon arrival, I found out about a yoga class

to stretch my weary muscles and amazingly I was the only participant which meant I enjoyed one-on-one tuition. I was just in heaven, my head in the clouds. So in the clouds in fact that I had cycled across the length of Dunsborough feeling "really free and at one with the world" and it wasn't until my return to the hostel that I realised the reason for my freedom was the fact that I had left my helmet on my bunk!

Next morning Terry M, Bruce, John and I went for an adventure out to the lighthouse without panniers but yes with helmets. Bruce was keen on taking the walking track but after we heard that there were steps, rocks and sand, the bitumen won out. So up and up we pedalled to Cape Naturaliste - allegedly a great lookout. We just saw a lot of really nice thick fog (sorry, Basia, that was smoke!!) It was sensational to do the down, down, down on the return journey. Terry and I came back through Eagle Bay and Milup Beach and I can understand why the millionaires have beach houses around there. The red, red of the rocks contrasting with the deep blue of the ocean makes a photo opportunity from every corner - Simply Breathtaking. After an uneventful cruise back into Dunsborough, apart from the P-Plater who looked and looked and looked right through us (do you think perhaps that our clothes ought to be brighter?), we returned to the hostel where I snuggled up with a good book and some fine red wine – my idea of bliss. Thanks Kleber, Stan and my fellow pedallers for making it such a great holiday.





Left - Kleber taking a well earned rest at the Dunsborough Youth Hostel



Right - Rosie's repair job on her broken mudguard.

## Day 14 Dunsborough to Bunbury (100km)

### Expulsion from the Woosy Pussy Peloton (Connie)

The next morning after a good sleep and a pleasant rest day in Dunsborough, we were once again ready to go. With bikes loaded, anticipating the beginning of the first of the long hauls back to Perth. I was so eager to get going I went ahead without waiting for the girls and, consequently, was expelled from the "Woosy Pussy Peloton" upon arrival in Busselton.

In Busselton we met on the main street for coffee before heading on to Bunbury. We were ready for the departure when Bruce came along and asked us to wait for a media photographer who would be along in ten minutes. Bruce had been to the local newspaper to let them know we were in town and suggest that they might like to do a story about the CTA and the pleasures and benefits of cycling around the countryside. Ten minutes became another ten minutes and then another ten minutes. Finally he came along. We performed several march-pasts on our bikes to enable him to get the perfect shot. Then off we went to Bunbury.

We had the pleasure of Kleber's company along the way. It was a pleasant ride, the wind was unremarkable and we all stayed in a peloton behind Klebe, like ducklings behind their mother. Lunch was in the grass on the roadside along the way. The road was flat until arriving at Bunbury when we had to climb yet another hill to take the Scenic Tourist Route and then along the coast to Koombana Resort to pitch our tents. The day was warm and sunny and the sea looked like glass.

It was significant to arrive at the resort because it was the last time we were to pitch our tents. To celebrate, most of the group went

into town to eat at a hamburger restaurant in the town. There were however a few diehards who persevered with their Trangias and soup mixes. Upon lying down in my tent atop my Thermarest, comforting thoughts of "two more sleeps and then I am at home in my comfortable bed" lulled me to sleep!

## Day 15 Bunbury to Mandurah (106km)

### Sans Peloton (Mark E)

(which, for those whose French is a little rusty, roughly translates to "Without Group")

Bunbury can be a rather cold place. I know because, although I didn't live there, I went to high school on the top of the hill in Bunbury. Last night was one of those nights, following by a cold morning. The place was also very noisy as there was ship loading in progress during the wee hours of the night.

I departed with Rosie at a reasonable time and we made our way to Australind. Some had stopped for a coffee and I bought lunch from a café there. Rosie and I departed and cycled via the scenic drive (actually flat!) but were soon overtaken by "the bunch" (after being passed, Mark's speed increased by 5kph!!...Rosie).

We made our way to a servo near Myalup for a break. Bruce arrived at about the same time and so Rosie decided to ride with him as she was feeling a little tired from the strong easterly (yeah, it had nothing to do with the pace set by Mark!...Rosie) and needed to rest a little longer before starting off. So, I departed and cycled solo for a while.

I reflected that although it is nice cycling in company, cycling "sans peloton" has its own rewards. When you are by yourself, you don't have to ride at someone else's speed, you can do it in your own time. There is no worrying about running into someone else

or being run into. You can admire the view of the countryside, ride as slow...or as fast... as you please and stop whenever you want. It was while I was on my own that I reminisced about some of my solo travels. Sometimes we just need our space!

The road was quite busy with lots of traffic, presumably heading to the football (the Derby) in Perth. Luckily the road has a decent shoulder so riding wasn't too bad. I met some of the others for lunch at Lake Clifton and after setting off again soon found I was cycling by myself once more. I continued on to Dawesville for a brief stop, then finally Mandurah for a very welcome cup of coffee.

Some of us set up camp in Peter and Noelene Lundy's house while others stayed at the Lucky Caravan Park. It was there that we were met by the contingent that had cycled from Perth that day to join us for the last leg in our great cycling trek.

That evening we had dinner at the Silver Sands Hotel where we were entertained by a rather dodgy country and western band. Some even braved the dance floor where the twinkle toes of Stan and Kleber (not dancing together!!!) showed us how it's done!

## Day 16 Mandurah to Perth (93km)

### Are We There Yet? (Rosie)

The final day's itinerary would take us from Mandurah through to Fremantle where we were to be met by a contingent of saner cyclists from Perth for the "unofficial" end of the tour. Then, for those who still had the legs for it, it was a final pedal back to the Entertainment Centre car park where it all began.

I must admit that, after the long hard slogs of



the previous two days and in the face of yet another one, my holiday spirit, already challenged beyond acceptable limits, was now perilously tenuous. Let's face it...this had been no relaxing retreat in a tropical paradise resort!

Today's cycling was to be more of the same...long stretches of mostly flat, busy roads with a less than helpful wind. The only thing that kept me going was the fact that I was nearly there...and there was no other way to get home except to keep pedalling. As my weary legs settled into a slow, tolerable rhythm, my thoughts sifted through the memories of the past two weeks. Cycling certainly gives you plenty of "thinking time".

To be honest, I really struggled on this tour. Not so much physically as I had done the preparation and felt my level of fitness was good and although the cycling wasn't easy I think I coped pretty well. It was more a psychological and emotional challenge. I found myself constantly comparing myself to others which left me feeling rather inadequate. I am a plodding cycle tourist. I don't (and can't) cycle like a bat out of hell so I often found myself one of the tail-end stragglers. It's only now, weeks later, that I can see the futility of comparing oneself to people who have been cycling and touring for years. But, at the time, I often felt very discouraged. Having said that, there were some individuals on the tour who were priceless in the support and encouragement they offered along the way. Those who would plod along at the rear with me without complaint or without leaving me feeling like I was a burden. Without those people, I would have given up. So...thankyou!

However, it wasn't all a struggle. There were moments of absolute wonder at the beauty of WA's south-west and a wonderful sense of freedom and escape from the "ho-hum" routine of everyday life. Moments of introspection and clarity, moments of kinship with fellow tourers, frivolous moments of silliness and laughter.

So, it was with mixed feelings that I rode into Fremantle on that last day. A combination of utter relief that I'd made it, a little bit of pride in myself that I'd achieved something that your Average Joe will probably never achieve, dread about going back to the "hum-drum" of life, impatient anticipation of seeing Gus the Dog who I missed terribly and an overwhelming desire for home and my bed!

Alas, just 8km from the Entertainment Centre, my reveries of home were interrupted when my tube fell prey to a patch of glass on the bike path. An event that I took on board with the almost hysterical amusement one

gets when one is on the edge of insanity! I'd just ridden 900km without one puncture and here I was...so close, yet so far. And I got the distinct feeling that there were those for whom the idea of "togetherness" was wearing a bit thin as, by this stage, the call of hot showers and comfy beds was overwhelmingly strong. However, to their credit, they waited for me as I replaced the punctured tube with another punctured tube! Finally, after much pffaffing, an intact tube was found and we were on our way again. I should mention at this point that changing a tube is NOT a spectator sport!!!

Finally, our somewhat diminished group of weary tourers rolled into the Entertainment Centre car park together feeling like true troupers having ridden "all the way" and bringing the tour to its "official" end. Congratulatory hugs were shared and last minute photo opportunities taken. As much as we were anxious to get home it was actually quite difficult to leave. I suspect I wasn't the only one with mixed feelings about coming to the end of this 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour.

In summary: Did I enjoy the tour?... Well, to be honest, I'm not entirely sure! Am I glad I did it?...ABSOLUTELY! It was an experience that will stay with me for life (not to mention the "brag" factor one gains from having cycled from Albany to Perth!) and it has given me a wonderful platform from which to explore where I might like to take my cycling in the future.

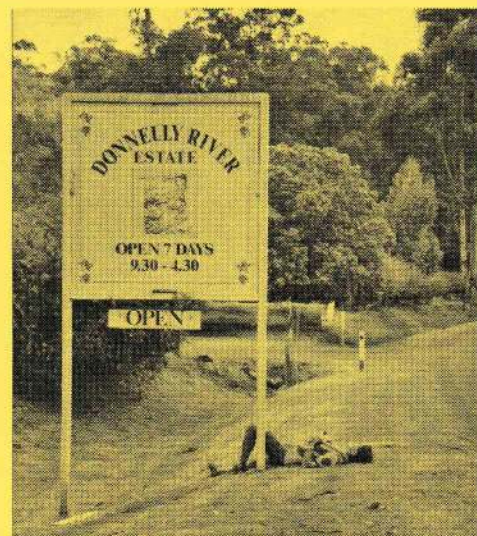
So, thankyou to Kleber for having the vision. Thankyou to Stan for helping Kleber to achieve that vision. And, finally, thankyou to my fellow tourists for being part of this "time of my life".

## The Last Word (Kleber)

Right from my first ride with the CTA back in 1987 when riding with Bea Page, I was so impressed with her positive and outgoing attitude that I said to myself, "I like these people". The inaugural 1988 Albany to Perth Bicentennial Tour helped spawn the beginning of the ever popular On Your Bike tours and I was hooked.

I decided that the only way to have a holiday surrounded by a great bunch of people was to say, "I'm organizing a tour, would you like to come along"? This started the FULL pannier tours with the Wildflowers and Wineries tour in 1991, New Zealand tour 1992, 20th Anniversary tour 1994, South Australian tour 1995, Tasmanian tour 1996, USA tour 1998.

This 30th Anniversary Albany to Perth tour was equally as exciting and unpredictable as my first tour in 1988 with some of the participants also having been on both tours.



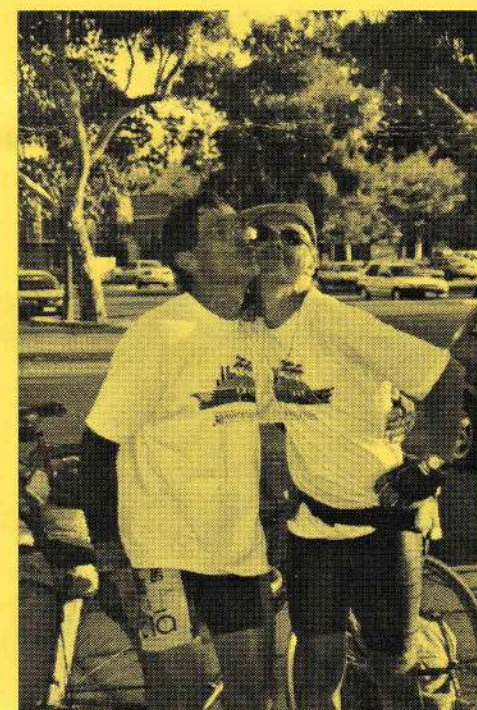
Each tour is a reflection of those who participate in it - first timers excited about their achievements - experienced tourers helping others through the hard days and sharing the laughter in times such as the combined banquet at Pimelea.

There is no word to describe my feelings when I share the moments with these wonderful people as they experience the highs and lows, the tears and the laughter, as they get through the tour having achieved so much. The last day of the tour was a mixture of relief that everyone arrived back safely, feeling thankful for the support of many, proud of those who achieved personal goals and hopeful that this wonderful way of life will continue for many years to come.

*Yours in cycling,*

*Kleber*

*Kleber and Stan - fond farewells in the Entertainment Centre Car Park.*





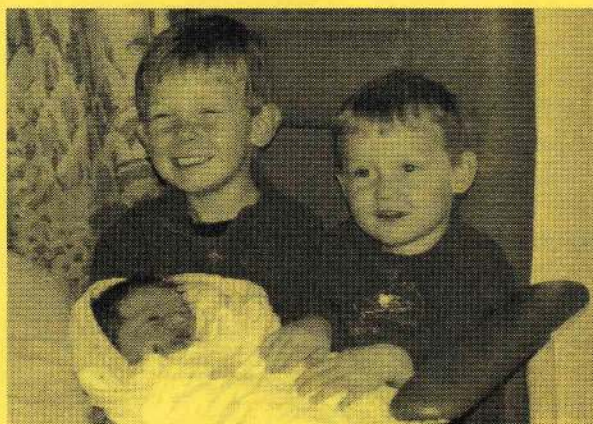
# Cycle Tourist of the Year Nominations

Nominations for Cycle Tourist of the Year can be made by any (non dependent) member. The general criterion for Cycle Tourist of the Year is the member who in the Club's opinion has contributed the most to cycle touring and the CTA throughout the year. As mentioned by our President: "It is a great way to acknowledge the time and effort that people put into the club." It's also a great way to let the membership know who are contributing to the club.

## Father Faints at Birth of Son

Picture the scene if you may at a delivery room in hospital. Desama (president's wife) is currently under a lot of stress and pain in the final stages of giving birth to their third child. Devoted husband Terry is by her side, hands clinched with Desama in support. While Desama is pushing for all her might for the baby to arrive she suddenly feels an object fall on her shoulder. Eyes shut due to excruciating pain she exclaims "What was that"? And indeed, What was that? Maybe an over head light had fallen or a piece of ceiling had suddenly collapsed? No, it wasn't any ceiling collapsing it was devoted husband, Terry, who had collapsed. Doctors and nurses helping Desama deliver are now quickly to Terry's assistance to revive poor Terry back into consciousness. Mean while poor Desama is fending for her self to deliver. Luckily for all concerned our president was revived in time to see his third son arrive safely. Desama did a fantastic job delivering a very BIG healthy boy, Xander Julian Bailey, of 9lb 6 ounces.

Congratulations to Terry and Desama!



Kleber's grandsons  
The three Bailey Boys,  
Mitchell, Damian and  
Xander

## Terry's Tales

Well, after nine months of waiting and a long couple of sleepless nights, our third son was born a few nights ago, 4 September at 2:47am to be precise. Xander weighed in at a hefty 4265 grams, or 9 pounds 6½ ounces, and was very happy to finally be able to stretch his legs. Of course with all the distractions and the fact that I am on holidays (yes, babies are a great excuse to take some time off work, 15 weeks in fact!) I almost forgot that it was time again for another issue of the Chainletter. So here is my contribution, I just hope it is comprehensible.

In the last issue we had a day-by-day insight of the experiences of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour through the eyes of some of the participants, with a further instalment in this issue. So to keep with the theme, the following is a very brief insight into my experience on day 15.

We started out from the caravan park in Bunbury for our second of three 100km plus days. The day started out like most others as we headed out along the back roads along the coast and then promptly stopped at the first café we saw at Australind. After a drink and a sticky bun, it was back on the bike to head to Mandurah. I found myself in a group of Trek 520's and an old Kresta (my Giant wasn't the only odd one out) as we pushed into a moderate headwind. These Treks were touted as being all powerful and had a reputation of being the fastest on the road.


As the quiet back road turned east we joined the main highway and headed north towards Mandurah. At this point I found myself tucked in behind the old Kresta with the three Treks close behind me in their usual tight formation. Then the old Kresta upped the tempo as the speed crept over 30 km/h, then 32, 34, 35... As I stuck close to the back of the old Kresta protected from the persistent headwind, I glanced over my shoulder to see two of the Treks fall back into the distance. They had been beaten. The third and mightiest Trek was still right behind me and looking as strong as ever.



The k's ticked by as I wondered just how long this old Kresta could maintain this incredible pace. With speeds reaching the high 30's I again glanced over my shoulder only to see the last of the Treks fall back and then out of sight. Incredible, this tired and ancient Kresta had taken on the mighty Treks and beaten them all! And only a Giant was able to keep up with it!

The old Kresta powered on as we passed the first service station, but it was far too early for lunch, or even a second morning tea (it wasn't even 10 o'clock yet). So we continued on, passing another service station before the dual carriageway came to an end. Finally we stopped at the third service station deciding that now was a good time for a second morning tea and a quick congratulations for defeating the mighty Treks. We had travelled more than 40km continuously at an average speed of around 36 km/h into a headwind with full panniers – MAD! The once mighty Trek joined us about 15 minutes later and paid homage to the true master of the road – the all conquering Kresta.

Terry



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## Runner's World

*Perth's specialist running & triathlon store*

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# The CTA Achievement Ride Series

The CTA conducts a series of Achievement Rides each year that will allow you to qualify for an award. A cloth badge is also available for each of the individual rides at a cost of \$5 each.

The three series available are: the Super Achiever, the Challenge Series and the Merit Series. Each ride of the series must be completed within the set time limit, but is otherwise noncompetitive in nature. A member can only nominate for one award per year. The three series are:

## Super Achiever Series

To become a Super Achiever you must complete the following five rides in the specified time limits:

50km	3 hrs
100km	6 hrs
200km	13½ hrs
300km	20 hrs
10,000 in 8 (10,000 feet of hills in)	8 hrs

## Challenge Series

To receive the Challenge Award you must complete the following five rides in the specified time limits:

50km	3 hrs
100km	6 hrs
Century (100miles)	10 hrs
200km	13½ hrs
10,000 in 8 (10,000 feet of hills in)	8 hrs

## Merit Series

To receive the Merit Award you must complete the following three rides in the specified time limits:

50km	3 hrs
100km	6 hrs
5,000 in 4 (5,000 feet of hills in)	4 hrs

## Using Brevets and Audax Rides

Each Achievement Ride will be held twice during the year to provide the maximum opportunity for members to complete one of the series. However, if you are unable to attend one of the official CTA rides, then a CTA brevet card can be used to complete the ride. To obtain your brevet card and route description, contact the Achievement Rides Administrator (i.e. Vice President Hooky). After completing the brevet, it must be returned to the Achievement Rides Administrator to record the ride and ensure that it is officially notarised by the CTA Committee.

In addition to brevet cards, official Audax rides can also be used to complete the 200km and 300km rides (refer below for additional information on using Audax rides).

To qualify for an award, all brevets for that series must be completed and notarised by the CTA Committee **two weeks before the AGM**.

If you require further details please contact Hooky ☎ 9375 5246 (H).

## AUDAX FOR CTA RIDE SERIES

From now on if you want to take part in an Audax ride you **MUST** complete an entry form and get it to the ride organiser at least one week **BEFORE** the ride.

Forms are available from Audax (contact ride organiser). There is an extra \$10 fee for non-Audax members. Then:

1. Fill in the **Ride** details with the distance and date of the ride.
2. Determine the ride fee as follows:  
all unsupported rides - \$6  
all supported: contact organiser
3. Sign the form and send the form and correct money to the ride organiser (make cheques payable to Audax Australia) at least one week before the ride.
4. Maps and route notes can be collected from the ride organiser 2 weeks before the ride. If you want it mailed to you, send a stamped self-addressed envelope with your entry form. Otherwise you will get a map and route notes with your brevet at the start.

If you have any queries, please contact Hooky ☎ 9375 5246 (H).

## Audax Australia

Audax is an international long distance cycling club. The first club originated in France in 1904. The name is a loose translation from the latin and means "courage". All rides are non-competitive and conducted over specified routes and distances within set time periods.

At the successful completion of each event, the rider is eligible for a certificate and a patch or medallion. Rides range from 50km to 1500km in length and are open to all CTA members, though membership of Audax Australia Club is encouraged if you envisage participating regularly. Very generous personal injury and income protection cover are afforded from such membership.

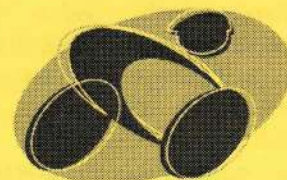
PLEASE NOTE - Notification of participation is required at least one week prior to the event and there is a cost to enter dependent on the distance to be travelled. Further information on Audax is available by contacting Colin Farmer ☎ 9330 4441 (H)

## Smokey Car Spotter



Ever notice how difficult it is to breathe when smokey exhaust fumes are choking up the atmosphere? Well here's your chance to strike back! Report smokey vehicles by giving the registration number, make and colour of a smokey car, together with the time and place that you spotted it, to the Department of Environmental Protection ☎ 9324 2835.

## Bikewest



*cycle instead*



Department for Planning  
and Infrastructure  
Government of Western Australia



Keep up with the latest breaking news on all cycle related matters - whether your interest is in MTBs, Touring, Time Trials, Road Racing, or gizmos and gear. Listen to the experts (and occasional CTA dumbos) as they bring you what is happening in WA and the world.

**Tune in to Curtin Radio on  
Saturday mornings**

**7:45am - 8:00am**

**Put a smile on your dial and  
tune to 1001MHz**



# Rides Calendar – August to September 2004

For any cyclist coming on a ride for the first time, it would be wise to start with an 'Easy' ride. If you are unsure of your suitability for a particular ride, please telephone the Ride Leader. You will need to wear a helmet and bring a spare tube, puncture repair kit, tyre levers, pump and a spanner (to fit the axle nuts if your bike is not fitted with quick release hubs). Most importantly, bring water!

## RIDE GRADINGS

**Easy** - anyone

**Moderate** - fit with geared bikes

**Moderately Hard** - fit and experienced. Distances < 100km

**Hard** - fit, experienced and strong. Distances > 100km over hard terrain

*If you are interested in doing a particular ride, but you feel it may be too long for you, don't be put off. Contact the ride leader to see if you can do part of the route.*

**Saturday September 4 200km Achievement Ride Take 2**  
200km Hard, 6:30am for a 7:00am sharp start. Meet at the car park off Morrison Road, Midland (adjacent to the Midland Police Station) for registration and map/ride description. This is a challenging ride that takes in Toodyay, Dewars Pool, Bindoon and the Chittering Valley. The time limit is 13½ hours (average 15 km/h). Participants MUST BOOK at least one week prior to the ride and there is a fee of \$10 for non-members.

Organiser: Hooky ph ☎ 9375 5246 (H)

**Sunday September 5 Come and Smell the Roses**  
50km Moderate to Hard. 9.00am Meet at the children's playground at Charles Patterson Park, Burswood. A gentle climb to Carmel Rose Gardens, coffee and refreshments at the cafe. Meander through Kalamunda and enjoy the downhill thrill

Leader Connie ☎ 93552745.

**Sunday September 12 Meet Your Fellow On - Your - Bikers**  
50km Medium. Meet at 8:45am for a 9:00am start at Point Walter. This is an opportunity to ride with some of your fellow tourers. You are warmly invited to join the group for a mystery ride stopping along the way at a secret eatery for some delicious treats.

Leader: Allan ☎ 9885 8067

**Wednesday September 15 Social Evening**  
At Loftus St centre at 7.30 pm. A good chance to catch up and chat about the weather, politics, religion, football and maybe even your bicycling adventures.

Organiser: Connie ☎ 9355 2745(H)

**Sunday September 19 Avoiding Loftus, Yokine to UWA**  
35km Moderate, 9am start. Meet at Yokine Reserve near the Coolbinia/Yokine Sporting Club. We'll head down to Maylands and along the river to UWA where

we'll stop for some morning tea. Then back to Yokine via Herdsman Lake. This ride is a variation of a couple of routes I take to and from work.

Leader: Tom H. - ☎ 9444 4107(H), ☎ 9380 1634(W).

**Saturday September 25 300km Achievement Ride Take 2**  
300km Hard. This is the CTA's hardest ride, having to complete 300km in 20 hours (average 15 km/h) and is required to complete the Super Achiever Series. Participants MUST BOOK at least one week prior to the ride to arrange details and there is a \$10 fee for non-members.

Organiser: Hooky ph ☎ 9375 5246 (H)

**Sunday September 26 Canning Catchment Workout**  
80-90 km moderate / hard. Meet at the Deepwater Point kiosk at 7.45 am for 8 am start for a strenuous ride that traverses the entire Canning Region from river to weir & back. Terrain includes rolling pastures to breathtaking climbs (several actually). Unfortunately due to the distance to be covered, stops will be brief (for bidon refills), therefore intending riders should possess 100km achievement ride capability & carry adequate sustenance for the ride.

Leader: Andrew ph ☎ 9313 6803 (H)

**Sat/Sun/Mon October 2/3/4 Long Weekend**

### A Wide in the Country

For those who can't make it to "On ya bike" but would still like to go for a bit of a ride in the country try this.

Approx. 240 km, over 3 days, touring pace, fully unsupported. Meet at service station cnr Brookton Hwy and Canning Rd, Karagullen at 8:45 for a 9 am departure. Depending on numbers it may be possible to meet at Kelmscott RS and be ferried up to Karagullen..

A pannier based mini-tour taking in the Karagullen to Brookton to York to Midland route. The countryside should be at its verdant best with a good chance of fine spring weather. The only component of the forward plan is the following proposed destinations for each day, viz Saturday: Karagullen to Brookton (approx 95 km), Sunday: Brookton to York (approx 66 km), Monday: York to Midland (approx 77 km). It is expected that participants will travel as a loose group and make their own arrangements with regard to accommodation, meals, etc. as required at the time.

Naturally you must deem yourself fit enough and have a bike in good mechanical condition.

Those interested MUST contact Grant (9339 4248) before September 12, at which time a decision will be made on the viability of the tour. CTA members (or friends, relatives and associates thereof) only.

Proposer: Grant Ph: ☎ 9339 4248

### Sunday October 3

### Informal Ride

Meet at The Old Mill, South Perth at 8.45 am for a 9 am start. Anticipate about 50 km at moderate pace. Those participating can decide on the route, the distance and the leader on the morning.

Contact: Grant Ph ☎ 9339 4248(H)



**October 9 - 17**

## **Southern Gateway Tour 2004**

This is a 9 day tour around the central South West region, including Williams, Darkan, Kojonup, Frankland, Tambellup, Katanning, Wagin and Narrogin. Being popular, it filled up very quickly, so look out for next years tour and remember to book early!

Leader Allan ☎ 9885 8067

**On Your Bike Tour**

**Sunday October 10**

## **Windmill Whirl**

Meet at the Raffles 9.30am start. Approx. 40kms easy. to the Dutch Windmill Nursery for morning tea and return .

Leader: Jim Ph: ☎ 9349 5212

**Sunday October**

## **17 Wilderness Trip**

9.00am start. Steady pace/hard terrain. 3-3.5 hours

Meet at the Mundaring Weir Hotel down near the weir. Join Noel on one of his famous adventures exploring the wild back blocks!! The ride will follow the first section of the MundaBiddi trail. Bring snack food and water.

Leader: Noel Ph: ☎ 9355 2745

**Sunday October 24**

## **Trig or Treat**

35 km, moderate/easy .Meet at Lake Monger Northern car park at 8.45 am for a circuit to Carine Swamp then to coastal views and a morning tea at Floreat Beach. Return home via some interesting cycleways to Lake Monger.

Leader: Dave Ph: ☎ 9383 9394

**October 30 - 31**

## **'Avon a Good Time Weekend**

Moderately Hard. Meet at 8:15am for an 8:30am prompt start from Midland

Railway Station (We will wait for the 8:00am train from Perth to arrive at Midland at 8:25am). This will be a challenging but scenic ride to York. Saturday we will ride to York via Clackline and Spencers Brook and return on Sunday along the Great Southern Hwy. Please see page 2 of the newsletter for more details, or contact the ride leader.

Organiser: Anne Ph: ☎ 9444 5160

**Sun November 7**

## **The Great Bike Ride**

It is anticipated that this event will become an annual, mass participation community bike ride, similar in concept to the City To Surf Run and the Rottnest Channel Swim. The Rotary Club of Perth have asked for members of the CTAWA, and other cycling clubs, to support this ride in place of their normal Sunday activities.

Meet on the Perth Foreshore at the Supreme Court Gardens for a Perth to Freo and return around the Swan river ride of 50 km. It is presumed that more details will be available in the press closer to the event.

Event Managers: Chris Letts & Mark Hannaford

**Sunday November 14**

## **The Training Ride Take 2**

60 -70 Km Moderately Hard. 9.00am Start. Meet at Midland Railway station for a challenging but beautiful ride through Kalamunda, Carmel, Pickering Brook, Bickley, Piesse Brook and Mundaring Weir to lunch at Mundaring.

After the break it's the pleasure of the downhill back to Midland.

Leader: Kleber Ph: ☎ 9354 7877

## **AGM**

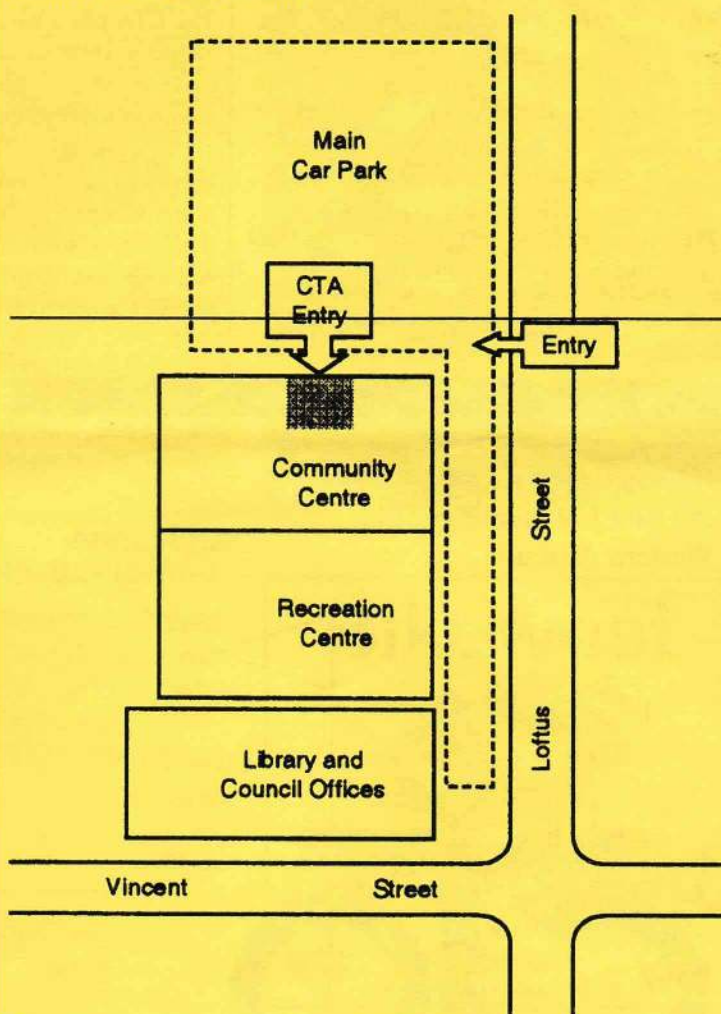
**Saturday 27th November**

Please note that the AGM this year will be on a Saturday instead of Sunday due to the availability of the venue.

**If you are interested in leading a ride, or you have a suggestion for a ride that you would like to do, please contact the Rides Co-ordinator by October 30th.**

## **CTA AGM Venue**

The AGM and Social Nights are usually (but not always) held at the Loftus Community Centre on the corner of Loftus Street and Vincent Street, Leederville. Enter from the main carpark on the north side of the complex (see map below). For further details, contact Tim ☎ 9457 2073





## 2004 MEMBERSHIP FEES

The CTA Membership is from January 1 to December 31 each year. Membership fees for 2004 have been set as indicated below:

1. Adult membership \$40.00
2. New members \$35.00
3. Full-time Students/Pensioners \$23.00
4. Dependants under 18 no charge

Note that part year memberships apply after June 30 and the above fees should be halved.

The CTA is a non-Government organisation relying on membership fees, donations and volunteer labour to achieve our aims and objectives. These monies help to provide each member with six Newsletters per year, a number of social evenings with suppers, weekend trips and tours at cost, a library, and indemnity to cover property to name a few of the material benefits.

## EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

The CTA has some equipment (as listed below) which is available for members to hire for \$5 for 2 weeks or \$10 per month plus a bond. This is a great way to try out cycle touring without having to layout a large amount of money to equip yourself with the right gear.

- Rear Panniers (pair)
- Small Rack Bag (sits on top of pannier rack)
- Trangia

Please contact a committee member if you are interested in using this equipment.

## CTA CLOTHING

The CTA has its own clothing that is highly visible being yellow with red stripes (some tops and knicks in turquoise and green are still available).

The design is available in short sleeved Coolmax tops and black lycra knicks with a coloured side panel.

Some stocks are available in a range of sizes from S, M, L, XL and XXL and costs \$80 for knicks and \$85 for tops.

Please contact Mark or Melanie on 9313 2853 (H) if you require any further information.

Cheques should be made payable to "CTA Clothing".



## WHERE ARE YOU?

If you are lucky enough to move to a bright sparkling new place of abode, please share your good news with us. All members are asked to confirm their current address and phone numbers with Committee members.

## CTA LIBRARY

The CTA has a small library of books and magazines relating to all facets of cycling and cycle touring. These are available for all members to borrow or just read at each of the social evenings. The books may only be borrowed for 4 weeks by contacting a committee member on the night. Contributions to the library would be greatly appreciated, so do not dispose of any cycling literature which you feel may be relevant.

## Reporting Cycling Hazards

All riders are encouraged to make a note of hazards observed during rides on roads and paths, especially newly installed ones, and to submit a hazard report to Bikewest. The aim is to get these fixed, and more importantly, to stop new hazards being installed.

The hazard reports should be submitted to Bikewest, either using the freepost cards provided by Bikewest or by e-mail. Sending an e-mail is an easy way of submitting a hazard report with HAZARDREPORT in the subject and a good description of the location and the hazard. The address is [bikewest@transport.wa.gov.au](mailto:bikewest@transport.wa.gov.au) with a copy to the BTA [bta\\_wa@hotmail.com](mailto:bta_wa@hotmail.com) please.

If undelivered please return to  
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