



Rat Tales

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Web: www.ballarat.com/bushwalking.htm

E-Mail: ballaratbwc@yahoo.com (General correspondence)
rat_tales@hotmail.com (Newsletter articles)

Ballarat Bushwalking and Outdoor Club

LEARMONTH TO CLUNES RIDE: JANUARY 13

Thanks to Chris and Glenda Phillips for hospitably organising this 42 km ride from the depressing grass bed of Lake Learmonth to the cute old mining town of Clunes.

Some of the party of about 20 riders took up the Phillips' kind offer of a croissant and fruit breakfast at the recreation park, while other fluoro-lycra-ed enthusiasts rode from Ballarat to clock up some extra distance and fitness training. Cups of tea and exposed cyclist skin got an early morning refrigeration from an icy southerly wind, but this was a tail wind in the sail to allow an easy ride via English heritage countryside, Glendaruel and the lovely backdrop of One Tree Hill and Mt Beckworth to the bakery of Clunes. Clunes is a lovely little historical destination but riders were intent on the refreshment of a cappuccino, freshly made beesting or a homemade

pie. Optimists' hopes of a wind change for the return journey via Coghills Creek were dashed and it took nearly twice as long to get back to Learmonth. Some of the party enjoyed continued socialisation with fish and chips for lunch in the Phillips' garden and some post event massage provided by me.

Thanks, Chris and Glenda, for your superb organisation and hospitality for this morning ride. My only tip for another time on this circuit would be to allow time to drop in to one of the three wineries on return route for a fuel stop and take the pain out of the home strait.

Scr. Graham Watts