

RIDE ORGANIZERS WANTED

Ride organizers are wanted (preferably alive) for regular Sunday rides for the Yarra Ranges Branch. Despite the fact that we have close to 150 listed members of the Yarra Ranges Branch, we have very few willing to take up the challenge of leading a ride.

If you are capable of jumping on your bike and ride to the supermarket you are capable of organizing a ride.

There are different types of rides, from short casual day rides through to weekend (or longer) rides, to anywhere you want to go. As a guide the following ride types are listed below.

Casual Day Ride

A casual day ride can be to anywhere that might be of interest, or just for a cup of coffee at some out of the way place but still fairly local. The ride could go to any destination within easy reach and minimal riding time into the country or even down the coast. Other destinations could be things like the Motor Bike Expo, GP or other car/bike/truck show. Rides could depart at any convenient time and should return to somewhere near the point of departure mid to late afternoon. Suggested distances – 150 to 200km. Casual day rides are also suitable for midweek rides for those who are retired or just want a bit of time out midweek.

Long Day Ride

A long day ride should be more organized with more formal planning. As long day rides can go a fair distance from home it is wise to know (or research) the availability of fuel, food and toilet facilities and also the state of the roads. Timing of the ride should also take into account a reasonable average speed for the day keeping in mind speed limits and the maximum speeds of some slower bikes. Destinations could be anywhere that can be reached within a reasonable half days' riding, bearing in mind that you also have to get home. Suggested distances – 200 to 400km.

Weekend Ride / Long Weekend

A weekend ride should definitely be more organized with a reasonable amount of planning. Weekend rides can go a fair distance from home, so it is wise to know (or research) the availability of fuel, food and toilet facilities and also the state of the roads. Timing of the ride should also take into account a reasonable average speed for each day keeping in mind speed limits and the maximum speeds of some slower bikes. Destinations could be anywhere that can be reached within a reasonable days' riding, bearing in mind that you also have to get home. Venues for dinners and lunches should be known and pre-booked if possible, depending on how many riders are on the trip. Suggested distances – 400 to 800km. Possibly over 1000km for a long weekend. How much pre-planning or research you need to do would be dependent on how familiar you are with the proposed route and/or destination.

A weekend ride could follow a specific theme, like Trevors' Kelly weekends or target a specific area like the recent Kiewa Valley trip. The choice is yours.

Rallies, AGM's, Other Major Events

There are many rallies or other major events, often interstate, including AGM's. Trips to these events can be organized as a formal ride or just as a casual group. Planning should be the same as for a long weekend and again is dependent on how familiar you are with the proposed route and/or destination.

Be a Ride Organizer – Give it a Go

For regular Sunday or midweek rides we would generally only need someone willing to organize a casual day ride. The trip does not have to be a 400km epic and it doesn't have to be to some exotic, out of the way destination. Anywhere that might be of interest would be a good destination, or just somewhere to have a nice lunch. A ride does not have to attract 40 people. Anything from 2 to 20 is a good number, the key is that those who go have a good time. Therefore if you organize a ride, don't be disappointed if only a few people turn up. There are many reasons why some people can't come on some Sunday (or midweek) rides.

As an incentive, some rides can be organized to suit the smaller bikes and/or less experienced riders, such as the successful midweek rides that Michelle and Elaine have organized on the last few Wednesdays. Or we could have a combined ride with say the smaller bikes go one (easier) way to a specific location and the bigger bikes go a more round about way – not as a race – but to allow the bigger, faster bikes to “blow away some cobwebs” as they say.

If you have an idea, but you are not sure how to go about planning a trip, please give me a call and we can discuss it.

Over the next few weeks I will try to prepare a guideline for planning a ride. The same principals that apply to a long trip can also apply to a short trip and anyone not sure about doing it could practice by planning a short ride first. I will also be looking at posting proposed, regular ride dates and we will then be looking for people to commit to doing a ride on those days.

Be a Ride Organizer – Give it a Go !!!!!!!

Henry Rokx
Ride Co-Ordinator

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