

# Over 55 Cycling Club Albany Camp 2014



## Round-up by Mitch

The bi-annual Albany Camp started on Saturday 29 March with campers arriving at Emu Point Caravan Park and settling in, everyone gathering for the Happy Hour get together at 5 pm.

At Happy Hour, Ride Captain Gary T presented the 18 ride routes he had put together for the camp, which was a great idea, with rides for all levels of riders for the various destinations we were riding to. Many people stayed on after HH to use the BBQ facilities.

Pam Dolly was of great assistance in formulating our riding and social agenda as she lives in Albany part time and rides with the Albany Cycling Club. She is also an O55CC member for when she is in Perth.

## Sunday Day 1

Two rides on the agenda with one to the Sailing Club (38 km) and the other to Whale World (65 km). For both rides rain was going to accompany us, putting a dampener on the ride. Whale World is a great ride except at the end where you have to climb a long hill but the downhill is fantastic as long as you don't run out of brakes in the wet before the right hand turn into Whale World. Heather and Tom did and spent some time getting dirt out of brakes, gears and shoes. Whale World has a beautiful outlook and even on a wet overcast day. After a coffee and with a break in the weather we had the long climb back to Albany.

5 pm was again Happy Hour and Gary T produced the fines bin that has a great reputation in Busselton for raising money for Cystic Fibrosis. It will prove to be expensive for Gary, he was one of the first contributors as he was spied blowing bubbles out of his nicks - again! Allan II was dobbed in by Rae for wearing a black on black waterproof coat which does not fit the Hi Viz criteria.



## Monday Day 2

Ride options were Elleker (48 km), Porongorups (65 km) and Mt Barker (120 km) with the mandatory coffee/ lunch break along the way.

I did the round trip ride to the Porongorups, which was a good ride though, because of the time of the year, we had a few, I should say lots of, grain trucks on the road. A relaxing lunch at Ironwood Café overlooking the vineyards prepared us for the nice downhill ride home.

At HH it was a double whammy for Gary; he had forgotten to take home the fines bucket the night before. The second fine was for miscalculating the battery life needed for Joy's e-bike to get to Elleker and back. Think I heard him mumble something about rider error as he went over the effort needed to get Joy and her bike on the road again.

After HH and the evening meal, it was time for the Quiz night to be conducted by the Bob Dyer of Quiz, Gary T. There were 7 teams of 5 people, with 5 rounds of 10 questions. Questions covered club rules, movies, sport and with some innovative phone work and humming from Gary we had songs. A lot of head scratching whispered answers and disgust at getting the wrong answer.

Up to the last round the scores where close between the President's team and Norm and Noel's team. At the end there was one point in it with the chocolate going to the President's team of Graham & Sylvia Baker, Graham & Anne Marie Tait plus yours truly.

Great to see Graham T back on his bike and doing short rides. Note: the post that caused the damage to him on the cycle path has gone.

### Tuesday Day 3

This was a 'no planned activities' day. A few of us had brought our kayaks to Albany so headed off to the Kalgan River. The Kalgan is a large river with many water sports conducted on it and plenty of bird life. We set off on a 14 km paddle, taking morning tea with us and had a welcome break on the banks of the Kalgan at the halfway point. Steve N, Warren I and I found the best value meal in town at the Discovery B&B at Middleton Beach. Tuesday night is seniors' night, so main meals are \$10. Owner does the cooking and is ably assisted by some of the backpackers who frequent the town. Our waitress was French and from Lyon. Hopefully it's still going next time we are in Albany.

### Wednesday Day 4

As part of our 30th Anniversary Celebrations we had arranged to ride with some of the members of the Albany Cycling Club. The destination was Nippers Café where we had arranged to have a morning tea sponsored by 055CC. Three rides had been designed by Gary, with the 055CC A team riding (racing) with the Albany A's to Two People Bay (80 km). Another ride was to Nippers via Nanarup Beach (60 km) and another direct to Nippers (44 km). The aim was to stagger the arrivals of 51 riders at Nippers, so as not to put the barista under pressure making coffees. It worked a treat and the riders were treated to a range of savoury and sweet slices to build up the energy levels to get home. There is also a menagerie of animals at Nippers from cockatoos to kangaroos that kept many of us entertained.



### Thursday Day 5

Today was Denmark day and most drove to Denmark and took various rides from the town. Tom D, Lyle and Val wanted to do it the hard way and ride to Denmark. The A riders were under the command of their partners, so it was single file, no passing and do as the ride leader says. Apparently all went well as they were still talking when they got back to Denmark. I was with a group that went up to Scotsdale Rd, which skirts the back of Denmark. A very scenic ride with little traffic, a few undulations and a coffee stop at Duckett's Mill. Lunch for many was the famous Denmark Pie Shop in the main street. Then we hit the road back to Albany. Most did it by car but Tom, Lyle and Val wanted to ride the round trip of 130 km. They completed the ride and a great achievement for the three of them. Tom looked a bit frazzled by the time he got back to camp. The Busselton bike club had their camp in Denmark with 70 riders and partners camping at Rivermouth Caravan Park. Consideration is being given to have a biannual camp in Denmark as there is some very good riding in the area. The fines bin was doing the rounds again with a self- confession from Graham B. He had forgotten that today was his wedding anniversary, shame. But then he had to put more in as Sylvia had forgotten it also, oh and forgotten her purse!!!!

After all that riding and healthy food a few of us headed off to have a feed of things in batter at the Fish Shack. It is only a short walk from the caravan Park and the food is reasonably priced, well presented and good eating. The walk back helps work off some of the nasties.

### Friday Day 6

A few riding options today as the weather is riding perfect. Kevin G showed up on his new drop bar Trek bike which was given the big tick by many of the riders. A big group headed off to Mt Romance and morning tea at the Sandalwood Factory. I was with a group that went to the Whaling Station again. Why? Because we like hills and wanted to do it in the dry this time!

Final function for the week was dinner at Frenchy's Restaurant and 28 campers enjoyed some great food and excellent surrounding at Frenchy's. Oh and then we also had drinks to make the night even more enjoyable.

### Saturday Day 7

The weather gods had been kind to us but on Saturday, our last day, and rain started to fall making it that little bit easier to leave Albany after a great week of riding and social activities.

Thank you to our ride Captain Gary Thomas for a great effort in putting the ride itinerary and routes together. Also for being our Quiz Master and a major contributor to Cystic Fibrosis. Also thank you to those people who acted as ride leaders and assisted in Sag Wagon duties.