

Bike Riding In Colac

WET WET WET that summarises the five days we spent at Colac with the SARCC bike riding group. We met up with the others at the Colac and Otway Ranges caravan park. We had to stay at the Lake Colac caravan park as we were told the grassed sites where the others were staying were too wet for our caravan. A situation that other caravaners discovered by accident. The park was only small so some had shared accommodation in town. We were able to catch up each evening in the cosy camp kitchen which we shared with the chooks.

The first day's riding mainly on roads around Lake Colac was flat and very enjoyable but also wet. Our group was ably led by Danny we had two groups one going clockwise and the other the opposite and we were able to meet for lunch at a pub in Beeac. Good coffee though the staff were surprised to have so many riders on a wet day. I felt pleased with myself as we did 54kms longer than what I'm used to.

The second day Beech Forest to Barongarook Hall we didn't ride as it was still very wet and we weren't as hardy as some. We drove to Forrest instead in the Lower Otway Ranges and walked along the dam wall with the spillway letting out a large quantity of water into the river below.

The third day was forecast even wetter with strong winds and hail so sensibly the ride was canceled. We spent the day visiting the Lake Beeac Conservation reserve and Red Rock a volcanic remnant and also wandered around Colac itself. Colac is an interesting town with plenty of specialty shops a well stocked bookshop a gift emporium where local groups could put items to sell on consignment and some great coffee shops. That night we went to The Lemon Grass a Thai restaurant a very tasty meal and good company. As a lot of people were leaving the next day to go home Chris thanked the organisers of the SARCC camp on our behalf. Robyn, Paul, Alison and Ros were thanked for a great camp with lots of lovely bike riding and activities including two singalongs with Carolyn on her ukulele and a trivia quiz night. Despite very bad conditions everybody had a great time with no accidents and only a few punctures. Robyn told us that anyone of us could organise a camp it didn't have to be long and members who attend are only too willing to help. She reminded us of the SARCC AGM on Thursday 24th November at the Clarence Gardens Community Centre at 7.30 and encouraged all of us there to attend.

Unfortunately we were leaving on the Saturday so couldn't do the last ride Cobden to Timboon on the rail trail but I believe it was very enjoyable but once again wet.

The small amount of time we had with the group was so good, lovely company and everyone helping each other. Its great to share with like minded people an activity we all enjoy so much.

Angela Roodhouse