

## AUDAX CYCLE FEST WEEKEND AT DWELLINGUP CAMP

20-22 November 2009

Once again we ventured to the forests 100km south of Perth and occupied five comfortable chalets at the Caravan Park, with near perfect spring weather, largely windless, no rain and about 23C. This year was complicated by a number of one night stayers, making organisation and allocation/shuffling of accommodation difficult.

Everyone staying on Friday night gathered at the Community Hotel for a good pub meal on Friday night, with the addition of Keith Marston, a late arrival trying out a short cut from Bakers Hill to Dwellingup on forest roads, and Nick who just got a dinner in before the kitchen closed.

Saturday morning saw 6 riders do a short 35km Waterous Loop section, and then the Nanga gravel road, and finally the wonderful gently descending Munda Biddi trail down the watery Murray River valley back to the start at Nanga Mill: this has to be one of the best forest MTB circuits around. Not often you hear babbling brooks in WA!

While all this was going on President Nick, starting alone from the camp at 6am on a fixed wheel bike, did the 100km Waroona Wander road ride through the same spectacular forest country seen by the MTB riders. Stalwarts Colin Farmer and Stephan Monot decided to do the 50km version of the Waroona road bike ride, still with very challenging hills, but turning around on Nanga Brook road. On their way back to Dwellingup, they met the MTB team of 6 when they finished at Nanga Mill. Perry also did the full 100km Wander in the afternoon, then repeated it the next morning with 6 others.

The afternoon was beautiful weather and some rediscovered the good cidery just 1km down the back road from town. We gathered in the late afternoon for the traditional communal BBQ behind our row of chalets and wiled away the time with beers and bike stories.

No, the riding did not end on Sunday, as 6 riders set off from the Camp to do the 50/100km Waroona Wander road ride (Perry for the second time). Tony Gillespie rode up from Dandalup to join in, and Caroline and Tony, fresh from their first 400km ride a couple of weeks back, led the group out of town.

Something for everyone at Dwellingup, as we had bikers/paddlers Carol and Phil down on the Murray with their kayaks, as well as visits to the Forest Products centre, a cherry farm, and wineries for those with other interests. The Hotham Valley forest train excursion is also well worth doing, an 8km trundle out and back from town, on the remnants of the Pinjarra-Williams railway line.

Seems a good idea to repeat, especially if more will stay at the camp, perhaps with a three night stay to avoid compressing most activities into the Saturday. It was good to see a lot of families participating this time, including kids, and "cycling widows".