

THE CHAIN LETTER

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

July/August 2003

Issue 171

Marauding in Mandurah

With panniers laden with all those essential items one needs for a weekend away i.e. chocolate, wine, more chocolate and that extra bottle of wine for emergencies, a group of 15-20 cycle tourists set off from The Raffles on their weekend jaunt to Mandurah, led by our intrepid leader, Kleber, who promised an easy touring pace. HA!

It should be noted, however, that some riders, posing as cycle tourists, didn't seem to be carrying their fair share of wine and chocolate as not a pannier was to be seen on their bikes. One of those could be forgiven... Lucia... as she was a newcomer to cycle touring and this was her first weekend away with the CTA... but the others (who shall remain nameless in the interest of club

harmony) have no excuse! We were also joined by several other CTA members who escorted us out of town before having to turn around and return to the hustle and bustle of their busy lives.

loading him up with some large rocks and letting some air out of his tyres but felt it was far too early in the weekend to incur the wrath of the tour leader.

About 5kms out of Rockingham, Rosie was heard to ask Deb, "Is my back wheel doing anything strange". To which Deb replied that except for the violent wobble it looked just fine! Further inspection on the side of the road revealed a tyre about to explode under the weight of all the wine and chocolate. On being assured that the

worst that could happen between there and Rockingham was the tyre exploding and rider
(continued on page 4)



Ready and rearing to go at the Raffles

We had arranged to rendezvous with Colin and Deb along the way and upon meeting up with them we immediately noticed the strange lumps in Colin's... panniers. Closer inspection revealed, would you believe, a fishing stool and rod... more weekend essentials. Apparently he was going to catch a feast for Sunday night's dinner. We set off again, politely humouring Colin and trying to hide our rather sceptical faces. After all, it's nice that people can still play 'make believe' at that age!

We stopped for morning tea in a shady spot on the side of a back road where Kleber produced some lovely fresh fruit including a rather large rockmelon that he had been carrying in his pannier. As we rode off again, we mere mortals wondered what hope we had of keeping up with Super Kleber's "easy touring pace" now that he had unloaded the 10kg rockmelon. We did toy with the idea of

Please send all articles and pictures for the next newsletter to the Editor no later than August 29.

STOP PRESS

Newsletter Delay: Explanation and apologies, page 13

Bikewest



cycle instead



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NEW MEMBERS

A hearty welcome is extended to the new member who joined since the last newsletter.

Alan Naber

And also to the On Your Bikers who saw good sense:

Rosalie Brittain

Michael Norman

Here's hoping to see you "on ya bike" on a ride soon!



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Tours and Weekends

Chatting through Chittering

September 13 - 14

For all those who love to tour, but don't have 9 days to spend 'on your bike', this is the tour for you! By staying overnight in a hotel, we don't have to carry 'panniers' of junk, and we don't have to fiddle around packing up wet tent flies and groundsheets in the morning. We just have to do what we like best — ride!

The Saturday ride is about 105km, taking in some hills, but we escape the traffic by following the Chittering Valley and Julimar Roads. Lunch is available on-route (please ring Simon for details) or you can bring your own. Accommodation for the night is at one of Toodyay's fine hotel establishments, as will be the evening meal. The details have yet to be finalised, but expect accommodation to be around \$35 (includes a continental breakfast) with a 3 course meal to be around \$25. A cooked breakfast could also be available, so interested persons should notify Simon.

The ride back will be along The Old Northam Road, escaping (for the most part) the hurly-burly of Great Eastern Highway. Lunch will also be available enroute. The return journey is around 95km.

Accommodation needs to be secured, so please book with the organiser before September 6, and a \$10 deposit will be required. However, if you miss the deadline, please contact Simon as late bookings may be accepted

Organiser: Simon ☎ 9271 2959 (H)

Weekend at the Weir

October 25 - 26

Yes, that's right. It's on again. A weekend at Mundaring Weir that promises to be very relaxing, cycling through the countryside in the spring air, and with a whole day to cover 60km.

Meeting at Charles Paterson Park (near the children's playground near Burswood Casino) at 9:00am, we ride via backstreets to Midland, before embracing the verdant countryside of the hills in spring. Morning tea/lunch will be at the Mundaring Township, and then it's only a short 11km hop to the end of the first day.

Mundaring Weir itself is picturesque at this time of year, with many bushwalks in the area, as well as the O'Connor Museum.

Accommodation for the night is at the Youth

Weekend at the Weir (cont)

hostel, and with a group of 12, we can completely book the self-contained cottage. Any others can be accommodated in the main hall, or can camp. The price is \$20 per person.

That evening the Mundaring Weir hotel will host dinner. They offer a 3-course menu, entrée, main, dessert and coffee for \$27.50. Counter meals are also available, and range in price from \$8.00 to \$18.00.

The ride back will be through Kalamunda, with a spectacular view from Kalamunda Road, before descending back to the coastal plain to return to Charles Paterson Park.

Bookings with a \$10 deposit are essential prior to October 5. However, given the size of the hostel (it sleeps up to 36!), places after that date may still be available. For all enquires, please contact the organiser.

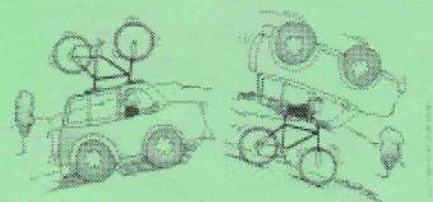
Organiser: Simon ☎ 9271 2959 (H)

The 30th Anniversary Pannier Tour 2004

April 17 - May 2

The CTA is celebrating its 30th birthday in 2004, so come and join in the party on a 16 day cycle trek from Albany to Perth. This will be a full pannier, unsupported tour i.e. tents, sleeping bags etc, with some Y.H.A. accommodation thrown in for good measure. If the support and enthusiasm shown on the Warren River Tour is anything to go by, the 30th should be a huge success. The 30th will not be as strenuous as the Warren River as there will be no hills and the organisers will insist on touring pace only. For those who missed out on some of the tours this year, come and join us on the Toodyay Tour Weekend and get the feeling for the big one. Now is the time to get all your pannier touring gear organised and book your holidays for the tour. See you on a ride.

Organiser: Kleber ☎ 9354 7877



Tony's Travels

[In the tradition of publishing the exploits of CTA member's overseas holidays, I take great pride in presenting for your edification Tony Bennet's letters from a far continent:]

Hi All,

At last a chance to get to an internet cafe. Have only been away a week, but it seems like ages!!!

Well the trip started with bang. I got to Perth airport early, thanks to Lucia. Although the flight was not til 3.30pm I was there at 12 with the bike. Only after I had religiously boxed it up and checked it in with the rest of my luggage did the horrible realisation dawn on me that I hadn't done my work expenses for my last trip.

Since I am in part responsible for my corporate AmEx card, this could have serious repercussions (like losing my credit rating halfway across Europe...). So, after a few phone calls and some hectic decision making, I jumped in a cab,

stopped nearby Lucia's work (she was looking after my keys for me), then on to my apartment to pick up expense receipts, then (pant pant) on to the office to quickly complete the expense claim form and post it... then back to the airport. The Armenian cab driver took it all in his stride quite gracefully, and got a well-deserved tip from me for saving my bacon. And I got back 45 mins before take-off.

The flight worked out well - the mere 4½ hrs to Singa saw me in my own personal row on the aircraft, lying across 3 seats. And then when I boarded the onward flight to Frankfurt

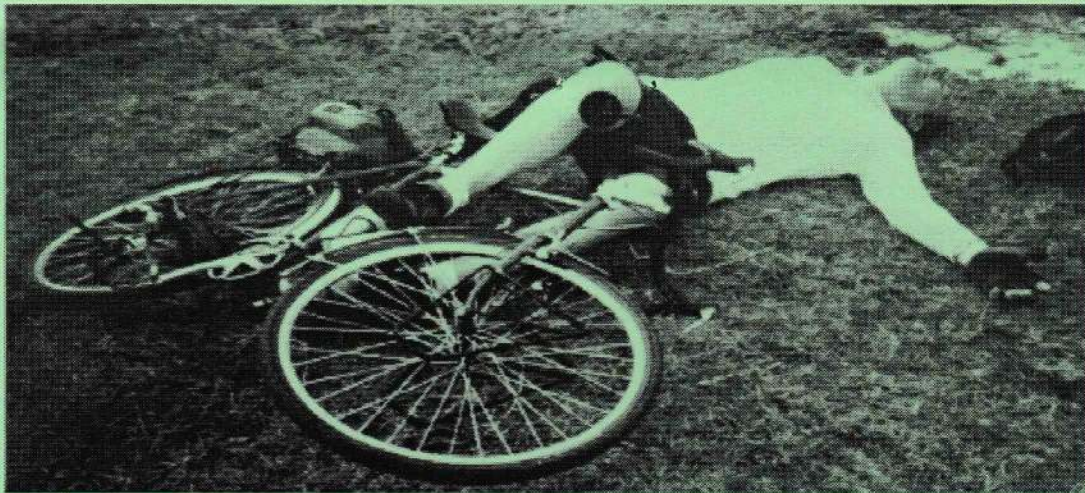
at Singa, I was upgraded to business class. Brilliant.

The next minor hassle is always "will my luggage arrive safely? Will it arrive at all?" My initial wait at the other end seemed to be suggesting the latter - until a kindly QANTAS chap pointed out the separate area for collecting oversize luggage. Just in time to see one boxed bike and panniers appear. All undamaged and in working order.

Unpacking was easy, and then exiting the airport. Suddenly, after all the hassle of the last 48 hours, I was actually going to cycle - shock horror!! Just as I mounted my well-laden steed, Frankfurt kindly put on a well-

After searching for a decent bike shop (which culminated in me following a cycle-courier as he led me through the city, dodging cars and tram-tracks to the shop) and buying a bike lock (that is necessary, virtually bomb-proof and weighs about 3 tonnes...) I found the Rhine cycle path and started heading south.

But the route was not too clear. Several times I ended up lost on some back roads, or in some industrial estate. Because the land immediately surrounding the river is flat, it's remarkably easy to lose sight of water. And then I have to start asking directions which is always dangerous and ends up in a kind of gesticulating ceremony as confused locals look on...



It's nice to see Tony relaxing...

In fact, this first day I did a rather spectacular loop. Not intentionally, of course. Oh no. One minute I was following the Rhine, and next I was on one of the many other cycle paths that criss-cross this picturesque country. Along lush green lanes and tracks, many purpose built for

coming display of rain - I felt honoured, and truly back in Europe.

The next job was to get to the train station so that I could get on a train bound for Düsseldorf. I should point out here that the purpose of being Düsseldorf-bound was to meet a friend of mine from Nokia days - Frank Gnaegy. From a cycling perspective, it is probably not the top of my list for places to see. I think that I did three loops of the airport before giving up and using the airport shuttle bus...

I arrived at Düsseldorf station after a trip that involved me a) putting the bike in the wrong train compartment, b) being told-off by the guard for doing so and c) as a penance, having to take my bike off the train at the first available stop, running up the platform to the carriage it SHOULD have been on, and re-lighting. All within 45 secs...

When I finally arrived at Düsseldorf, Frank and his partner made me very welcome and spoilt me rotten for a day. Thanks Frank!!! And on Monday, he cycled with me back to Düsseldorf centre so that I could begin my trip along the Rhine.

pedallers.. Through open meadows, sun shining. And then, after 30 kms of pedalling I suddenly thought "This looks familiar".

You can guess the rest... suffice to say that the waitress in the BierGarten in the little village somewhere south of Düsseldorf became a firm friend after the 3rd meeting. Eventually, somehow, I managed to get out of orbit there, and finally reach Dormagen where there was a campsite. Supposedly.

After being told off by a loud and rather portly German lady for cycling in Dormagen pedestrian precinct (well, everyone else was) I managed to find out that in fact there was no campsite in Dormagen. So it was back up the road 5 kms to another place (whose name I have characteristically forgotten even though it has the honour of hosting me and the new tent for our inaugural sleep together...)

The campsite was rather run-down, but I was too eager to erect the famous tent to really care. I was a sunny afternoon; the Rhine lazily meandered at the end of the campsite - not a care in the world...

(continued on page 6)

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Marauding

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(continued from page 1)

being thrown in a less than dignified fashion to the ground amid remnants of those weekend essentials, Rosie decided to continue (very carefully) on to Rockingham where she hoped to find a bike shop and new tyre.

On arrival in Rockingham, the troops deserted the damsel in distress in favour of food. Fortunately, an off-duty knight in shining armour who had been riding with the group and happened to be a local (and whose name Rosie can't remember and profusely apologises for that) came to her rescue and not only escorted her to a local bike shop, but also fitted the new tyre. He then accompanied her back to the turncoats who were lolling about on the grass in the sun in a post-lunch stupor having had their fill of delights from the local bakery. The knight then kissed her tenderly on the hand and disappeared into the sunset on his trusty steed...okay, that didn't really happen...I made it up in the name of poetic license!

Feeling refreshed after lunch, we set off again with renewed enthusiasm. Alas, as the afternoon progressed and the kilometres ticked over, the pace (although an "easy touring pace") got the better of a couple of riders, Devo in particular, which we will attribute entirely to that little unhealthy habit of his...oh...and also the fact that he appeared to be carrying his entire home contents on his bike. So, we decided to unload his gear onto Kleber...the only fair thing to do to even things out a bit!

However, we did eventually arrive in Mandurah in one piece thanks mainly to Kleber all but holding our hands to see us safely across some busy main roads into Mandurah. In fact, I'm surprised he didn't stop us all and carry us and our bikes one by one across the road. Kleber – the CTA Mother Hen!

Upon arrival at the Lucky Caravan Park, the segregation of the troops occurred. This is where those very suspicious cycle tourists with no panniers mentioned above were gently carried into their luxury accommodation to

rest whilst the "real cycle tourists" were hurriedly ushered down to the camping ground (well out of public view so as not to offend) to set up their not-so-luxurious accommodation!

After several hours of peaceful napping for some and hard labour for others, we headed over to the Silver Sands Tavern where we enjoyed a well-earned and delicious meal. We were joined there by Mark, Teresa and Karen and some ex-CTA members, Bea and Keith, who some of you may remember from days gone by. Dinner was followed by some displays of what could loosely be termed as dancing. Stan and Anna showed us how it's

neatness reigning in all quarters...except Rosie's! Kleber's military standard tidy tent was in stark contrast to Rosie's disaster zone that should have been cordoned off as an occupational health and safety hazard.

As bodies slowly emerged from sleeping quarters, there were several brave (although I can think of other more suitable adjectives) souls who went for an early morning dip before heading into town for a nice cooked breakfast. This divided the ranks even further as some hardened cycle tourist could be found huddled near their tents firing up their Trangias to cook themselves a spot of breakfast. But most of us just wanted a darn good feed and

wanted someone else to cook it for us!

After breakfast, the group broke into smaller parties with some heading off on Liz and Richard's boat to enjoy the ocean and indulge in a spot of fishing (to catch a feast for dinner?). Others took in the local scenery on foot and another contingent, whose bottoms were obviously not tender enough from the previous day, set off for a cycle joined by John Boy who came



Saturday morning tea on the road

done...and then the rest of us showed them how it's not done! So the evening was spent relaxing and laughing with friends, indulging in those weekend essentials (i.e. wine and chocolate) before some headed off to bed and others to the beach to gaze at the stars...and dream of their knights (yeah, I know, more poetic license!).

Sunday morning revealed another warm sunny day for us to relax and enjoy the local attractions that Mandurah had to offer.

A pre-breakfast inspection of the various sleeping quarters indicated that a cyclone appeared to have passed through the luxury accommodation with bodies, clothes, pillows and various other paraphernalia strewn about. Down in the campsite, the majority of real cycle tourists proved that they were a superior breed to those decadent cabin-dwellers with

up for the day. Most of the group came together again to have lunch under the trees along the waterfront. The afternoon was spent in a similar relaxed fashion with quite a few weary souls indulging in a "nanna nap" and others, who doubted Colin's ability to carry through on his promise of a great feast of fish, stocking up for that evening's BBQ.

The Mother Hen (aka Kleber) was seen to be busy clucking around getting things ready for the BBQ and making sure all his chicks were safe and happy before greeting Desama and Terry, Hooky and Deb and Graham and Bridget and all their respective tribes of children who arrived shortly after lunch. Some of the dads (and one grand-dad) and kids then toddled off for a leisurely family ride around Mandurah while the mums probably breathed a huge sigh of relief and made the most of the time to relax!

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Mandurah (cont)

Sunday evening came around. Now picture this: A sizzling BBQ fired up ready, tables laden with tartare sauce and slices of lemon, a multitude of expectant stomachs growling in unison...all awaiting, in eager anticipation, the promised feast of freshly caught fish. Then the harsh realisation that Colin's little make believe world where he caught a flurry of fish for the famished flock had failed to transpose itself into reality. Thank goodness for those faithless followers who had stocked up on alternatives. So, a fabulous fishless feast was enjoyed by all. The entertainment was provided by a 3yo streaker who saw fit to amuse us with his nudie antics before Dad came to fetch him. I must say, Dad looked somewhat proud of his son and was heard to say "That's my boy"!

After the BBQ, the mums and dads packed up their weary kidlets and headed back to Perth along with Teresa, Karen and John who had obviously had all they could take! After their departure, the rest of us were just making ourselves comfy and tucking into more wine and chocolate when the noise we were making was slowly drowned out by the noise of some other kaffuffle occurring elsewhere in the caravan park. It appeared that our relaxed atmosphere was about to be shattered by a not so friendly game of Family Feud. Sadly, it appeared that too much alcohol was responsible for a disagreement getting totally out of hand. Fortunately, some cool heads amongst our group played a huge part in diffusing the situation. Lucia's lovely way helped soothe a distraught mother and child and Kleber and Mark helped some hot-headed guys get their tempers under control. The rest of us, feeling rather helpless, looked on in admiration as these three handled a potentially dangerous situation exceedingly well.

Finally, tempers were allayed and the parties involved had reconciled their differences...for the time being at least. It's quite upsetting to be confronted so closely with other people's troubles and we were left feeling rather distressed by the incident so some of us decided to head down to the beach to soak up its soothing atmosphere.

Under the beautiful clear skies, with stars twinkling overhead and the calming sound of waves lapping the shore, frazzled nerves were soon restored to their previous relaxed state. Then I think some became drunk with the atmosphere and, led by a former dancing nudist who shall remain nameless, there was a general removing of outer layers, followed by

what could only be described as "almost skinny dipping". And the author has just one question: Who were those naughty nudies skipping up the middle of the road back to campsite? Surely not members of the most dignified CTA!! NB: Those members engaging in any activities involving "almost skinny dipping" or "naughty nudie skipping" can expect their blackmail letters in the mail shortly.

Upon return to camp, most went off to bed whilst a small contingent stayed up make the most of the remaining "weekend essentials". It was interesting to observe the level of decorum diminish in direct proportion to the amount of wine consumed. Also interesting to note was that the majority of offenders were male. Rosie did stay up with them for a while in an attempt to maintain some semblance of decency but unfortunately, her presence seemed to have the adverse effect.

However, amid this unruliness, there was one rather touching moment that evening. Mark C, looking very deeply into Rosie's eyes, asked whether she'd mind if he told her something. Thinking that he perhaps wished to unload a burden from his weary heart and that it may serve to strengthen her friendship with this strange but likeable lad, she invited him to share with her. "Rosie," he said, "your hair is lacking lustre." Well, that surely put an end to any ideas of a stronger friendship!! Later, Teresa kindly assured Rosie that he meant well. After all, he had recently informed her, his beloved, that her new haircut made her look like a sheep dog. What a smooth talker is our Mark!

Finally, when the jokes had sunk to a level where they could go no lower, the small group of noisy revellers finally conceded defeat and retired to their beds. And those already tucked cosily in their beds breathed a sigh of relief.

Monday dawned with the promise of more fine weather for our cycle back to Perth and after another delicious cooked breakfast we set off.

The journey home was a rather pleasant one and we maintained a fairly good pace back along the freeway cycle path assisted by a good tailwind. As we neared Perth, members of the entourage slowly peeled off to head toward their homes. So by the time we arrived back at the Raffles there were only 6-7 of us left. Reluctant to let go of the feeling of camaraderie that had developed over the weekend, we decided to delay our farewells a little longer and headed to the Dome in Applecross

for some last moments together. But, alas, we could not put off the inevitable forever and, after a group hug, we all ventured back to reality.

To sum it up, the weekend was about fun, freedom, feasting and friendship. To all those who have never come along to a CTA weekend away...you really are missing out...so we hope to see you at the next one.

Rosie

Rain Jackets



With winter almost here, the club wants to know how many jackets to order. A number of members own these jackets, and all reports back have indicated very good performance and price.

These popular rain jackets made by Maresa, available to CTA members at the low price of about \$155 (price to be confirmed). The jacket is made from 'Breathalon' and is breathable, waterproof and wind-proof. It is well made and highly visible.

Contact Mark B on 9351 9260 for further details.

Tony's Travels (cont)

(continued from page 3)

As I was waiting for my newly-sealed tent seams to dry in preparation for my first night, I was approached by an elderly German, who asked me what I was doing (at least, I think so - neither of us spoke each other's language...). I tried to explain that 5 more minute of waiting was all that was needed before a splendid tent would be erected before his eyes. However, he was having none of it, and proceeded to attempt to put it up for me. At first I looked on amused, but after trying to put the poles into the tent fly instead of the outer, I had had enough. Soon a crowd gathered to offer advice and assistance. Suddenly, everyone became an Expert in Erecting Small Tents and I had to cheerily shoo the whole damn lot of them out of my hair...

Germany if full of pedallers. Not your lycra-clad sporty types, but ordinary folk who use their bikes for leisure and transport. There are a myriad bike paths and tracks all over the place here, and seeing cyclist laden with panniers off on a cycling jaunt is very common. I obviously live in the wrong place...

Wednesday...aaaaahhh...suddenly everything started to fall into place - the path started to follow the river more - the scenery became spectacular, with hills rising either side of the river on top of which perched little castles. I watched barges running up and down the river, listed to beautiful bird song, saw eagles circling. Stopped for tea at delightful cafes. Aaaaah - Europe at its best. And the sun shone from those misty light-blue skies...It would have been a perfect day if I hadn't got lost around the back of the Ford assembly plant at 10 am and ended up asking the security gate-man for directions... found a camp site at Remagen having clocked 100kms.

Next day I just couldn't seem to get moving. Everything was an effort - I think that in retrospect I was a little dehydrated. Even though the ride was truly delightful, the path often meandering along tracks through forests, I couldn't raise quite the enthusiasm that I had the day before. Bugger it - stopped after 67kms at a camping place at Brey.

Thursday back on top of it. The river now starting to wind towards Frankfurt. At Bacharach (I wondered if it was named after Bert??) I stopped for some sustenance. I was actually very hungry and needed a boost to my flagging blood-sugar level. Well, the Bradvurst and Pomme Frites would just have to do. As I ate, a man with a white beard and an immaculate white suite turned the handle of his barrel organ, and it all got rather jolly and 'oomp-pa-pa'. After which it seemed appropriate to

make my way to the 'pissoir' (the Germans clearly don't believe in subtlety here). Even that was idyllic though - a little white-haired old lady sat outside the WC collecting 30cents entrance fee. I happily obliged.

As I stood there doing my business, I had the rather unfortunate and uncontrollable urge to flatulate. Now I must stress that I am not one of those men who proudly stands at the urinals parping away. I prefer to do my business rather more quietly. But the Bradvurst had had an effect (I am not normally partial to sausages) that required immediate action. Fortunately, I stood alone there, and after some quick thinking, decided to attempt an emission in time to the oomp-pa music that was still emanating from the bearded man's barrel organ, thus minimising any likelihood of me being heard at a distance.

Now I somewhat pride myself in my musical endeavours, and felt that this gig was one that I could easily handle. So, on the count of three I came in. Perfect! Bang - right on the beat as per usual! Or, at least, it WOULD have been perfect had Mr Barrel Organ not decided on the beat before my grand entrance that he had done enough handle turning for now, and would come back after a brief intermission.

Embarrassingly, my percussive accompaniment had turned into an embarrassing and unscheduled solo. Worse still, the acoustic properties of the WC somewhat amplified my retort into something that sounded more like a Bahder-Mheinhoff terrorist attack. I had visions of women and frightened children running for cover outside...

I crept out of their somewhat embarrassed, hoping that no one had really noticed. But as I left, the little old lady started to shake with laughter. And as I walked away she shouted after me "Gutten Farten!"...

The rest of the day became a classic hot European summer's afternoon. A cloudless

sky accompanied my afternoon's meanderings. Initially, I had a main road for company, but once again, was soon diverted on to quiet paths and back roads. Again through meadows and forests...sigh...

After Heidelefahrt (appropriate, really) it was all greenery, but alas no promised campsite. After much thought, I decided to press on for Mainz which is where the Rhine part of my trip would finish. I was just on my 103rd km coming into the back part of the city when disaster struck. One of the pitfalls for the unwary Euro-peddaler is the tram-track. Having done a few trips to France I have seen enough of these to know what to do. But maybe I was just a little too tired. Next minute, I was on the road, legs in the air, cursing the inconsiderate bastard who would put a tram in such a daft place. After picking myself up and confirming that the grazes and my elbow and knee were the sum total of the day's injuries, I looked at my new cycling shirt - a mess. As for the bike, n'er even a puncture or a bent spoke. Luck was on my side. Wearily, I remounted and eventually found a campsite overlooking the Rhine (just for a change).


Today I took the train to Frankfurt to buy a power adaptor for my Australian plug (phone and camera). It is 4 pm, as I write this in an internet café in Minz I prepare for my next part of the trip - train to Donau Esching at the beginning of the Danube in E Germany. More when I next find a net café.

Tony Bennett

For Sale

"Trek Alpha 1000 series road bike, size 54cm. 2002 model. Shimano Sora gear. Lightweight alloy frame, Typhoon rims. Body Geometry seat, odometer, LOOK pedals, lights, Nike shoes, substantial cable lock, rear detachable mud guard. Hardly used (as new). \$850 the lot."

Contact: Mike ☎ 9448 1978



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Cycle Tourist of the Year Nominations

Tony Humphreys



Tony has been a member for many years and was a frequent ride leader and participant before moving to Bunbury. He is also a regular On Your Bike participant, has been on the OYB committee for several years and led the tour in 1999. Even though Tony now lives in Bunbury, he is still an active member organising and leading weekends and tours such as the recent Easter Weekend and Warren River Wander, frequently offering his own house as CTA accommodation.

John Meakin



John is well known among CTA members as the wise cracking comedian that always keeps you laughing. John has been a member for many, many years and usually leads several rides each year. He is also a regular On Your Bike participant, and has become so involved as to have led both last year's and this year's tour.

Kleber Claux



Kleber has been a member for many, many years and was rewarded with life membership for his contributions to the club. Since then, Kleber has continued to be a central figure in the On Your Bike tours, leading the 1997 and 1998 tours. He is a frequent ride leader and participant, and has organised several weekends and the upcoming 30th Anniversary Tour.

And who else...?

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, and perhaps a mention in this hallowed journal could be a reward for a less celebrated contributor.

All nominations received before the end of October will be printed in the November-December Chainletter prior to the AGM



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(Near cnr Roe St) Ph **9227 7281**

BIG Bike!

I finished my breakfast and daddy said I could go for a ride on the BIG bike. Yippee! I like the BIG bike. So daddy dressed me in some warm clothes and we went out to the shed to get the bikes out. First we got daddy's bike out, then we got my BIG bike out. But then daddy started putting the bikes away on the back of the car... No, no, nooooo! Daddy explained that first we needed to go in the car to find some other people with their bikes, and then we could go for a ride.

So after a short trip in the car we stopped in a car park at some shops. We got out and daddy took the bikes off the car and joined my BIG bike onto the back of his bike. Yaaay! Daddy put on my sunglasses, my helmet and my gloves so my hands didn't get cold. Then we walked through the car park and found lots of other people waiting with their bikes.



We waited for awhile and then baby James turned up on the back of his daddy's bike. Hello James. James didn't have a BIG bike with his own pedals. He just sat in a seat on the back of his daddy's bike.

Then everyone got on their bikes and followed James' mummy. We rode along lots of roads and paths, and I kept pedalling just like my daddy. Sometimes we went up big hills so I helped push daddy up... push, push, push. Yay! We made it!

While we were riding along next to the water, I heard someone say hello as they went past me. It's Pop! Look Pop, I've got pedals. I'm riding the BIG bike. We rode along with Pop for awhile and went through a tunnel. Woo Hoo!! After the tunnel Pop decided to stop. Bye-bye Pop.

We kept riding along some more roads and up some big hills until we got back to where our car was. Daddy put the bikes onto the car and then we went to a shop. I had a muffin and some drink and then I played with James and another little boy in a playground. It was great fun. Thank you James' mummy.

Mitchell

Terry's Tales

Well, I had to open my mouth and jinx it! No sooner had I mentioned how wonderful our autumn weather had been, it turned. And boy did it turn! We had bucket loads of rain and that combined with strong winds caused the worst flooding I've ever seen along the river foreshore. In particular, the strong south-westerly winds drove the already high water levels in the river over the Kwinana Freeway and Riverside Drive with the cycle path and foreshore areas nowhere to be seen.

On my usual commute that morning I rode across the Causeway and was confronted with water about half a foot deep as I went through the Causeway underpass. Thinking that would be the worst of it, I emerged from the underpass to be faced with what could only be described as an inland sea. The entire grassed area between Hay Street and the river was under water and somewhere under there was the cycle path that I needed.

I pondered briefly, noted that my shoes and socks were already completely wet having just negotiated the flooded underpass, and decided to proceed towards Hay Street... slowly, very slowly. Part way through I began to question the wisdom of that decision as the axles on my bike disappeared beneath the murky water.

I eventually made it to work but got a lift home that evening (I was running late and we had to go out – well that's my excuse anyway).

That aside, most of what I said in the previous newsletter was pretty right... well, almost. Those of you that actually read my tales would know that I got the Christmas in July venue wrong (that will teach me for not checking my Main Events Calendar notes – and what about the proof reading by the Editor?). So, coming

fellow members and find out about some new cycling routes to use for your daily commute or a weekend ride.

Also in this issue are the first few nominations for Cycle Tourist of the Year complete with a brief description of what they have done for the club. I would encourage members to send

in further nominations for any other members they feel have made a significant contribution to the club over the last year (or two or three). It is a great way of acknowledging the time and effort that people put into the club. Also, by providing members with more information about the things that various people have been doing for the club,

the membership as a whole will be able to make an informed decision when it comes time to vote for the Cycle Tourist of the Year at the AGM. All nominations received before the end of October will be printed in the November/December Chainletter prior to the AGM.

So, when you have finished flicking through this newsletter, turn to the rides calendar, select a few rides, and get out your bike.

Happy cycling.

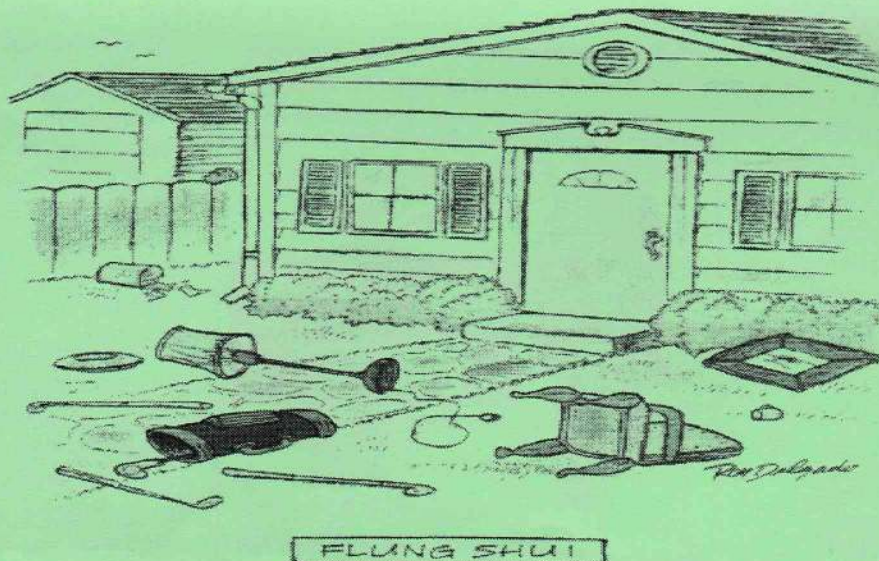
Terry



There's a cycleway there somewhere!

up on July 19-20 is Christmas in July in Rockingham. As always, this will be a very enjoyable weekend with lots of food, fun and laughter (and even a bit of cycling) so book early so you don't miss out.

But a week and a half before that on July 9 is our third social night for the year. The guest speaker for the evening will provide us with all the info on the fabulous new cycle paths that have been built around the metro area, as well as those that are about to be built (or should be built). So come along for a social chat with



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)

The Winner's Circle

Congratulations to the following members who were successful in completing the following Achievement Rides:

50km

Danny Boulter James Flynn
Basia Lis

5 000 in 4

Bruce Beecham Kleber Claux
Michael Hook Liz Wheib

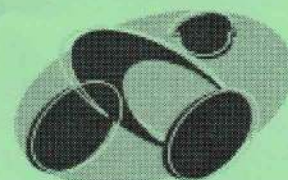
10 000 in 8

Danny Boulter Mark Boulton
Mark Corbet Mark Elliott
James Flynn Phil Pearson
Colin Prior Ann Wilson

300km

Danny Boulter Mark Boulton
Mark Elliott Colin Prior
Ann Wilson

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 – July to August 2003

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.

Sunday July 27 100km Achievement Ride Take 2
100km Moderately Hard, 8:45am for a 9:00am sharp start. Meet at Armadale Train Station for a pretty but demanding ride, going up Bedforddale Hill, past Glen Eagle, then onto Jarrahdale and Serpentine Dam before returning. The time limit is 6 hours (average 17km/h). Participants MUST BOOK at least one week prior to the ride and there is a \$10 fee for non-members.

Organiser: Hooky ☎ 9375 5246 (H)

Sunday August 3 Roe Explorer
25km Easy, 9:30am Start. Meet at Fast Eddies Carousel (off Albany Highway) for an easy ride to explore the new cycle paths along the Canning River and Roe Highway before returning to the start for refreshments. This is a great opportunity for the whole family to come out and enjoy a Sunday morning ride.

Leader: Terry ☎ 9472 9887 (H)

Saturday August 9 Century Challenge Take 2
100 miles Hard, 7:30am for an 8:00am sharp start. Meet at the Lakes BP Service Station on Great Eastern Highway. The scenic course includes Wooroloo, Toodyay, Northam and York. The time limit is 10 hours (average 16km/h). Participants MUST BOOK at least one week prior to the ride and there is a \$10 fee for non-members.

Organiser: Hooky ☎ 9375 5246 (H)

Sunday August 10 The Mundaring Munch
50km Moderate, 9:00am Start. Meet at the Midland Railway Station for a touring pace ride up Red Hill to Stoneville Road and then onto Mundaring for a Munch on a Muffin. After the break we can return to Midland via Darlington or yahoo down Greenmount Hill.

Leader: Kleber ☎ 9354 7877 (H)

Sunday August 17 Basia's Callipygian Cruise
50km Moderate 9:00am. Meet at The Raffles for a medium-paced peddle around Perth's delightful but calamitously endangered rivers to admire the burgeoning algae blooms, culminating in the penultimate cup of coffee. Please bring along your favourite ostentatious word of more than 6 letters (and it's meaning) so we can participate in garrulous repartee over our penultimate cup of coffee!

Leader: Basia ☎ 9330 3615 (H)

Saturday August 23 10,000 in 8 Achievement Ride Take 2
110km Hard, 8:00am for an 8:30am sharp start. Meet at the Kelmscott railway station for the club's hilliest ride, requiring you to climb up and down 10,000 feet in under 8 hours. Required for both the Super Achiever and Challenge Series. Participants MUST BOOK at least one week prior to the ride and there is a \$10 fee for non-members.

Organiser: Hooky ☎ 9375 5246 (H)

Sunday August 24 Roving 'round the River
40-50km Moderate, 9:00am Start. Meet at the Midland Train Station. We'll follow the bike track down to the river and across Garrett Road bridge and returning on the other side of the river via backroads and cycleways, stopping at the Midland Ice-Creamery for a lovely treat to warm your insides!

Leader: Mark C ☎ 9294 2625 (H)

Sunday August 31 Meet Your Fellow On-Your-Bikers
50km Moderate, 9:00am. Meeting at Point Walter. 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: John ☎ 9332 5550 (H)

Saturday September 6 200km Achievement Ride Take 2
200km Hard, 6:45am for a 7:00am sharp start. Meet at the carpark off Morrison Rd (adjacent to the Midland Police Station) for a challenging ride that takes in Toodyay, Dewar's Pool and Chittering Valley. The time limit is 13½ hours (average 15km/h). Note that there is a fee of \$10 for non-members.

Organiser: Hooky ☎ 9375 5246 (H)

Sunday September 7 Dot's Delicious Delights
60km Moderately Hard, 9:00am Start. Meet at Armadale Railway Station for a ride via Glen Eagle and Jarrahdale to Mundijong where we will have a refreshment stop at the infamous Dot's Tearooms. Once suitably replenished we will continue along the back roads to Armadale.

Leader: Ann ☎ 9444 5160 (H)

September 13 - 14 Chattering through Chittering
110km per day, Moderately Hard, 9:00am Start. Meet at Midland railway station (meeting the 8:30am train from Perth) for a challenging but scenic ride to Toodyay. Please see page 2 of the newsletter for details, or contact the ride leader.

Organiser: Simon ☎ 9271 2959 (H)

Coming Events

October 4 - 12	On Your Bike Heartland Heritage Tour
October 25 - 26	Mundaring Weir Weekend
November 30	Annual General Meeting

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 August 29 on 9443 4687 or email: rosieposie@bigpond.com

Brain Teaser

JUST PLANE STUPID!

Opposing fighter planes (A and B) were speeding towards each other, each travelling at 800km/h in windless conditions. When they were exactly 500km apart, plane A launched a target-seeking missile at plane B, which travels at 2000km/h. When the missile reached the target, the sophisticated Electronic Counter Measures (ECM) on plane B turned the missile around and directed it back at plane A. However, plane A has the same ECM systems and returned the missile back to B.

The missile's flight continued backwards and forwards in this way until the two planes, because neither pilot would concede, collided head-on at the same time as the missile exploded, causing a rain of fine metal fragments.

Ignoring the turning time, how far did the missile travel before that explosive conclusion?

ISSUE 170 ANSWER

A WEIGHTY PROBLEM

Only 1 weighing is required! Let us say that the weight of a normal link is 1. If you weigh together one link from Batch 1, two from Batch 2, three from Batch 3, etc up to twelve links from Batch 12, you will arrive at a weight of 78 (which is $1+2+3+...+12$) plus $n*0.0123$, where n is the batch number. For example, if Batch 1 were faulty, there would be one faulty link, and so the total weight is $78+0.0123$, but if Batch 9 were faulty, there would be nine faulty links, and so the weight would be $78+9*0.0123$. This solution is possible because the number of links per batch is greater than the number of batches.

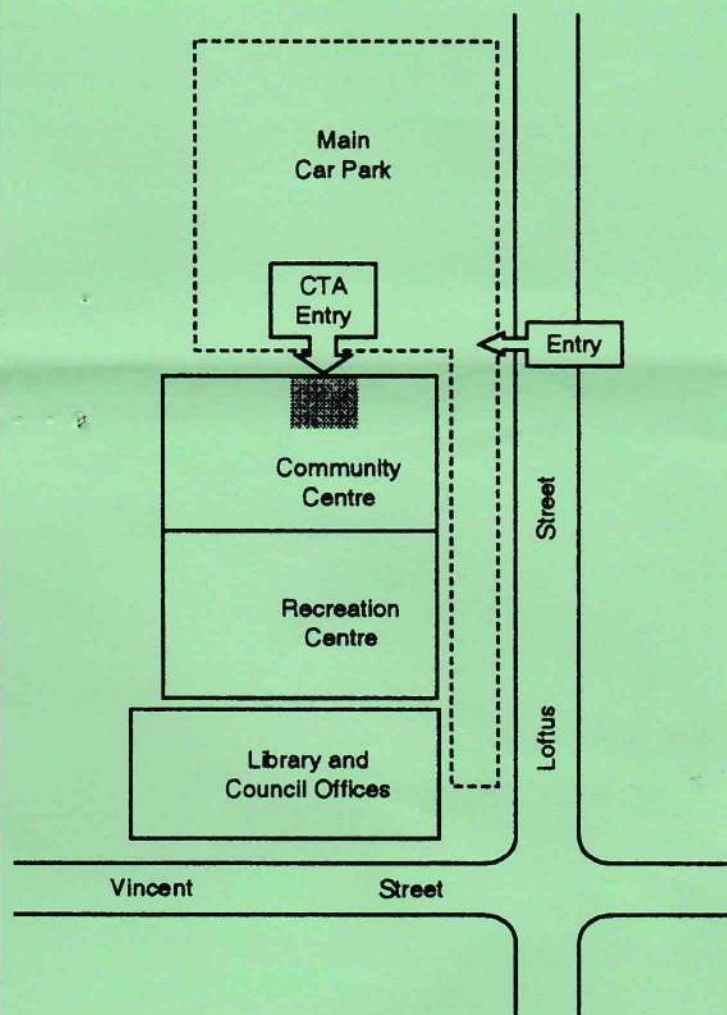
Smokey Car Spotter



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.

CTA Social Nights

The social nights are usually (but not always -- it's a key issue!) 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



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. Nearly all ride routes are likely to include hazards, even if minor ones, like centre-mounted grab rails on paths, lips on kerb ramps and drive entrances from roads, or drainage grates with gaps to trap skinny tyres. The aim is to get these fixed, and more importantly, to stop new hazards being installed.

About 80% of hospitalised cyclist crashes did not involve a motor vehicle. Most were "loss-of-control" crashes, and an unknown proportion of these were due to hazards on paths and roads.

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 with a copy to the BTA bta_wa@hotmail.com please.

2003 MEMBERSHIP FEES

The CTA Membership is from January 1 to December 31 each year. Membership fees for 2003 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 \$70 for knicks and \$75 for tops.

Please contact Mark or Melanie on 9351 9260 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.

POLICE BICYCLE REPORTS

The Police Bicycle Section would like to hear your reports of harassment, abuse or other serious incidents involving motor vehicles.

In order for the police to investigate an incident, you must be able to provide the registration number of the vehicle involved and the time and place of the incident. A description of the motor vehicle and the age and sex of the driver are also useful. You should always carry a pen and paper on your bike to record important details should you become involved in an incident. If the offense is serious, you should try to obtain the names of other witnesses who can verify your account. You can contact the Officer in Charge of Cycling at the Cottesloe Police Station on 9284 5058 during working hours.

If undelivered please return to
PO Box 174 Wembley 6913
Western Australia

