

2009 Great Escapade™

Western Australia **GWN**

Day 9: Augusta to Margaret River

WEATHER FORECAST

SUNDAY

MARGARET RIVER

Mostly sunny

Min 10 Max 25

MONDAY:

PERTH Min 14 Max 29

ADELAIDE Min 12 Max 20

HOBART Min 6 Max 12

MELBOURNE Min 12 Max 17

CANBERRA Min 6 Max 21

SYDNEY Min 17 Max 22

BRISBANE Min 21 Max 26

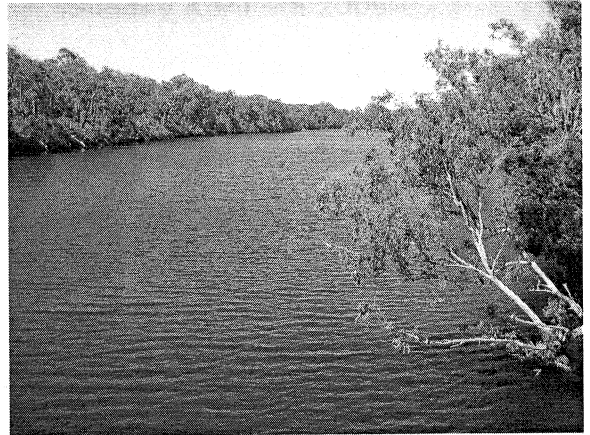
DARWIN Min 25 Max 33

Radio West /BYKFM and the Good Oil would like to thank Gaye G, John H, Mike D, Natalie D, Nic T, Mary P, Rob P, Stewart H, Stewart J and all the Bicycle Victoria Rides Team and Volunteers without whose help and enthusiasm our broadcasts and this publication would not be possible.

MARY'S RIDE NOTES (Day 8)

It's the last night tonight and we've already had the last lunch stop. And wonderful it was thanks to the Alexandra Bridge Volunteer Fire Brigade and the Karridale Primary School. Now we are counting down to the very end. It seemed so far away - just a week ago and it comes rushing headlong towards us.

Today's ride through more forest to Augusta was again beautifully scenic: different types of forest, scrub and then a few more vines letting us know that we are back in wine country. And if you come from Victoria, the Blackwood River has more water than we have seen in a river for quite some time. There were not too many cars and trucks on the highway, but it started to get a little crowded on the main run into Augusta.



I had a bit of a shock today, as I must have picked up a huntsman spider at the rest stop. It turned up crawling down my left arm and I flicked it off. Or so I thought, the real shock was just catching sight of it as it started to crawl from my right shoulder down my arm - just managed to unclip, wobbled around a bit and stopped without falling off or hitting anyone! (Thanks to the rider and his son who checked the back of my shirt to make sure it was gone). I did spend a bit of time worrying about it having found refuge in my back pocket but he never came back again. Phew, sigh of relief all round.

So - what will I miss:

- talking to so many interesting people as we go along
- queuing for showers and more chatting
- fresh doughnuts and cake by the side of the road
- a shower that dribbles and gets everyone talking and laughing
- catching up with friends from other Rides
- tasting wine
- riding with James, who was so supportive yesterday when I felt a little off

What I won't miss:

- feeling greasy at the end of the day from sunscreen
- a wet tent in the morning



See you all on the next Ride!

Sunday April 5th 2009



Thanks from Sarah

Here is a letter that Sarah sent to the Volunteer Team Leaders in early February 2009. It says it all...

Dear Team Leader,
I'm writing to you to let you know that I will be finishing working with Bicycle Victoria on Friday 1 May 2009. As a Team Leader, I wanted you to be one of the first to know. I also want to personally thank you for your support to me, to other Team Leaders, Volunteers and the Rides Team, through the Great Rides.

As one of the many wonderful Team Leaders that I have had the pleasure of working alongside whilst developing and delivering a good handful of Great Rides over the past 6 years, I wanted to tell you how much I have enjoyed sharing my time at Bicycle Victoria with you. It has been a hard decision to move on. However, it is time for some new challenges in my working life.

I will still be continuing in the Ride Director role for the 2009 Great Escapade in Western Australia and am looking forward to working with a fantastic group of Team Leaders to deliver a ripper Ride that is loved by the Riders and Volunteers, whilst contributing financially to Bicycle Victoria.

The main reason that I have given such early notification is to enable the Rides Team, including you as a Team Leader, to work together to help the next Ride Director understand and develop the role. I appreciate the way I was welcomed to Bicycle Victoria as a Volunteer in October 2002 and as a Staff Member in April 2004. I'm confident that the next Ride Director will receive a similar welcome from you as a Team Leader

I know that I will still see many of you after I have left Bicycle Victoria (I'll be seeing Uncle Robbie at Christmas for a long, long time...!) I do hope to keep in touch with you.

I have also given myself a challenge... to ride the 2009 Great Victorian Bike Ride along the Great Ocean Road! I am excited about the opportunity to see the Ride from the eyes of a Rider. I will be sure to come and say g'day if you are also on the Ride.

Thanks again for your commitment, enthusiasm, support and lots of hard work with Bicycle Victoria. I'm always in awe of what we manage to achieve together and truly hope that you will continue with your amazing contributions.

Chat soon,
Sarah Greenwood-Smith

Addendum – 4 April 2009

Congratulations to everyone who made this Ride happen – I reckon it's been great fun. Well done to all Riders, who have got on their bikes and met the challenges out there on the Rider Route, whilst having an enjoyable holiday in this magnificent part of Australia. Volunteers – you're awesome! Our Team of Contractors – it's been a pleasure to work with you all. Rides Team – miss you already – what a great team. See you from the seat of my bike on the Great Vic!

Sarah

Some final amazing **MADAM PSYCHIC**'s daily prognostications...!

Scorpio

If your dominant planet is Mars you may have to get a place of your own, and be less dependant on your Mother.

Sagittarius

A vector towards both ends of the spectrum means you have been mixing drinks again. Find a nice place to lay down and dream of a carbon frame for 20% off.



AUSTRALIA

On behalf of MS Australia - ACT/NSW/VIC and people affected by MS, Sarsha, Georgina and I would like to thank everyone who Rode For A Reason and participated in fundraising for people living with MS.

Your support will assist us to provide a wide range of services to people with MS, their families and carers. These services enable people with MS to maintain their maximum level of independence at home and where appropriate in the work place.

MS Australia, in consultation with people with MS, constantly reviews and adapts existing services while also implementing new ones to keep up with the latest developments in research and treatment for this baffling disease.

Thank you to all at Bicycle Victoria for organising such a great event. What an Escapade! It has been a pleasure to work with you all and be part of such a great experience. It was fantastic to meet you all. We have had a great time and are genuinely blown away with all of your support.

If you would like to contact us in the future for any further information on MS and or if you are interested in participating in an MS event in your home state or volunteering please call me at on 02 9468 831.

Thank you for caring and for your support.

Kind regards,

Kerry Hill

Event & Community Fundraising Project Manager